

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

(Lake Trash Removal, Fountains, Education, Lake Expertise)

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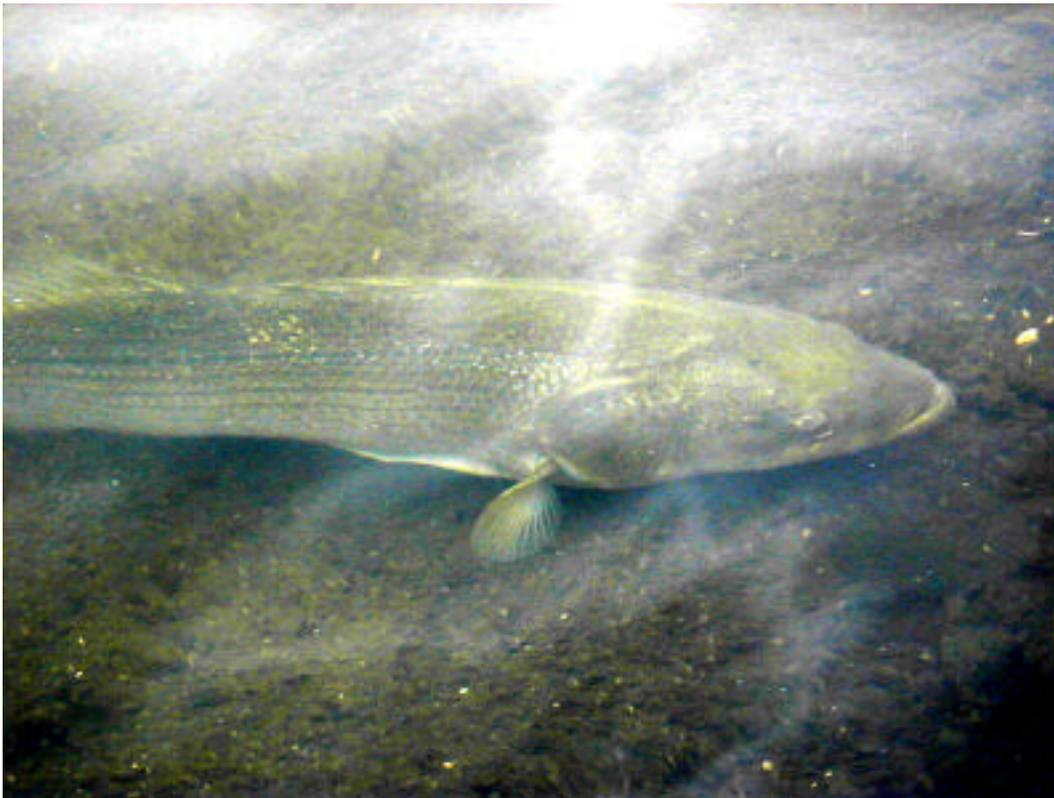
www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

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VOLUNTEER LETTER

SEPTEMBER TRASH TALK: A surprising light summer shower dropped **0.37 inches of rain** at Lake Merritt, but it was apparently too limited in distribution to cause any runoff. Trash levels remained low (**680 pounds**) not counting what was picked up on Creek to Bay Day. Most of the **102 bags** for the month were collected on September 20th, but we also removed a 4x8 sheet of plywood, a rudder, ~ a dozen eggs, a hubcap and a blanket and pillow!

But next month it is likely to be different. During the past five Octobers, we have removed 1,220; 3,920; 3,960; 2,880 and 2,180 pounds of trash. Be sure to volunteer and get your share!



ONE BIG, FISHY REASON TO KEEP LAKE MERRITT CLEAN: Zachary Running Wolf and Dick Bailey were netting trash on Saturday when they came upon this 3.5 foot long striped bass at the edge of the shoreline. At this size, it is probably a prisoner in the Lake, unable/unwilling to pass through the 7.5 inch gaps in the flood control barrier. Hopefully, it will survive the winter.

KUDOS FOR CREEK TO BAY VOLUNTEERS: More than 150 of you gave of your Saturday to remove trash from Lake Merritt and the Estuary Channel, including large contingents from the Oakland High Environmental Academy and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Among the unusual items found, a set of blueprints from Berkeley. Among the junk removed, the rotting remains of homeless materials near the Channel. Additional tasks accomplished, installation of several new storm drain outfall numbers. And thanks to Nancy Nadel's office for the morning goodies, and to the Institute for water and afternoon pizza.