

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 10-11, 2015

**1. PUBLIC FORUM****Today's Item**Information Action 

Receipt of public comments and requests for regulatory and non-regulatory actions.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- **Today's receipt of requests and comments** Jun 10-11, 2015; Mammoth Lakes
- Direction to grant, deny or refer requests Aug 4-5, 2015; Fortuna

**Background**

FGC generally receives three types of correspondence: Requests for regulatory action, requests for non-regulatory action, and informational only. The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires action on regulatory requests to be either denied or granted and notice made of that determination (last year we used the terms "accept" or "reject"; for 2015 we are using the terminology directly from APA). At the end of public forum a motion may be made to provide direction to staff on any items for which FGC wishes to receive additional information or take immediate action. Otherwise, FGC will determine the fate of the regulatory and non-regulatory requests at the next commission meeting.

**Significant Public Comments**

1. See regulatory requests in Exhibit 1
2. See non-regulatory requests in Exhibit 2

**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. Table containing a summary of new petitions for regulation change received by May 28 at 5:00 p.m., the comment deadline for the meeting binder.
2. Table containing a summary of new non-regulatory requests received by May 28 at 5:00 p.m., the comment deadline for the meeting binder.
- 3-13. Individual, new petitions and requests that are summarized in the tables.
- 14-20. Informational-only items; staff will not take any action on these unless otherwise directed by FGC.

**Motion/Direction (N/A)**

**CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
RECEIPT LIST FOR REGULATORY ACTION: RECEIVED THROUGH 5-28-2015**

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission DFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee MRC - Marine Resources Committee

**Grant (previously Accept):** FGC is *willing to consider* the petition through a process

**Deny (previously Reject):** FGC is *not willing to consider* the petition

**Refer:** FGC *needs more information* before deciding whether to grant or deny the petition

 **Green cells:** Referrals to DFW for more information  
 **Lavender cells:** Accepted and moved to a rulemaking

 **Blue cells:** Referrals to FGC staff or committee for more information  
 **Yellow cells:** Current action items

Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Code or Title 14 Section Number	Short Description	FGC Decision	DFW/FGC Staff Response	Final Action, Other Outcomes
4/29/2015	Lynn Boulton	Trapping		Request to ban any and all trapping in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/20/2015	James Keeling	Klamath River - Blue Creek Closure		Request Commission reconsider the Blue Creek decision, and hold a hearing on the matter in the region.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
5/28/2015	Kenny Priest	Klamath River - Blue Creek Closure		Petition signed by 497 supporters requesting the Commission reconsider the conservation closure on Blue Creek.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/26/2015	Dave Brabec	Clear Lake Hitch		Requests regulations to stop weed spraying along banks, and Hitch hatchery in the state park.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/28/015	Robert Rutkowski	Dcrab regulation-- Whale entanglement		Requests measures to address whale entanglement from Dcrab pot or trap lines and reducing the number of lines in the water to protect whales.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/24/2015	Stash Elkin	Hedgehogs		Legalize possession of hedgehogs	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/24/2015	Emma Hanna	Hedgehogs		Leglaize possession of hedgehogs	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
4/28/2015	Deanna C.	Badger		Leglaize possession of badgers	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
5/15/2015	Jorden Custard	Ferrets		Leglaize possession of ferrets	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		

**CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**  
**RECEIPT LIST FOR NON-REGULATORY REQUESTS: RECEIVED THROUGH 5-28-2015**

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission    DFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife    WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee    MRC - Marine Resources Committee

**Grant (previously Accept):** FGC is *willing to consider* the petition through a process      **Deny (previously Reject):** FGC is *not willing to consider* the petition  
**Refer:** FGC *needs more information* before deciding whether to grant or deny the petition

 **Green cells:** Referrals to DFW for more information  
 **Lavender cells:** Accepted and moved to a rulemaking

 **Blue cells:** Referrals to FGC staff or committee for more information  
 **Yellow cells:** Current action items

Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Short Description	FGC Decision	DFW/FGC Staff Response	Final Action, Other Outcomes
5/4/2015	Roy Thomas	Fishing access	Requests information on how federal tax dollars to provide fishing and boating access is spent.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		
5/26/2015	Scott McMorrow	SWAP	Requests amended language to reflect the 2013 intent of reducing only <i>illegal</i> hunting, fishing and harvesting.	Action scheduled 8/4-5/2015		

