



# Main Stream

Mission Peak Fly Anglers

PO Box 7263 • Fremont, CA 94537



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## June 2008

### Club Meeting

**PLACE: Silliman Community Activity Center  
6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560  
(510) 742-4400**

**DATE: Wednesday, June 25, 2008**

**TIME: 7:00 PM (Social hour begins at 6:30 PM)**

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### COMING EVENTS

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Wed. June 25  | <b>CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM</b><br>Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560                           |
| Wed. July 2   | <b>BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM Fremont Adult School Room N-9</b>  |
| Thur. July 10 | <b>FLY TYING 7:00 PM <b>New Time</b>) Fremont Adult School Room N-9</b>   |
| Sat. July 12  | <b>CLUB BREAKFAST: At the Denny's in Hayward on Whipple – 9:00 AM</b>   |
| Wed. July 23  | <b>CLUB MEETING 7:00 PM (Casting and Pizza Night)</b><br>Silliman Community Activity Center, 6800 Mowry Avenue, Newark CA 94560 |
| Wed. Aug 6    | <b>BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM Fremont Adult School Room N-9</b>  |
| Thur. Aug 14  | <b>FLY TYING 7:00 PM <b>New Time</b>) Fremont Adult School Room N-9</b>   |
| Sat. Aug 9    | <b>CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC– 11:00am NILES COMMUNITY PARK</b><br>(3rd St. and H St. Niles District, Fremont)                          |
| Thur. Aug 14  | <b>FLY TYING 7:00 PM <b>New Time</b>) Fremont Adult School Room N-9</b>   |

**MAINSTREAM** is the monthly newsletter of the Mission Peak Fly Anglers', P.O. Box 7263, Fremont California. 94537.

### 2008 OFFICERS

President	Craig Gittings	Board Member Douglas Fear	1/2010
Vice President	Wayne Culp	Board Member Harold Whitmore	1/2010
Secretary	Dean Lewis	Board Member Lyndin Nickson	1/2009
Treasurer	Bill Peakes	Board Member Ray Gauthier	1/2009
	Past President	Malcolm Dunn	

### Chairpersons

Annual Dinner	<u>Malcolm Dunn</u>	Conservation	Larry Dennis
Distribution	Malcolm Dunn	Editor	Malcolm Dunn
FFF Rep.	Gene Kaczmarek	Fish-Outs	Jeff Lorelli
Fly Casting	Jerry Reynolds	Fly Tying	August Abellar
Fund Raising	Steve Culp	Graphic Design	Ed Huff
Historian		Hospitality	Kay Heyes
Library	Dave Heyes	Picnic	Malcolm Dunn
Programs	Rich Lobrovich	Raffle Chairman	Dave Heyes
Video Library	Ken Brunskill	Trout Bum Award	Ken Brunskill
Web Master	Douglas Fear	Fukumoto Award	Larry Dennis
Trout in The Classroom	Ken Brunskill		

**MPFA Web Site** <http://www.missionpeakflyanglers.org/index.shtml>

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#### E-mail address list

The club is compiling an e-mail address list for the use of club members. If you want your address included or wish to have a copy of the list, send an e-mail to Craig Gittings.

## ~~~~~ Notice ~~~~~

### Members

The Newsletter will be coming out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Send your articles or information to the editor by the 12th of each month.

### **BUDDING FLY FISHING WRITERS**

Here is your chance to gain some experience writing about your fabulous fly fishing trips to places near and far. The club newsletter is seriously lacking in members written and photographic accounts of our fishouts. Of course you may not think a trip to Putah Creek is worthy of such notoriety, but remember, many members have never been there and would welcome a description of how your fishout went. And as for a trip to Alaska or Baja, a story of your adventure would be most appreciated. Send articles to the editor

**NOTE FROM TREASURER, BILL PEAKES** – Mission Peak Fly Angler's patches and pins are available from Bill at a nominal price. New members should have received either a pin or a patch when they joined; if not, call Bill Peakes.

