

Dear Assembly member _____,

As a California voter, taxpayer and angler, I strongly oppose AB 1253, the bill introduced by Assembly Member Fuller that would de-regulate and remove support of striped bass as a game fish.

AB 1253 is a diversion intended to distract attention from the real issue. There is no scientific evidence to support it's premise that predation by striped bass is the cause of the decline of salmon populations in California water. During the last 130 years striped bass have coexisted in harmony with the state's salmon and smelt species, originally brought here by the Dept. of Fish and Game. Even in the 1930's when the striped bass population was believed to exceed 12 million adult fish and the species was fished commercially, striped bass did not harm the state's salmon stocks or the health of the delta's fisheries including delta smelt and longfin smelt.

There is no scientific evidence to suggest that removal of striped bass from California waters, even if possible, would help the salmon populations recover at all.

On the other hand, **there is plenty of scientific evidence that exporting of water from the Delta is a key cause of the collapse of both salmon and striped bass populations.**

The real invasive predators here are the non-native agri-crops that've been set up in the central valley and southern districts. These chaparral and desert environments are not able to sustain large water use, so it has been diverted out of the Delta in increasing amounts since the 1960s. The crops and farmers' demand for increasing exports of delta water are draining the life from California's once great fisheries.

Please say NO to AB 1253 in committee, in any form. It is a ruse created to shift the blame away from it's sponsors and allow the continued destruction of our salmon populations and our greatest game fish.

Sincerely,

Your name

Address including zip code (important)