**From:** [Lynn Boulton](#)  
**To:** [FGC](#)  
**Cc:** [Marquart, Dave@Parks](#); [Lisa Cutting](#); [Geoffrey McQuilkin](#); [Tim Bue](#); [jkazmierski@fs.fed.us](#); [Stacy Corless](#); [Richard Hihn](#); [Malcolm Clark](#); [johnh@mills.edu](#); [Constance Millar](#)  
**Subject:** New Request: No Trapping in MBNFSA  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:57:01 AM

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April 29, 2015

Mr. Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: No Trapping in MBNFSA

Dear Mr. Mastrup:

I am requesting that any and all trapping be officially banned in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (MBNFSA). It needs to be clearly stated as such in its management plan and clear to the local DFW staff that will need to enforce it.

The enabling legislation grandfathered in hunting, but not trapping. According to the 1984 California Wilderness Act, Title III: "...Such plan shall provide for hunting and fishing (including commercial brine shrimp operations authorized under State law) within the Scenic Area in accordance with applicable Federal and State law, except to the extent otherwise necessary for reasons of public health and safety, the protection of resources, scientific research activities, or public use and enjoyment."

People who participated in the discussions when the Scenic Area was established remember debates about duck and deer hunting. However, trapping was never discussed. They are surprised to hear it is mentioned in the management plan. It shouldn't have been. The Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve does not allow trapping. State Natural Reserve is the highest protection that can be given a state park. Yet, because it is difficult to know if which agency's land you are on as you walk along the shore, the Mono Lake Tufa SNR changed its management plan to include hunting. Now the MBNFSA should change its management plan to exclude trapping for the same reason. The intent of establishing the Scenic Area was to preserve the stark, stunning, and natural beauty of the area and to prevent any further changes that would detract from that. It is not about extracting its resources. All that changed when BLM turned over the management of this land to the Forest Service.

The enabling legislation for the Mojave National Preserve specifically states the hunting and trapping are allowed. It wasn't specifically stated in the case of the Mono Basin NF Scenic Area which then left it up to the Department of Fish and Game who did not have specific instructions one way or the other and so, by default, trapping is allowed. It is time to change that.

Trapping is not in line with the charter of the Scenic Area, "...to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources...". Farming, ranching, and hunting activities in the Mono Basin fed the town of Bodie until the Great Depression. Deer and duck hunting are part of the local tradition. Fur trapping is not. Gardisky trapped the high Sierra from 1914-1922, but I don't think he embodies the purpose of why hunting was grandfathered in. He was busy extirpating the red fox in the Tioga Pass area and

killed the last wolverine in the Sierra Nevada in 1922.

Mono County has a strong tourist and eco-tourist economy especially in the Mono Basin. Over the past 30 years, the land use in the Mono Basin has completely changed from a declining agricultural area to a unique and protected natural reserve. The shift started in 1981 when the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve was established to protect the tufa formations, the wetlands along the lakeshore, and the thousands of birds that feed on brine shrimp and alkali flies. Three years later, the Mono Basin NF Scenic Area was established with a wider vision of protecting the whole watershed ecology and view shed. Per the Title III legislation, a beautiful visitor center was built, low-impact campgrounds were setup nearby, and self-guided interpretive signs set up. There are 50 volunteer naturalists who give interpretive talks, set up spotting scopes, and give canoe tours to enhance the public's appreciation of this unique treasure. The Mono Lake Committee has worked tirelessly for years to protect the lake's ecology and the riparian stream corridors.

Migrating through are 50-75,000 Phalaropes, 60,000 CA gulls (nesting), 1 million Eared Grebes, 15,000 Avocets, Sandpipers, Dowagers, Snowy Plovers, a variety of ducks, geese, etc. and 11 pairs of nesting Osprey. 250-300 species of terrestrial and songbirds visit the Basin from spring to fall. 80 different species stay with us in the winter. The longest running study of a bird species is conducted here at Mono Lake on the California Gulls. Local birders have participated in the annual Audubon Christmas Count for the past 35 years and the Mono Lake Committee organizes a Bird Chautauqua every year where people can explore the area with the experts.

