

ConservationLetterJan2008



Fellow Bass Fishermen:

Conversation for 2008 will find a number of challenges and opportunities for the Bass Federation. In Northern California a fish kill on Prospect Island was compounded by bureaucratic inaction where thousands of fish died when volunteers were kept from saving the fish when the water was drained from the island.

The Melones habitat has not moved forward for a number of reasons and funds could possibly be reallocated to another site.

In the south, Scott Sweet informed me he will be attending a meeting at Lake Casitas regarding the quagga mussel invasion into the waterways from the Colorado River. Quagga mussels are being entered into California's waterways from the Colorado River. We need to inform all fishermen of the seriousness of this issue.

One female quagga mussel can produce up to 40 thousand fertilized eggs in a single breeding cycle and one adult female quagga mussel can release up to a million eggs in a single year. Larvae or very young quagga mussels flow with the water from the Colorado River into other waterways. Since March 10th of 2007 authorities have found almost 800 quagga mussels in the aqueduct coming from the Colorado River. In the Great Lakes area, these mussels have caused a \$1 Billion problem by clogging water pipelines and altering ecosystems. California's problem is nowhere near this magnitude but we need to keep this problem in check by taking a few preventive measures.

Things you can do to help with this potential threat are to alert ALL boaters to inspect and clean their boats prior to launching them. Additional ways to help are to wait 5 days after leaving a body of water before launching your boat, open drain plugs, and if possible spray the exterior of the boat with hot water. This will keep you from spreading the quagga mussel into other waterways.

Scott Sweet is the Federation's expert on quagga mussels and he is looking into getting stickers to affix to our boats and hand out to all fishermen and boaters warning them of the problem. Our job will be to get this information out to the general public.

There will be more on this and other subjects in the near future. For now, if you want more information on the quagga mussel, you can access information on the Internet.

I would like to hear from people regarding conservation so keep my email handy if you think of anything I can help with: jnj2277@sbcglobal.net.

Till next time – keep a tight line and a sharp hook.

John Miller