

Bay Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Committee

Recommended Projects to the California Department of Fish and Game

Pursuant to Meeting of January 12th 2009 with Assemblymembers Huffman and Caballero, and DFG Director Koch

January 27th, 2009

Committee Consultant Position

Originally Proposed January 2005

This part time position would monitor and report to the committee and department on activities that would affect the goals of the stamp legislation to assist in achieving the long term sustainable benefit to the primary Bay / Delta sport fisheries. Including State and Federal legislative and administrative policy and actions.

Benefits committee by allowing them to optimize ability to coordinate and integrate planning with DFG and other agencies.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES funds - \$50,000 to \$ 75,000 per year.

Report on the Economic Value of the Bay/ Delta Fishery Resources.

Originally Proposed January 2005

Economic study to report and identify the total value of the recreational fisheries within the geographic region of the stamp. Study would also include the value of supporting manufacturing, distribution and service related industries as well as local sales and Federal excise tax benefits.

Study initially focused upon Trout, Salmon, Steelhead and Striped Bass. At the November 2006 meeting a request was made to expand the scope to include Large Mouth Bass, Halibut and Sturgeon.

What is the status of this project and has the scope been expanded as requested?

Is cost being shared with Striped Bass Stamp funds?

Project to be contracted by Chico State University under cooperative agency process.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – Estimated \$100,000 (?) one time cost.

Survey to Identify All Sport Fish within Stamp Geographic Range

Originally Proposed January 2005

DFG to identify the types, abundance, migration patterns and seasonality of all fish targeted by sport fishermen within the geographic range of the stamp. Also creates a ranking of “significance” of these sport fish by abundance and popularity with fishermen. Provides department and committee a base line of fisheries inventory and user behavior to develop projects in support of stamp legislation.

Project to be performed by DFG.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined by DFG.

Bay / Delta Angler Outreach Program

Originally Proposed January 2005

Program would establish regular contact between Bay /Delta fisherman, DFG and committee through press releases, publications and public presentations to constituent clubs and organizations. An interactive communication process would benefit the department, committee and public by providing timely information distribution, immediate access to public opinion and gaining public support of projects.

Project to be performed by select committee members, the consultant and DFG personnel.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – \$300 to \$500 cost per event. Ten to fifteen events per year.

Sacramento Perch Research and Rearing Program

Originally Proposed January 2005

Project proposed to evaluate the potential and practicality of reestablishing a viable population of this fish species which is a native to the Bay /Delta system. Unique populations of this fish only exist within very limited private waters of CA. Value to the state of CA as a saved species, and BDSFES system as a future regular sport fish.

Project to be contracted within UC system under cooperative agency process.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Black Bass Post Tournament Movement Study

Originally Proposed January 2005

Project to determine the relocation and redistribution process of this species upon release from a state sanctioned tournament.

A better understanding of the redistribution and survivability of this fish species post tournament release would be a great value to this fishery and provide valuable data to a large mouth bass management plan.

Committee members recommend this project be amended to quantify the abundance of large and small mouth bass within the Delta, and to determine if redistribution of tournament caught fish is beneficial to maintaining current level of abundance.

Project to be performed by DFG.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Net Pen Acclimation of Salvage Fish

Originally Proposed January 2005

The collection, transport and release process for fish entrained at the state and federal pumping facilities is inefficient and needs to be modernized. The committee previously recommended, in addition to the ongoing improvements being made at the fish collection facilities, that the salvages fish be acclimated in mobile net pens and released at sights not predictable to predatory fish.