Many mammals also live within the Scenic Area: bear, foxes, coyotes, deer, mountain lions, pine martins, short and long-tailed weasels, raccoons, rabbits (3 kinds), squirrels (2 kinds—and flying squirrels up the canyon), chipmunks, rodents, and even a badger. Trapping does not fit in. Many different stakeholders are involved in protecting the biodiversity and ecology of the Mono Basin and once this is on your agenda, they will send in letters of support.

The Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve, with the help of the Mono Basin NF Scenic Area attractions, is the 4th most popular state natural reserve. Last year 365,000 visitors came from around the world. We who live here and the thousands of visitors who come to Mono Lake, to enjoy its natural beauty and wild character, value the thrilling sighting of a coyote, fox, weasel, or bobcat and knowing that they are still with us. We want Mono County to stay "Wild by Nature"--its motto

Regards,  
Lynn Boulton  
Lee Vining, CA

**From:** [James Keeling](#)  
**To:** [FGC](#)  
**Subject:** Klamath river blue creek closure  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2015 9:59:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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I would like to see what studies the department has done on their own. what evidence they have to close blue Creek besides they adopted the departments changes for the spit fishery like they said in the meeting and it made it sound like they adopted the blue Creek closure because they did not want to go against the tribe on two different subjects. And I would like to talk to a fish and game commission on the phone if that is possible. And have a public hearing on this in Humboldt and Delnorte county or see real evidence from the commission that there has been a problem at blue Creek and get it on the ballot again for another vote or to reopen it. And the economic downfall to this far outweighs a few incidental kills.

Sent from my iPhone

# Saving the Hitch

First let me say I want the hitch to survive. Fish in all lakes are cyclic and right now in Clearlake the Hitch numbers might be down but, so are the Crappie, Bluegill numbers and the Threadfin Shad are scarce. I think the Bass numbers are down also. I get tired of hearing the Bass are causing the Hitch downfall. The Bass and the Hitch have lived together for over 100 YEARS. The biggest problem is the lack of water. The Hitch have not had a good spawn in 3 years due to drought conditions. 4 years ago there were small hitch everywhere.

We need to fix the creeks and that includes the mouths of the creeks. The lake needs to stay full longer so the hitch can even get up the creeks and if that means Yolo county doesn't get as much water so be it. It's hard to get a good count on spawning Hitch when they can't even make it to the creek. The Hitch also need more weed beds to hide in. The unregulated spraying needs to stop! The weed beds die off on their own every winter.

The State already owns property at Kelsey and Cole creeks. Why not put a Hitch hatchery in the state park?

Bass are not the only species to feed on the Hitch. There are more Catfish in the lake capable of eating full-sized Hitch than there are Bass. The Crappie also eat small Hitch.

Then there are the Eagles, Ospreys, Pelicans, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons, etc. They all eat more Hitch than the Bass do. I have seen groups of Pelicans herd Hitch into the shallows and gorge on thousands of them.

Let's focus on stream restoration and a lake that stays full enough for the Hitch to get in the creeks. If you try and take out predatory species out of the lake you can kiss the biggest Catfish derby west of the Mississippi goodbye as well as 60 or so less Bass tournaments annually. I know that not everyone is a fisherman but most people don't realize the importance of fishing for the local economy. Motels, gas stations, restaurants, etc., all are affected. The local businesses are having a hard enough time with what little tourism there is with the poor economy. There are small businesses closing all the time.

We all need to work together to get thru this drought. I still see the pear farmers using flood irrigation methods and the wineries have planted hundreds of acres of new grapes this summer and I have to wonder why?

Pray for rain!!

Dave Brabec

Clearlake Outdoors

497 supporters

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Petitioning California Fish and Game Commission Jack Baylis

## **Reconsider the conservation closure of Blue Creek on the Klamath River**

Started 4/22/2015 by Kenny Priest Eureka, CA



Blue Creek, which flows cold water into the Klamath River approximately 16 miles from the rivers mouth, is a critical refuge for migrating salmon and steelhead. It also provides some of the best fishing the Klamath River has to offer. On Friday, the CA Fish and Game Commission voted 4-1 in favor of closing this world-famous fishery to all non-tribal sports

fishing from June 15 through Sept. 14 from ½ mile below to 500 feet above the confluence of Blue Creek.

