

## **MRGC Club Pier Fishing Report**

For June 2017 Newsletter

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The rainiest winter on record is slowly receding into memory for landlubbers but MRGC pier anglers see the after effects each time we go fishing. Salinity remains low with plenty of fresh water runoff sweetening the bay. Water under our pier ranged from 1.1% to 2% with normal around 2.5% and the ocean 3.5%. At the Carquinez straight, salinity has been ranging from 0.2 to 0.6%, another month of practically fresh water. Temperature is around 60F and visibility almost a foot which should mean better fishing for visual predators like stripers and halibut.

After last month's surge of over 100 striper landings, this month is down to 42 fish with about 2/3 shakers. That's expected as the stripers passed by on their way to the Delta for their annual spawn. Halibut landings have increased to 33 and smelt to 21. Two sturgeon were caught though neither were keepers. The low salinity has made this winter the best sturgeon season in decades. No sharks or rays were landed for the 5<sup>th</sup> month in a row. Biologists have recorded a mass leopard shark die off around the bay that they think is related to the low salinity.

A new species was recorded in the pier catch log that no one has ever seen in San Pablo Bay before. A mermaid named Stephanie was landed, no word on if she was a keeper or shaker.

I was fishing on the pier recently and noticed a pair of brown and white birds hovering over the eel grass beds and then plunging into the water. After a while I realized they were osprey fishing. Sometimes called fish eagle or sea hawk, their diet is almost entirely fish. Their talons and feet are specially adapted to grasp slippery fish and their feathers are lightly covered with an oily substance to keep them from getting waterlogged when they dive for fish. Their curved wings help them hover while specially adapted eyes peer beneath the water for prey. It's amazing how our eelgrass became the foundation of a food chain that includes algae, minnows, smelt with otters, cormorants and osprey at the top of the chain. Watching these predators fish is a privilege and joy.

Email photos of catches or good times on the Pier [pier@marinrodandgunclub.com](mailto:pier@marinrodandgunclub.com), text 415-845-1957