Benefit to Bay / Delta system is it maximizes the survival of salvaged fish entrained by the projects.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Enforcement of Stripe Bass Mitigation

Originally Proposed January 2005

Current mitigation requirements for stripe bass lost due to entrainment and predation at the state and federal water projects are not being met in accordance with state and federal law. The committee recommended that the prior agreements to enforce these requirements be honored to meet only the mitigation element of this important sport fish. Benefit to the BDSFES system is to help replace fish the projects directly destroy while keeping the DFG, DWR and BOR in compliance with state and federal laws. Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Survey, Analysis and Management Plan for All Bay/Delta Forage Fish

Originally Proposed March 2005

Survey to identify the types, abundance, migration patterns and reproduction practices and habitat of all Bay /Delta forage (bait) fish within the geographic range of the stamp. To include, but not limited to, Jack smelt, herring, anchovies, perch species, shiners, Sacramento perch and threadfin shad. DFG to develop a complete list of fish species. Benefit to BDSFES region would be an improved food source that would support improved survivability and abundance for important migrating and resident sport fish. Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Stripe Bass Upper size Limit Reduction Due to Health Concerns

Originally Proposed June 2005

State Department of Health Services released new data regarding the toxicity of flesh from larger stripe bass taken from the bay /delta system. It identifies a greater health risk to consumers of fish over 28 inches in length than previously noted. Recommendation was to reduce the upper size limit of stripe bass to better conform to the new health warnings and therefore minimize potential for law suite against the state over inadequate health warnings. Project to be performed by DFG. Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Black Bass Tournament Release Boat

Originally Proposed June 2005

Recommendation to fund a boat designed to safely redistribute post tournament caught large mouth bass through a broad area of the delta system. Minimizes artificial concentration of fish caused by single point location release. Benefits large mouth bass fishery by attempting to recreate normal fish distribution. Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – \$50,000

Halibut Management and Improvement Program . Originally Proposed September 2006
Project to identify the abundance, movement patterns and seasonality of California halibut within the San Francisco and San Pablo bays, and to determine sport and commercial fishing regulations to ensure a sustainable fishery.
Benefit is to protect and maintain the last remaining bay sport fishery.
Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Stripe Bass Management Plan Originally Proposed November 2006
As a Public Trust resource the DFG is obligated to manage this fishery to achieve sustainable population levels. The committee has recommended DFG begin to undertake such management within the constraints of the ESA and the fish listed under the act in the Bay/ Delta estuary.
Benefits would be recognized by the sport fishing community and state economy by supporting recreational angling.
Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

New Project Recommendations

Acquisition of Strategic Lands for Important Fishery Habitat
Recommendation to use BDSFES money to acquire lands that would directly benefit important spawning and rearing habitat for sport and endangered Bay/Delta species
Funding in excess of other BDSFES program needs and money expended would be matched by other funding sources.
Would also benefit and improve angler access and fishing opportunities.
Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Support and Expand Existing Maternal Transfer of Toxins in Bay/Delta Fish Study.
Recommendation to expand the scope of existing project to include delta and long fin smelt. The Stripe Bass Stamp should be the primary source of funding for this project with secondary funding provided by BDSFES.
Project has preexisting contract with Dr Ostrech within UC system.
Benefits habitat of the bay delta estuary and its food web.
Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

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Professional Video Production Examining the Decline of Bay/Delta Estuary Sport Fisheries and Food Web

Recommendation of the production of a video that delineates the causes of the decline of the Bay/Delta food web and fisheries. Needs to be produced and distributed by a professional production company at a quality level meeting current television industry standards. Committee to have working access with the producers throughout the production process.

Benefit to the public to better understand what has happened to their commercial and sport fisheries, the Bay/Delta estuary and the food web that supports it.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.

Pulse Flow Program

Purchase and establish additional delta inflow during critical spawning and rearing spring periods that would help transport pelagic species into Suisun and Honker Bays. This would prevent these young of the year fish from being entrained into the interior Delta and State and Federal water export projects.

Sufficient water rights would need to be purchased upstream from Knights Landing to provide adequate pulse flows to move young of the year fish through the Sacramento River and into their historic nursery locations

Would benefit the restoration of the Bay /Delta pelagic species.

Fiscal impact to BDSFES Funds – To be determined.