

Watermens Alliance
2126 Porter Ct.
Fairfield, CA 94533



November 25th, 2012

In 2011 Watermen's Alliance joined other spearfishing advocates to seek the addition of striped bass to the allowable species list for inland and ocean waters. Our efforts coincided with the department's effort to decrease the population of striped bass due to a lawsuit. Although their motion was denied in February of 2012, we continued our mission. WA representatives had attended several meetings where the changes to striped bass regulations were discussed and although anglers were incensed by the proposal to reduce size limits and increase bag limits, there didn't seem to be any opposition to requests that we be allowed to spear them. After the defeat of the motion made by Fish and Game staff the commissioners told us there was no way they were going to allow spearing. They didn't want to upset the California Striped Bass Association that showed up to the discussion meetings sometimes 400 members at a time. In March the WA approached CSBA and asked for a letter of endorsement and got it. We also began a relationship with the organization that we are hopeful will continue to be mutually beneficial.

In November the commission unanimously passed new regulations that will allow spearing of striped bass in the ocean, as well as the Inland Valley District and including Butte Lake in 2013. Several angling organizations were unaware of the proposed change and were surprised by the change. We have been in contact with some of these groups and their attorneys and are confident that we can achieve a working relationship moving forward. These groups have concerns and we have assured them that we are all sportsmen and that if we find in the coming seasons that this change has been detrimental to the fishery we will support changes to protect the resource for all sportsmen.

In the meantime, our pursuit continues. Our goal is to obtain a viable game fish for spearos in all parts of the state. We will continue to work with all sportsmen and the Department of Fish and Game to provide the best opportunities for divers possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Josh Russo'.

Joshua Russo
President
Watermens Alliance
(707) 333-9575

Watermens Alliance Affiliated Clubs:
Santa Barbara Freedivers, Long Beach Neptune's, Fathomers, Monterey Tritons, OC Spearos,
San Diego Freedivers, Sonoma County Abalone Network.