

AFS CalNeva Conservation Committee 2016-17 Activities Summary

Gary Sprague, Chair Spraguegr@gmail.com

There is a need for Committee members.

Tidewater Goby (November 2016)

Response to request to recognize Tidewater Goby, a new species of Bay Goby (*Eucyclogobius*). Information was provided regarding the Names of Fishes Committee. The Committee has added the taxon to the draft future list. It is uncertain when the list will next be published (last published in 2013; 7th edition; AFS Special Publication 34).

Review and comment on the California portions of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) for AFS National (December 2016)

Provided a review of the WIIN Act related to California water management and the ESA.

Letter to the California State Water Resources Control Board re: Stream flows in the 2016 Bay Delta Plan and Supplemental Environmental Document (February 2017)

Provided a letter to the SWRCB regarding using science to establish flows in the San Joaquin watershed and water quality in the Delta.

Malibu Steelhead (March 2017)

Provided a letter of support for the removal of Rindge Dam on Malibu Creek.

Western Division Resource Policy and Environmental Concerns Committee

<http://wdafs.org/about-us/committees/resource-policy-and-environmental-concerns-committee/>

There is a need for Committee Chair

Corps Nationwide Permits (July 2016) Coordinated with AZ Chapter.

National AFS Current Conservation Issues

Instream flow and water levels –developing materials we can use to influence decisions about water, drought, fish needs, waterway management, and more.

ESA – Review of best available knowledge related to imperiled or listed fishes. Meeting on March 29th with Sen. Booker’s staff to share our results.

Waters of the United States – we continue to work with partners to preserve the final rule developed by EPA and the Corps of Engineers.

Science – again with our CASS partners we are developing letters to support science across many programs in agencies such as NOAA, EPA, FWS, USGS, and USFS.

Ecosystem approaches to fishery management – under a contract with NOAA, we are organizing a congressional briefing, writing columns, proposing a symposium, and more as related to ecosystem approaches to marine fisheries management.

Protecting fish and aquatic resource programs at the US Forest Service – we’re working closely with the USFS as they revisit their strategic plan and agency priorities related to aquatic resources. Those programs have absorbed major cuts in the past decade.