Bill Peakes

## The President's Message

Surveying the participants at the Kistler Ranch fishout reminded me just how much the club has evolved over the years. Sure, it is always the path of least resistance to fish with individuals where friendships within the club have developed over time. If any of newer the club members feel out of the loop or completely left out, they will surely not stick around too long. I find it fascinating to see the eagerness in their eyes as they take on new challenges in this sport. I am also reminded how much we take for granted until a newer club member remarks about their struggles, which were in most cases our own at one time as well. I suppose there was a learning curve for all of us. Let us not forget our own struggles in order to savor each and every success along the way. Here is one of my struggles- for some strange reason I feel compelled to have Jeff Lorelli carpool with me if not just to keep me on my toes. His quick wittedness and deadpan comments have that double-edged sword coupled with his unnerving recollection of the facts at the expense of others. Jeff has the proud distinction as the all time high nominator for the annual Sammy Schlepp award and he is always on the lookout to nominate any unfortunate soul. There are always misgivings when offering to carpool with Jeff as it is also another opportunity to find reason to get nominated in the future. I must admit that my folding table tie downs have improved since last year's Kistler Ranch trip. I still get ribbed, if not just reminded on these annual trips by Jeff about my shortcomings such as leaving Makarand at Kistler Ranch a few years ago. I was certain Makarand picked up on my subtle message at the time. In reality I goofed up and Makarand has been out fishing with me since. Although he just doesn't travel too far from me lest I try to abandon him again. The friendly reminders are there as well to help me avoid a similar incident with anyone else. Jeff has to be proud of my conscious attempt not leave Makarand or the folding table on the highway once again.

And how about those Boy Scouts?? Not only were the scout leaders well behaved, the young men were as well. It is reported that all but one caught fish. I even spied some very competent casters in the youth attending as well. It is hoped that these young men will carry on in the sport into a life long ambition. The number of folks attending this year was not bad once everyone spread out across and around the ponds. Jeff Lorelli voiced some pre-fishing angst on the ride to Kistler concerning the number of people and how he was going to feel crowded. Did anybody catch a glance of the solo float tuber on the pond closest to the barn mid morning? Jeff, I am sure that you not only found enough solitude, but your catching wasn't bad either. Don Lee forced himself to keep his back cast high with a barbed wire fence behind him if he neglected it at any time. For his efforts though, both blue gill and bass were his reward.

All shade canopies were readily taken advantage of as an escape from the mid day heat. Malcolm Dunn as always did a superb job on the grill with the sausage, ribs and asparagus. I just hope that he doesn't feel that we are taking advantage of him. Wayne Culp did a nice job with his prosciutto wrapped shrimp and corn on the cob. The bar was definitely raised on this fishout via the potluck. I heard Carrie Payne ask, —Why wasn't the food promoted along with the fishing?□- as if that was a required enticement. And Francisco Rodriguez along with some help from his accomplice, Don Lee, can put away the salsa and chips. At least they came with good appetites. Next time we will keep them at better than arms distance from the snacks. Everyone appeared to have a good time fishing as well as socializing under the shade. The last man fishing award goes to Ken Brunskill as his ride, Larry Dennis, waited patiently for Ken to tire of having the whole place to himself.

**President**

Craig Gittings

## Mission Peak Fly Anglers, Official Minutes of June 4, 2008

President Craig Gittings brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Present were V.P. Wayne Culp, Treasurer Bill Peakes, Secretary Dean Lewis, Board Members Ray Gauthier and Harold Whitmore, past president Malcolm Dunn and Fund Raising Chairman Stephen Culp.

### Old Business

**Treasurer Audit:** Stephen Culp reported that both he and Ken Brunskill had met with Bill and preformed an audit on the books. Stephen reported that everything was accounted for and correctly entered.

### New Business:

**Treasures Report:** We are solvent. Bill reported that we took in \$810.00 for the Kistler Ranch fishout. The expenses were \$350 to rent the ranch and he was presented with a bill from Malcolm for \$34.00 for the ribs (Malcolm donated the other stuff) and a bill for \$87.00 from Craig for other supplies. The Board approved the expenses as indicated above.

**Programs:** Rich Lobrovich tentatively has Mark Won scheduled for June on surf perch. Our annual July casting night and pizza party will see Chuck Robbins showing us how to cast.

**Fly Tying:** Jack Davis will show us his Nebraska based muddler minnows that he used to fish when he lived there several years ago.

**Club BBQ:** The annual BBQ will be held at Shinn Park in Fremont on August 9, 2008. There is a nice parking lot with a short walk to the tables. The tables with the BBQ are next to the water and will be our best bet. Fremont does **not** take reservations so Ken Brunskill previously volunteered to go to the park early and hold the tables for us. Dean and Craig will bring several folding tables for food serving and other uses.

