

21 April 2009

Honorable Jared Huffman, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento CA 95814

Oppose AB 1253
Fuller - Striped Bass

Chair Huffman:

Approximately twenty-five fishing organizations that are opposed to AB1253 have signed the attached letter. These fishing organizations represent thousands of anglers throughout California, some of whom fish for striped bass and many of whom fish for salmon and steelhead. By virtue of the angler mix, particularly the emphasis on salmon and steelhead, the fishing organizations have explicitly examined the issue of striped bass predation and concluded that predation is insignificant. The fishing organizations recognize that Assemblywoman Fuller's bill would not provide water or jobs for our valuable farms; the bill would only decimate our historic, recreationally satisfying, and treasured striped bass fishery.

We ask that you carefully consider the points identified in the attached letter. Also, please appreciate how many have signed during the brief period we have had to get the word out.

The attached maps illustrate the geographic range of the fishing organizations who have signed the letter - as shown, our State's striped bass fishery is prized both locally and nationally.

Fishing organizations continue to sign the letter and we will update you with the expanded list during the 28 April 2009 hearing.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Dave Sellers
Web Facilitator
www.saveourstripers.org

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1020 N Street, Suite 160
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Oppose AB 1253
Fuller - Striped Bass

Chair Huffman and Committee Members:

Our organizations oppose Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation - legislation that would remove gamefish protections for striped bass.

Some of our members enjoy the recreational fishing opportunities provided by the West Coast striped bass fishery; these members buy goods and services from the fishing-related and recreation-related businesses that depend on the striped bass fishery. Many of our members are conservationists that support the preservation and restoration of threatened and endangered species, including smelt, salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon. In general, our members are just as concerned about the preservation and restoration of salmon and steelhead compared to the preservation and restoration of striped bass. Furthermore, many of our members support sustainable irrigated agriculture and its resulting employment benefits. Our membership rejects the *false choice* presented by Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation - between (1) a recreational striped bass fishery on the one hand, versus (2) recovery of threatened and endangered species and sustainable irrigated agriculture on the other hand.

We encourage the Committee members to closely examine the true consequences of the proposed legislation - this legislation will likely hurt many and help none. Upon close examination, you will find the proposed legislation:

- Will not enhance the abundance (population) of threatened and endangered species associated with the Delta, such as Delta Smelt, Winter-Run Chinook Salmon, and Spring-Run Chinook Salmon.
- Will not facilitate increased or more reliable water exports from the Delta and consequently will not increase the economic stability of agricultural interests than depend on such exports.
- Will divert attention away from the significant environmental factors that need be addressed in order to provide reliable irrigation water to California's farmers and restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

- Will significantly harm the businesses that depend on viable recreational fishing in the Delta.

According to fishery biologists with the State and Federal fish agencies, fishery biologists with the State and Federal water contractors, California Resource Agency biologists and managers, and fishery biologists at the State's respected academic institutions; the proposed legislation lacks scientific basis, contradicts the established science, and may have unanticipated environmental consequences. These experts generally indicate the proposed legislation will not have the intended consequences. Additionally, according to toxicologists at the State health agencies, the proposed legislation will have unintended public health consequences because subsistence fishers and their children will excessively consume mercury-laden and PCB-laden striped bass if gamefish status for striped bass is revoked. We encourage you to solicit input from the objective experts before seriously considering the proposed legislation.

The issue of striped bass predation, or more broadly the issue of piscivorous behavior, is neither new nor unregulated. The California constitution, along with existing law and regulation, charge the California Fish & Game Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game, and in the context of Delta exports, the California Department of Water Resources, with mitigating significant predation from introduced species (striped bass) and invasive species. Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation represents a misguided attempt to circumvent established process instead of working within established process.

As you are likely aware, Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation is the subject of a lawsuit filed by Assemblywoman Fuller's constituents. The lawsuit is under the purview of Judge Wanger in Federal court and is scheduled for trial in February 2010. The complex issues of striped bass predation will be thoroughly considered in this lawsuit. You should await the results of this lawsuit before seriously considering Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation.

You are also likely aware of the various recent activities to address (1) reliable water exports from the Delta and (2) recovery of threatened and endangered Delta fish. These efforts include the recently-completed Delta Vision process, the recently-completed Delta Smelt Biological Opinion, the near-final Salmon/Steelhead/Sturgeon Biological Opinion, the ongoing Pelagic Organism Decline investigation, and the under-development Bay Delta Conservation Plan - all these efforts represent policy-based and science-based, comprehensive efforts that explicitly consider the impacts of striped bass. In light of these efforts, Assemblywoman Fuller's proposed legislation, if passed, could be viewed as special interests usurping cooperative, deliberate, regulatory, democratic processes. The problems of the Bay-Delta ecosystem demand a cooperative solution, not special interest legislation.

