



David Finigan
Supervisor, District 5
Del Norte County
Board of Supervisors
981 "H" Street, Ste. 200
Crescent City, California 95531

Phone
(707) 464-7204

Fax
(707) 464-1165

President Michael Sutton

February 10, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

We are writing to express our concerns and provide the Fish and Game Commission with comments regarding the recent in-river sport fishing regulation change proposals for the Lower Klamath River. These proposals (Options 1, 2 and 3) from the Yurok Tribe and Department of Fish and Wildlife would amend Subsections 7.50(b)(91.1) and (b)(195), Title 14, CCR relating to Klamath River fishing.

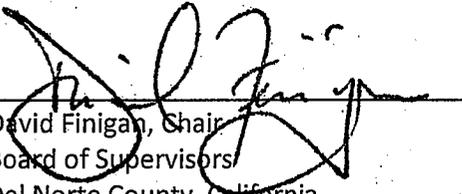
We understand that last year the Department of Fish and Wildlife evaluated Option I for the Commission's consideration that would prohibit the catch and release of Chinook salmon at the Klamath River "spit" fishery. The new options however, Option II and Option III, exceed the original intent of reducing catch and release mortality. Furthermore, the concept of a Lower Klamath River Main-stem closure was not vetted with sport fishery stakeholders and no information has been made available suggesting Blue Creek Chinook salmon are present in the proposed closure area before September 15.

While we acknowledge the challenges state and federal fisheries managers face when serving commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries interests, we believe the Blue Creek Conservation Closure (Option II and Option II) is arbitrary and unscientific and does not fully consider economic impacts to small businesses. Finally, there has been no discussion about how steelhead fishing fits into any of the proposals presented.

Many of the Klamath River fisheries stakeholders were not invited to participate in this regulation change proposal process and we urge you to not take action on this issue before the 2015 Klamath River Basin allocation is presented to the Commission in April 2015. We ask that the Commission provide this additional time for the public to comment and opportunities for stakeholders to develop alternative proposals.

In addition, the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors requests the California Fish and Game Commission ensure that all new or amended regulation proposals that affect Del Norte County be sent directly to the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors in order for the County to adequately represent its residents and visitors. Early Coordination is mandatory for such important proposals and can alleviate the need to delay the decision and deal with issues proactively.

Please feel free to contact the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors through the County Office of Administration (Jay Sarina, County Administrative Officer) at 707-464-7214.



David Finigan, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California