

CONSERVATION

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By Ron Forbes

April 2010

Last year Assemblymember Jean Fuller (R-Bakersfield) introduced a bill to the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee (WPWC) that would have de-listed the Striped bass as a sport fish. This would have taken away any Department of Fish and Game (DFG) protection for the Stripers and eventually lead to the loss of Stripers in the Delta. Fortunately, environmental groups and fishing groups flooded Sacramento with letters anti-Fuller's bill then filled the committee room to speak out against the proposal. Eventually Fuller knew there was overwhelming opposition her bill and shelved it. She then asked for more study on the issue and that was passed by the committee.

Most people there felt this was only a first step against the Stripers. They were right. Fuller has now introduced AB 2336. Her object is the same. This time she is using a somewhat different approach. She wants the State Legislature to stop all protection of the Stripers by the elimination of all the DFG regulations over the Stripers. The fish would not have the protection of a sport fishing status. Her point now is that she is concerned about the predation of Stripers on Delta smelt and salmon. Fuller also wants to prevent any program enhancements, improvement or expansion of the striper fishery. She wants the Delta Stewardship Council to start programs that will discourage fishing for Stripers as a sport. The bill also requires the Stewardship Council to find other means to stop the predation of the Delta smelt and the salmon. Given the political nature of the Council that hardly seems possible.

Fuller says it's necessary to reduce

National Fly Fishing Fair & Conclave

Education, Inspiration, Celebration

August 26 – 28, 2010 – West Yellowstone, Montana

West Yellowstone has to be one of the all-time favorite locations for the FFF annual gathering. You can bring the entire family and be assured of finding many things to do that fly fishing enthusiasts as well as family members can enjoy. One of the great things about the Fly Fishing Fair is that there are many activities going on at any time. Primarily the FFF presents the Fair to provide an educational experience for the beginner fly fisher to the advanced by providing topics on anything and everything about fly fishing. These opportunities come in the form of workshops which are available for a fee, to other offerings such as free programs and demonstrations.

Workshops will start on Tuesday August 24 and run through Saturday August 28. They are presented by experts on topics such as fly tying, fly casting, rod building, and on water fishing. Workshops with a classroom setting will take place in various locations including the Holiday Inn, the high school, and various other meeting spaces. On water classes will take the attendee to nearby stream and standing water locations. In addition to general workshops, there will be a women's program and a kid's camp.

For those interested in attending the Exhibit hall and free demonstrations these will be available during August 26-28. The exhibit hall will be located at the Union Pacific Dining Hall with indoor and some outdoor spaces that will include both commercial and non-profit exhibitors. Entrance to the Fair is included with your advanced registration or by just showing up and paying the day pass fee.

The day pass fee can be purchased at the show and is only \$5.00 for adults, kids 15 and under are free when accompanied by an adult. Saturday August 28 will be FREE entry for everyone.

the Stripers' predation on the Delta smelt and salmon because smelt and salmon are listed on the state and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). During the hearing of Fuller's first bill, we heard testimony that Stripers rarely eat the smelt and the predation on salmon is so little that it doesn't have an impact on their population. It seems strange that the Stripers, Delta smelt and salmon have co-existed in the same environment for over 130 years without problems. Nothing in her bill talks about protection of the Bay-Delta ecosystem and its fisheries by less pumping and over use of water by agribusiness. It is a joke that Fuller is so very concerned about the violation of the ESA given the fact that she represents a district that uses vast amounts of subsidized northern California water.

Like our water, our fisheries are a public trust; our fisheries should be protected and managed by the DFG. Not by Fuller and the Legislature. Once again we need to send our letters to the Assembly in opposition of Fuller's Bill AB 2336. Please send your letters as soon as possible. The hearings will start next week. Send your letters to:

Assemblymember Jared Huffman,
Chair
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks
and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Suite 160-5604
Sacramento, Ca. 94249

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Costs to take workshops vary so check our schedules and registration pages on our website at www.federationconclave.org for more information. It is requested to sign up in advance, however we will be offering numerous walk-up workshops onsite.