

State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : J. B. Robinson, Region 3

Date : April 13, 1964

From : Department of Fish and Game - A. B. Albrecht, Field Station, Sacramento

Subject: Striped Bass and Sturgeon in Sonoma County Waters

The percentages of total striped bass returns by year, June-to-June, for Petaluma and Novato creeks, and for San Pablo Bay are listed below.


Year	Petaluma and Novato creeks	San Pablo Bay
1958-59	0.3 (3/1035)	16.2 (168/1035)
1959-60	0.4 (3/852)	13.1 (112/852)
1960-61	0.2 (2/1121)	11.3 (127/1121)
1961-62	0.3 (2/731)	9.3 (68/731)

These percentages underestimate the importance of these areas because this tagging sample does not include three-year-old female bass. Three-year-old bass contribute substantially to the catch in these areas. Of the 254 first-year returns from bass tagged in San Pablo Bay during the fall, 1958, 35.4 percent were recaptured in San Pablo Bay.

Although most of the bass caught in San Pablo Bay are not taken in the northern flats, the large percentage of tag returns from here reflect the overall importance of this area as striped bass habitat. Filling in the northern flats would reduce plankton production in the Bay and probably affect the striped bass food supply.

San Pablo Bay is also important as sturgeon habitat. Pycha (1954) estimated that over 11,000 sturgeon inhabited this area (reprint attached).

Dick Painter, Delta Project, has some information on the abundance of plankton and benthos in San Pablo Bay which might be applicable to your needs. Also, the Delta Project has information on the importance of this area as waterfowl habitat.



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ABA:cmh

Attach.