This decision was not backed by any type of science, and there was no economic or environmental studies done. The Commission also chose to ignore the pleas of the CDFW, who suggested to take a step back and study the fishery first. Prior to the final vote, Commission President Jack Baylis stated, "Why don't we just close it and see what happens." Well, what happens is the anglers, fishing guides, and local businesses lose.

With this petition, I'm hoping we can get enough signatures to get this item back onto the agenda at the next Commission meeting in May. What I hope comes of this is to bring all parties back to the table and really study the problems. Let's capture some data and not base our decisions on hearsay. Klamath River salmon and steelhead runs are not in danger, in fact they are increasing. So why close one of the most beautiful and productive fisheries on the West Coast.

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### **Petition update**

#### **Let's continue to let the F&G Commissioners know closing Blue Creek to fishing was a totally unwarranted decision!**

May 27, 2015 — The next Commission meeting is June 10-11 in Southern California and as of today, the Blue Creek closure appears to be a done deal for this year. We were hoping that with enough public support, we could get this item back on the agenda for a review. It doesn't appear that will happen, but let's not give up the fight. Regulations on the Klamath are fluid, and with enough support we can get this ridiculous law over turned. Or at the very least we can agree on some type of compromise. Please sign and share and let the politicians know we're not giving up the fight to fish Blue Creek.

**From:** [Robert E. Rutkowski](#)  
**To:** [FGC; Wildlife DIRECTOR](#)  
**Subject:** Reducing whale entanglements in California pot and trap gear fisheries  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:28:38 AM

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Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director Department of Fish and Wildlife 1416 9th Street, 12th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814, [Director@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Director@wildlife.ca.gov)

Mr. Jack Baylis, President California Fish and Game Commission P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090, [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov)

Re: Reducing whale entanglements in California pot and trap gear fisheries

Dear Gentlemen:

New data reveals that a record number of whales were entangled in fishing gear off the U.S. Pacific coast last year and they are being reported at an even faster rate this year, prompting Conservation groups to [urge](#) California fishery managers to institute reforms to better protect marine mammals from injury, suffering and death.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, there were 30 unique reports of whale entanglements in 2014 off the West Coast—most of them gray or humpback whales caught in lines connected to crab pots—nearly twice the number from the previous year, and well above the average from the last decade (eight per year) or the previous decade (three per year). So far in 2015, there have been over 25 unique reports of entanglements in California alone, including most recently a [killer whale that washed up dead](#) north of Fort Bragg, Calif. entangled in crab gear.

It's heartbreaking to know so many whales are getting tangled up in fishing gear. They often drown or drag gear around until they're too exhausted to feed. Even more disturbing is that this problem is only getting worse.

Of the 30 cases last year, seven whales were disentangled and released free of lines, seven were found dead, two were observed to self-release and the remaining entangled whales had an unknown fate. Most recent entanglements have occurred with Dungeness crab gear, although lobster and spot prawn gear as well as gillnets have also been identified.

For whales that cannot free themselves or be disentangled by people, trailing fishing gear can add drag, which depletes energy reserves and ultimately leads to death, or can sever limbs and cut into flesh, which can cause infection or prevent mobility. One study found that fatally entangled whales can take an average of six months to die. There are also strong indications that the

problem could be even worse than the official National Marine Fisheries Service numbers show. Experts acknowledge there could be far more entanglements that go undetected. A photographic study from 2004–2006 indicated at least half the humpback whales off the West Coast had scars indicating prior entanglement.

Californians are incredibly lucky to share their coastal waters with these magnificent whales. We have a responsibility to act quickly to prevent more whales from getting tangled up in fishing gear. Work with groups and the fishing industry to protect whales and secure federally required permits that protect fishermen.

The California fishing industry has begun to address the risk of whale entanglements, through [industry-led retrieval of lost crab pots](#), better gear marking and limits on the number of traps set. However, the combination of increasing populations of some whales and changes in ocean and fishing conditions have resulted in the unfortunate increase in entanglements, indicating more needs to be done. The California Dungeness Crab Task Force recently established a working group comprised of the fishing industry, state and federal agencies, entanglement experts and conservation organizations to address the problem.

