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Monday, March 02, 2015

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

Dear Commissioners:

The Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission (SCFWC) is writing this letter to the California Fish and Wildlife Commissioners (CF&WC) apposing California Fish & Wildlife Regulation 1.45. Upon review of Regulation 1.45 SCWF feels it is not a practical regulation and should be abolished.

According to Regulation 1.45 a person on a trip for an extended period of time is not allowed to fillet, smoke or process a fish beyond basic cleaning. The salmon must remain whole until the person is at his/her permanent residence. This means the fish would be initially frozen, and then thawed for further processing and then frozen again. Freezing and thawing fish multiple times is an invitation for bacteria. According to the Center for Decease Control (CDC) fish that have been previously frozen, thawed and refrozen should be disposed of if the fish has reached 40 degrees (F) prior to refreezing.

CF&W Regulation 1.45 contradictory to CF&W Regulation 1.87, which states "*It is unlawful to cause or permit any deteration or waste of any fish taken in the waters of this state*".

It has come to our attention that the CF&WC is reviewing an amendment to regulation 1.45 allowing the guides on the Sacramento River and tributary's thereof to process fish for their clients. Why are the guides singled out? Someone in the DF&W stated to me the reasons guides will be allowed to process fish is due to their daily log book entries. All of the anglers on the Klamath River must keep a record, by means of a Klamath Salmon Punch Card. The punch card is filled out prior to the day's fishing and a record of the fish caught, including the type, adult or jack, and wild or hatchery.

The SCFWC is asking the commissioners of the California Fish and Wildlife to abolish this regulation through-out the state and allow persons to process their fish as they have always done in the past. Our commission would like to see this regulation abolished by May of 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Pozzi
Co-Chairperson
Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission

Cc: Senator Mike McGuire, Director of Fish & Wildlife