**John Fukumoto Award:** No one has come forward with any plan for modification of the requirements to win this award. The Board agreed to let the requirements stand as they currently read. Members have until the end of the year to make a fly presentation to be considered for the award.

**Fishouts:** Manzinita Lake fishout is on June 21. Most members will fish McCumber Reservoir. If you don't see them at Manzinita, go on up the road to McCumber.

**Website:** The website (and Doug) needs to be updated. Harold indicated a willingness to help. It was mentioned that by using Microsoft's —Front Page□, other members can prepare items for the site.

**Intro to Fly Fishing:** There is an Intro to Fly Fishing class coming up in July. The Board felt that the earliest the next one could be held was in March 2009. That will be the next one after the July session.

**Newsletter:** Malcolm asked if the Board had any ideas for items for the newsletter now that he has taken over from Doug. The one item mentioned was putting the —Fly of the Month□ back in newsletter. If anyone has ideas, please let Malcolm know.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm  
Dean Lewis, Secretary.

## EDITORIAL

Hi Flyfishers,

Here we are in the month of June. We are finally enjoying some warm weather. Shad are in some of the rivers and the bass are biting hair bugs. There are a few new items in this month's newsletter. Please email me your comments. If anyone want to share their ideals, recipes or fishing experiences, submit them to me and I will try to publish them in the next month's newsletter.

There are some fishouts coming up and some of the evening meals specify that that they are potluck dinners. This means everyone brings a food item to share with others; don't assume there is enough food.

Our annual picnic is a potluck. The club provides the main entrée and the members provide the other food items.

Until next time, hope you all will have tight lines.

Malcolm Dunn, MPFA Editor

## RECIPES

### Kistler Ranch Salsa by Craig Gittings

For the large batch of salsa we had at Kistler Ranch I used the following ingredients:

3 cans 14.5 oz diced tomatoes  
1 bunch of cilantro  
1 bunch green onions  
2 jalapeno peppers- seeds and all  
3 serrano peppers- seeds and all  
1 lime  
1 tblspn Cumin  
1-2 avocados

Holding the cilantro by the stem base, cut at a diagonal to leave the stems. Cut onions into 3-4 piece sections. I microwave the lime for 20-25 seconds in order to get more juice out of them. Combine all ingredients except the avocado in a blender and puree. Halve avocado and remove seed, dice and add to pureed salsa.

If you want to spice it up a little and have a smaller portion, back out one of the cans of tomatoes. To make the salsa a little bit creamier, add one of the avocados to the main ingredients before pureeing. You will note that there is no garlic or salt added to this and you will find that you don't really need it.

### Club Picnic

#### Niles Community Park

3rd Street and H Street in the Niles District of Fremont

Saturday, August 9, 2008 at 11:00am at picnic site at far end of parking lot.

Bill Peakes is requesting all members planning to attend to **PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATION FORM AND PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** (July 31, 2008)

The cost is \$5 per person over the age of 12. Kids 12 and under are free. The Club will provide the drinks and main course (chicken, ribs, etc.). Otherwise, you will need to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert for ten, please see below.

**Last names beginning:**

**A to J bring a dessert (YUMMIE!)**

**K to O bring an appetizer ( use your imagination!)**

**P to Z bring a salad (potato, macaroni, green leaf with dressing, or your favorite)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$ Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Monthly Programs

**June's guest speaker will be our club President Mr. Craig Gittings.**

Craig will speak on Alaska and how to set up your travel plans.

Craig has been to our Great State in the North fishing many times.

On his next trip he will qualify for native status. He will become one with the fish. Come watch Craig present his slide show and give you many tips on where and when to go fishing

**July 23,2008 Casting night with Chuck Robbins from Tracy.**

Meet at Silliman Grass Area at 6PM.

Dinner to follow at Round Table Pizza at 7:30PM

5544 Thornton Ave Newark 510-796-4040.

The reservation is in Rich Lobrovich / Mission Peak Fly Anglers.

