

Background information links:

- CDFW- <https://www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=212947> Save the file, then open it.
- YWA- <https://www.yubawater.org/DocumentCenter/View/5962/Nature-Like-Fishway-Investigation-public-review-package---Sept-1-2023-PDF>
- Joint press release- <https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/Archive/joint-news-release-agreement-reopens-yuba-river-to-salmon-and-sturgeon-launching-ambitious-river-restoration#gsc.tab=0>

The Challenge:

The proposed Daguerre Point Dam Nature Like Fishway (Fishway) low gradient design is primarily intended to allow volitional passage of threatened green sturgeon and also Pacific lamprey at Daguerre Point Dam (DPD). The Fishway is also intended to improve passage conditions for threatened salmonids (Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout), as well as CV fall-run Chinook salmon, which are a Species of Concern. However, the Fishway is likely to also allow the passage of striped bass currently confined below DPD by existing fish ladders. Striped bass and American shad are non-native species that are known to not use the existing fish ladders and prey upon or compete with threatened salmonids.

Key Points:

1. The lower Yuba River between Englebright Dam and Daguerre Point Dam is a spawning and rearing refuge for threatened salmonids that is currently free from non-native predatory species such as striped bass.
2. Striped bass is a non-native species that prey upon threatened salmonids and, on the Yuba River, are currently confined below DPD;
3. Non-native American shad are also currently confined below DPD and may negatively affect trophic dynamics (compete for food and habitat resources) of threatened salmonids.
4. If volitional passage is provided for green sturgeon, striped bass and shad are also likely to migrate above DPD if they are not otherwise prevented from passing by some means;
5. Intentionally introducing predatory striped bass into protected Designated Critical Habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmonids may conflict with the National Marine Fisheries Service recovery plan for ESA listed species on the lower Yuba River;
6. While challenging, the creative, intelligent, and adequately funded application of restoration science and engineering must prevent striped bass and shad passage through the Fishway while fulfilling other project goals.

The Ask:

Please require that the DPD Fishway project prevent the passage of predatory striped bass and resource consuming American shad above DPD as a project goal in order to protect threatened salmonids and green sturgeon.

Comment orally or in writing to the Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors (1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 9 am via zoom) see: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/ycwa/Board.nsf/Public> or the California Fish and Game Commission, see: <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/Public-Participation>