Sincerely,

/attached signatures/

**Table of 25 Fishing Organizations Who Oppose Assembly Bill 1253
Signatures Collected Via <http://FishingOrg.SaveOurStripers.Org>
Through 21 April 2009, 3:00 PM
Listed by Zip Code**

04116
1 Stripers Forever South Portland, ME

08205
2 RFA Galloway, NJ

90630
3 SouthWest Council - Federation of Fly Fishers Cypress, CA

91409
4 Sierra Pacific Flyfishers Van Nuys, CA

93704
5 Northern California Council - Federation of Fly Fishers (Fresno) Fresno, CA

94043
6 Fullspeed Fishing Club Mountain View, CA

94044
7 Coastside Fishing Club Pacifica, CA

94087
8 California Fisheries Restoration Foundation Sunnyvale, CA

94121
9 Golden West Women Flyfishers San Francisco, CA

94122
10 Neville Kwa San Francisco, CA

94530
11 Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers El Cerrito, CA

94531
12 California Striped Bass Assoc. (West Delta Chapter) antioch, CA

94533
13 Solano Flyfishers Fairfield, CA

94550
14 Tri-Valley Fly Fishers Livermore, CA

94591
15 B2B Hawg Handlers Vallejo, CA

94596
16 Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen Walnut Creek, CA

94901
17 Marin Rod & Gun Club San Rafael, CA

94925
18 Marin Bass Club Corte Madera, CA

95008
19 Flycasters Inc. (Campbell) Campbell, CA

95139
20 Fly Anglers Unlimited San Jose, CA

95140
21 Flycasters Inc. (San Jose) San JOSE, CA

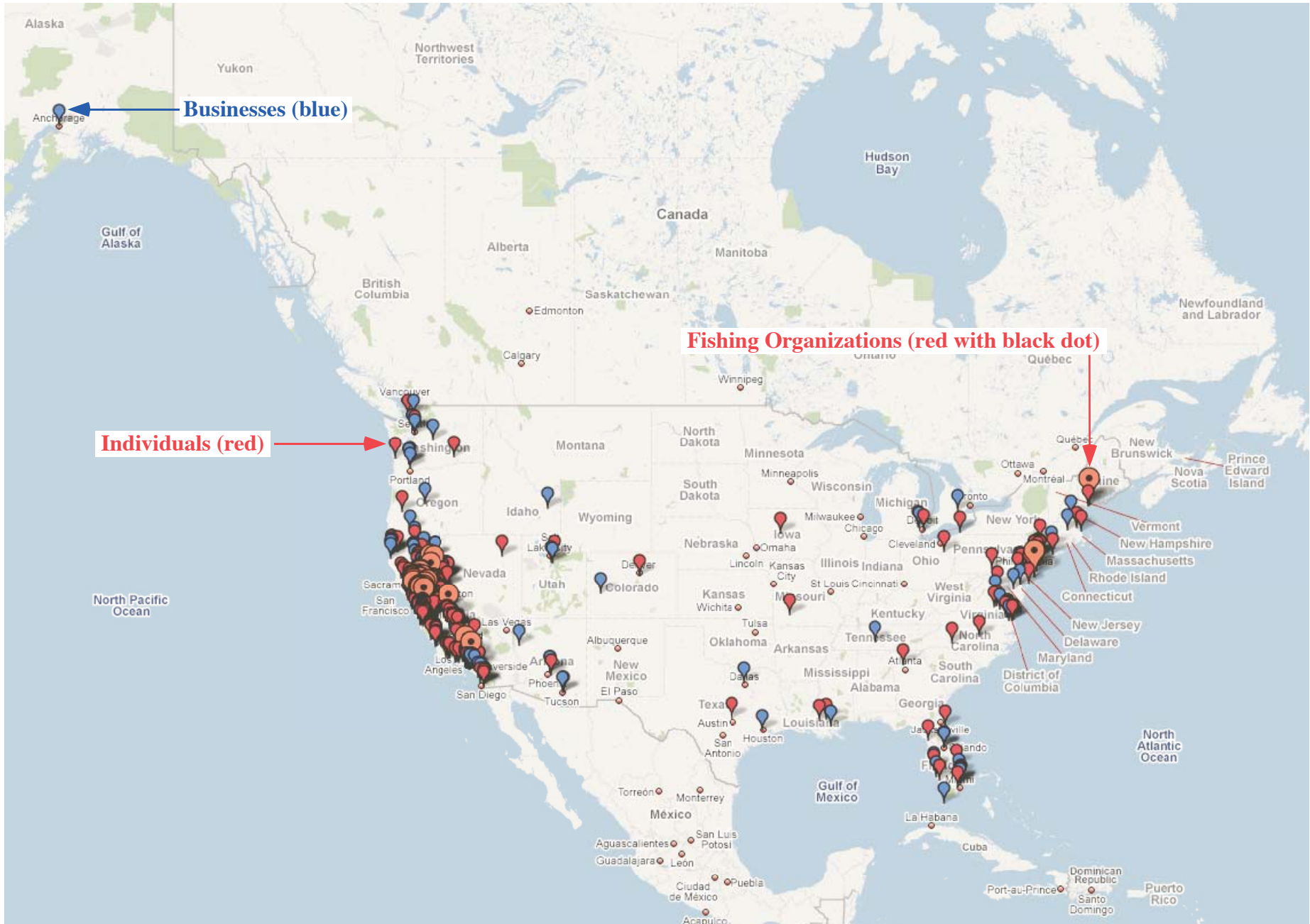
95378
22 Tracy Fly Fishers Tracy, CA

95746
23 Granite Bay Flycasters Granite Bay, CA

95945
24 Gold Country Fly Fishers Grass Valley, CA

95946
25 Northern California Council - Federation of Fly Fishers (Penn Valley) Penn Valley, CA

Opposition to Assembly Bill 1253, www.saveourstripers.org (Through 21 April 2009, 3:00 PM, Plotted by Zip Code)



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