Please order your pizza 24 hours in advance, if we order 4 large Pizza's then we get a 20% off

Rich Lobrovich

MPFA Program Chairman

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>PROGRAM TITLE</b>
<b>June 25, 2008</b>	<b>Craig Gittings</b>	<b>Fishing in Alaska</b>
<b>July 23, 2008</b>	<b>Chuck Robbins</b>	<b>Casting and Pizza</b>
<b>Aug 27, 2008</b>	<b>Mark Won</b>	<b>Surf Perch Fishing</b>
<b>Sept 24, 2008</b>	<b>Diana Brumbaugh</b>	<b>Alameda Creek</b>
<b>Oct 22, 2008</b>	<b>Ron Rabun</b>	<b>Bonefish Christmas Island</b>
<b>Nov 19, 2008</b>	<b>Bill Peakes ( one week early)</b>	<b>Trout Bum Presentation</b>
<b>Dec 24, 2008</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>	<b>Merry Christmas</b>

# FISHOUT REPORT

## **Sugar Creek Ranch** by Craig Gittings

The first Sunday of the month August, Dean Lewis, Mike Carlson and I dropped dropped by the consummate candy store for fly fishermen off of Churn Creek Rd. Piled out of the rig, but forgot to leave the wallet in the truck this go around- an old trick I picked up years back. One of the guys dedared we are on our way to Sugar Creek Ranch and we were immediately bombarded with flies that had worked a few weeks ago for the shop employee and on what ponds. The temptation was too great and we eagerly scooped up the sampling and then some before heading to the cash register. Spied Gierach's new book and fell victim to it only because he had signed that particular copy. Oops, forgot to leave my wallet outside. Usually about this time I leave the store to retrieve my wallet only to sped off before the sale is rung up. While we were in the shop Jeff Lorelli called to get the particulars on the upcoming shad fishing, but more importantly claimed that the calibaetis hatch at Rock Creek was incredible this year and we missed it. Not wanting to hear the excitement in his voice, I passed the cell phone to one of the guys in the shop to hear the ravings of an otherwise cubicalled daydreamer of outdoor activities. Yes, nice report. I thought for sure that they would erase the hot flies they had posted on the wall for Rock Creek, but they put it off as a crazed obscene phone call.

Hit Costco on an empty stomach but wasn't in the mood to graze on the samples and made the dash back to the rig to head further north. Finally arrived at Sugar Creek Ranch's Lodge and unloaded the gear and headed to the ponds to see what was up. Six plus hours of driving non stop except for the candy store and Costco and I am now bushed. But I drag myself to the ponds with prospects of a tug. August pulls out the sacred bunny leaches and immediately goes into dredge and catch mode. After a few grabs, he announces that the fish are there. Yeah, but that ain't doing me any good. For some reason my knots are failing and I start to question my knot tying abilities and even more, why did I go on this trip anyway? The trees appear out of no where and my supply of bunny leaches dwindles far faster than anticipated. If I had only prepared better in my selection of leaches, etc. instead of relying on the kindness of others. Fatigue overcomes me. Fished til dark and head back to the lodge in order to have a dinner snack and off to bed. Up before first light, don't ask what time cause I don't wear a watch. On less than 5 hours sleep we are again hitting the water for a long day of fishing. Wind wasn't an issue, but by Monday night, things start clouding up and cooling off. We got a little precip in morning. Slept in on Tuesday in anticipation of the long drive home. August who had supplied me with leaches goes into his slow deliberate excuse about being an Indian giver, but some how he noe needs to take back the leaches he donated to my experience so that he can fish leaches on his last day. I don't have the heart to tell him that I may not have any of his favorite leaches left in my possession. This is the negative side of accepting one's tried and true productive flies. As he looks through his fly boxes he finds a days worth of flies for the both of us. What a relief.

The knot tying did not improve on our last day as I continued my substantial donation of flies to the trees. I will have to make it back in the fall after the leaves have fallen, exposing my collection of flies. A ladder will prove useful as well. This trip was won at the Hall of Fame dinner last February. We will definitely go for the trip again if offered. Accommodations were better than expected. The lodge included fresh linen on the beds, three bathrooms, full kitchen, satellite TV, enough video, CDs to last if snowed in, a tying bench and plenty of fishing books if you ever got bored and a basement of wine in fermentation mode.

