

A Public Education Effort of South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts

Predation: The Real Cause of the Steelhead Decline

The Stanislaus River Is Threatened

The Stanislaus River, lifeblood of our region, and its reservoirs are being threatened due to a recent federal decision, commonly called the OCAP-BO, or "Biological Opinion" (BO). The implementation of the BO could kill the very fish it attempts to save, devastate the regional agriculture, and curtail recreation on the river and reservoirs. To make our communities aware of this issue, the South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts have launched an information campaign.

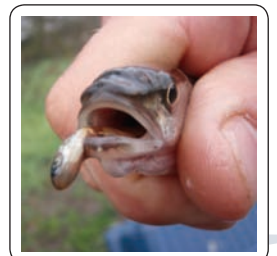
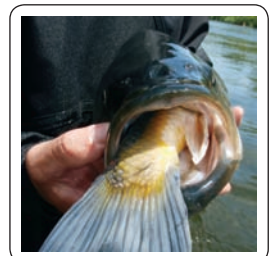
What Is Predation?

Not only is the BO an operationally unsound means of managing the New Melones Reservoir, the BO fails to take into account, other major factors like predation, which is a major source of the decline of steelhead.

There are non-native predatory fish in the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers and the Bay-Delta. Research shows that an estimated 95% of the biomass (the total mass of living matter) in the river is non-native and a major factor in the loss of steelhead. It is estimated that up to 1 million striped bass live in the Delta and only 1 out of every 10 juvenile salmon reach the Delta. Researchers call it "predation" because these non-native fish prey on the young native fish. Until predation is addressed, native steelhead populations may never increase in the river, no matter how much water is released.

We Need Solutions Now

By educating our community about these issues, the Districts hope to gain public support to have NMFS reexamine the BO. The Districts will support legislation that directs the California Department of Fish and Game to eliminate the predatory fish in the Stanislaus River.



CONTACT US

Visit SavetheStan.com

OR CALL

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How You Can Support the Stan

You can support this effort many ways. You can log on to www.SaveTheStan.com, email or write your local congressional representatives and senators letting them know your concern about the river and the effect the BO will have on it and our region. Attend community events, write a letter to the editor of your local paper and voice support for modifying the BO and most importantly become informed about the BO and its impacts on our region.