### **Annual Trout Bum award**

**Starts** Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Awarded by MPFA Board of Directors at December board meeting

#### **Requirements:**

Candidates must:

Have fished 10 or more waters during the calendar year **no private pay to play waters**

Waters may be tributaries of any river or lakes domestic or international

**MISSION PEAK FLY ANGLERS**  
**2008 FISHOUT LIST**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TYPE OF FISH</b>	<b>FISHMASTER</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>June 21</b>	American River	Shad	Ken Brunskill	Day Trip
<b>June 21 -22</b>	Manzanita Lake	Trout	Mark Kaharick	Potluck BBQ
<b>July 27-Aug 3</b>	Mulege Baja Mexico	Dorado, Roosters, etc....	Craig Gittings	No Spots Left
<b>Aug 22-31</b>	Alaska Kenai Peninsula	Trout, Salmon, Gray- ling	Craig Gittings	
<b>Sept 13-14</b>	Clark's Fork	Trout	Bill Peaks	Potluck BBQ
<b>Sept 26-28</b>	McCloud River and Res- ervoir	Trout	Craig Gittings	Camp at Ash Camp or B&B in town of McCloud.
<b>Oct 3-5</b>	Eastern Sierra	Trout	Jeff Lorelli	June Lake Loop Area
<b>Oct 11</b>	Lake Alpine	Trout	August Abellar	Contact August regarding overnight accommoda-
Nov	Trinity River	Steelhead		
Nov	American River	Steelhead		
Nov	Feather River	Steelhead		

The above fishout calendar is tentative and subject to change. Always contact the fishmaster the week of the fishout to be notified of changes due to weather and unforeseen circumstances. Also check the newsletter for detailed information on fishing tackle, flies, directions and accommodations, as recommended by the fishmaster.

Note that only the fishouts shown in **BOLD** on this calendar are actually confirmed at this time; all others are tentative.

The actual dates of wintertime fishouts are highly dependent upon the weather conditions and will be confirmed by the fishmaster the week of the fishout.

Your ideas for fishout locations are always welcomed by the club. Phone Jeff Lorelli to volunteer as a fishmaster. The qualifications for a fishmaster are that you have a place in mind, know how to get there, and would welcome some fishing companions. That is it, so sign up now!

## 2008 Events

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TYPE OF EVENT</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours )
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
July 2 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours )
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Denny's in Hayward	Club Breakfast	Bill Peakes	9:00 am
July 23 <sup>th</sup>	Silliman Community Activity Center	Pizza Night	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Aug. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Board Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm
Aug. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Niles Community Park	Annual Picnic	Malcolm Dunn	11:00am
Aug. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Fremont Adult School Main Office	Fly Tying	August Abellar	7:00 pm (New Hours )
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Silliman Community Activity Center	Monthly Club Meeting	Craig Gittings	7:00 pm

### FLY OF THE MONTH

#### Muddler Minnow



Hook: 3XL Streamer  
 Thread: 6/0 for the body; Danville Plus for the collar/  
 head  
 Weight: optional  
 Tail: Turkey Quill slips, matched pair  
 Body: Flat Tinsel, gold  
 Rib: Oval Tinsel, gold  
 Underwing: Squirrel Tail, or other similar hair  
 Wing: Turkey Quill slips, matched pair  
 Collar: Deer Hair, flared  
 Head: Deer Hair, spun and clipped to shape

# Conservation News

Larry Dennis, June 2008

**PURIST: dry flies only, barbless hooks, and releases a great supper for a baloney sandwich.**

## SalmonAid' promotes rescue of fishery

Oakland Tribune – 5/31/08

By Kevin Leahy, correspondent

OAKLAND — Hundreds of people converged on Jack London Square on Saturday to hear live rock bands and rally for a good cause — saving California's dwindling wild salmon population.

The free SalmonAid festival, which will continue today, was organized to raise awareness about the fish's upstream battle against climate change, dams and damaged river habitats.

"The major thing is, water has to run downstream, and it has to be cold," for salmon to survive, said Jon Rosenfield, an ecologist who helped organize the festival. "We make it complicated because we find a number of ways to screw that up."

The Pacific Fishery Management Council placed the most stringent limits ever on recreational and commercial salmon fishing this year, and the U.S. Commerce Department declared the West Coast's salmon fishery a commercial failure earlier this month.

Ben Platt of Fort Bragg makes most of his income fishing for salmon near the California-Oregon border on his 42-foot boat, the Kay-bee. But when authorities closed the salmon fishing season before it began this year, he was forced into crabbing full-time.

"I'll generally be gone from home most of five months out of every spring and summer," Platt said. "This year after crab season we just got nothing to do until next crab season."

For some, the event was an opportunity to see a free concert by local musician Les Claypool. Bands played zydeco and bluegrass music on two stages, while people strolled by informational booths, sampled food and posed for pictures with a woman in a full-body salmon suit.

But despite the festive atmosphere Saturday, the numbers tell a grim story.

In the Sacramento River, for example, the number of fall chinook salmon expected to return from the ocean to spawn this year is 59,000, down from about 88,000 in 2007, according to the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Robert Bush, a retiring science teacher at Washington High School in Piedmont, attended the event with his wife, Connie. Bush said he is interested in parks and recreation management and was hoping to learn more about how he could help.

"I think we have to balance the water needs with the salmon but it's clear we don't have a balance," Bush said. "The fish always lose."

Organizers say the problem is not overfishing. Water is increasingly being pumped from Northern California's Klamath and Sacramento rivers to irrigate farms, draining them of the clean, cool flowing water the fish need to spawn.

Scientists still have a lot of questions about why salmon are not returning in large numbers to spawn after the typically three years they spend in the ocean. Some attribute the decline to changes in ocean conditions and food supply spurred by global warming.

But fishermen and conservationists Saturday said they believe excessive damming creates reservoirs where water becomes too warm for the fish to reproduce.

"Obviously the ocean is going to play a part. But the thing is, we can't do much about ocean conditions," Rosenfield said. "What we can do is provide better access to spawning grounds for these fish — and it means providing more water and taking out dams that aren't worthwhile."

The shortage has been partly fixed by fish hatcheries, but they are not enough to keep the species going in the long-term, organizers said.

If salmon returns continue to flail, the economic ripple effect would reach beyond the commercial fishing and restaurant industries. Providers of ice, fuel and tackle based around rivers would be out of work too.

Dick Poole, president of Pro-Troll Products, a Concord-based fishing equipment company, said his business has already been hurt by the recent downturn.

"We're suffering right alongside a lot of these people," he said

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci\\_9440040](http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_9440040)

*CSPA Fisheries News*  
*for publication in club/org news letters*

**CSPA, NCCFFF, CSBA Intervene In Striped Bass Litigation**

May 20, 2008. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) and its close allies the Northern Calif. Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF) and the California Striped Bass Association (CSBA) have jointly intervened into the law suit filed by the —Coalition for a Sustainable Delta□ that is aimed at destroying the public's striped bass fishery that historically generated some \$50 million annually to our state and local economies. The Coalition is composed of —Water Districts□ that front some Central Valley agricultural interests who hold water contracts from the Federal Central Valley Water Project.

While their litigation won't do anything to make the Delta more sustainable, it would compel the State to abort the management of the estuary's striped bass and all sport-fishing regulations that would protect the fishery from excessive harvest. Even though the estuary's once premier sport fishery is a shadow of its former greatness and has fallen on hard times, along with all of the other fisheries that depend on the Delta, corporate ag feels the need to destroy this very valuable public resource so they can continue to drink at the public's water trough and maximize their profits.

If they prevail, striped bass will become a non-sport fishery that would not be protected from excessive harvest. It could quite possibly be exterminated because it would not be protected under State sport fishing laws and there would be no harvest limit and no regulation on the methods allowed to harvest it. Even though the fishery is alleged by the coalition to be vicious non-native predator of Delta smelt and salmon listed under the Endangered Species Acts, the scientific evidence clearly demonstrates the opposite is true.

So, who are the interests behind this litigation anyway? The growers who filed the litigation have the luxury of using their water districts to file the litigation [Bellridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge - Maricopa Water Storage District]. It appears many of them live in the Southern Central Valley where much of the desert has turned green due to nonnative crops grown by nonnative people who are very fond of perpetuating nonnative myths to protect their nonnative capital at the expense of the public's fishery resources.

You should keep in mind that this is fight is not just about striped bass! Should the Coalition prevail, then consider that many of the other fish that swim in the Delta are non-native predators (something that all fish have in common) that will become candidates for extinction such as largemouth bass, panfish, and American shad to name a few. Who was it that said, —You're either part of the problem or part of the solution.□? That's a pretty broad generalization, but in this case it's meaningful!

The South Delta Water Agency and Central Delta Water Agency have also filed for intervention in the lawsuit refuting the Coalition's allegations. Judge Oliver Wanger in Fresno will consider their intervention and our intervention on July 14, 2008.

This litigation will cost a lot of money and we need real help in raising funds for this cause. If you believe that we shouldn't let the Coalition get away with trying to destroy this fishery and our right to enjoy it, please go to our new website at <http://www.calsport.org/> and donate!



**Excellent Adventures**  
www.excellentadventures.org

**Al Smatsky**

619 W. Pine St.  
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25 YEARS  
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