Measures to address large whale entanglements from other regions have included fishery closures in areas where whales are feeding; lines that are designed to break away when a pot or trap catches on a whale; and reducing the number of vertical lines in the water. These and other measures should be considered, with a call for collaborative efforts to address the problems before next fall when the next Dungeness crab fishing season begins. The current Dungeness crab season on the West Coast ends June 30. The most commonly identified gear on the whales was from the Dungeness crab fishery.

There are simple, common-sense solutions that will protect the whales, and we're calling on the state to manage this fishery to protect whales. There should be meaningful changes to address this growing problem before the next crab season begins.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring these remarks to your attention.

Yours sincerely,  
Robert E. Rutkowski

cc: House Minority Leadership



Re: Conservation groups letter:

[http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Take%20reduction%20request%20to%20CA\\_4-28-15.pdf](http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Take%20reduction%20request%20to%20CA_4-28-15.pdf)

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION

2015 APR 24 PM 2:18

MLS

[REDACTED]  
March 26, 2015

The Fish and Game Commission of California  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244

To Whom It May Concern:

Have you ever seen an adorable prickly little hedgehog? These are cherished by families everywhere. They are considered marvelous and loving pets. But in our outstanding state of California, no one can experience the pleasure of owning one. The Fish and Game Commission has the power to change that. Hedgehogs make for great, easy pets. There is no harm in owning a hedgehog. And we are one of the last states that they are still illegal to keep as pets in. There is no reason to keep hedgehogs illegal as pets.

Hedgehogs make for wonderful, easy pets. According to Critter Connection, hedgehog store and breeders, Hedgehogs weigh two pounds at the maximum. A famous internet hedgehog, Bidy, is seen traveling to all sorts of places across America. This shows that it can be easy to travel with them. Since being considered pets, the amount of people that own them has almost doubled. This shows that they can be kept as real pets.

There is no harm in owning a hedgehog. Hedgehogclub.com says that their quills are smooth, unlike porcupines, and can not hurt you. It is rare for hedgehogs to target or attack at anyone or for that matter anything. Injuries most commonly when trying to pick them up. If you are gentle, you can not be hurt. Hedgehogs rarely hurt people.

Most other states have already legalized them. According Critter Connection, we are one of just three states where hedgehogs are illegal with no exceptions. In Canada, they are legal in every province beside Quebec where only African Pygmy hedgehogs are legal. Overall, in forty-four states, hedgehogs are entirely legal with no permits needed. There is no doubt we need to catch up with the rest of the states.

Based on all of the facts, there are only pros of legalizing hedgehogs as pets. They are magnificent pets. They cause no harm. And we are one of the last states they are still illegal in. Legalize them to give some families and people a little extra thing to be happy about.

Sincerely yours,

Stash Elkin  
Sixth Grade Student, Incubator School

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION

2015 APR 24 PM 2:16

MLS

March 27, 2015

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Fish and Game Commission  
P.O. Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244

Dear Mr. Sonke Mastrup:

Imagine sitting at home, playing with your childhood pet, and suddenly hearing a knock at the door. You look outside to see officers approaching to confiscate that pet, and take it from your home. Imagine the heartbreak that you would feel, witnessing the pet that you love, being ripped away. This is what happens with domestic hedgehogs in our state. My goal is to make a difference in these laws, and legalize the possession of hedgehogs in California.

Hedgehogs are unjustly accused as illegal, due to an immoral law stating that any animal not specifically deemed legal are considered illegal. Among the many harmless animals on that list, there are hedgehogs. Hedgehogs could thrive in California. Since hedgehogs are meant to live in a warm, dry environment, California is the perfect place for them, and it would be unjust to take away a perfect home for them. I believe that it is cruel to mark these animals as technically illegal, and take away the perfect environment for them.

Hedgehogs are not difficult pets to own. First of all, they are quiet, and most will not destroy possessions. Depending on personality, they are calm and nondestructive. They are also hypoallergenic. For people with allergies, there are not many pet options besides reptiles and fish. It would be very pleasant to own an intelligent pet, that they can hold and play with. Hedgehogs are a very cheap pet, with proper effort. They need sparse visits to the vet, and only a few vaccinations. They have their own type of food, but it costs less, and they eat less than dogs.

One of the main reasons we are not allowed to own hedgehogs is because state officials are worried that they will cause damage to environments. In reality, if this is carefully considered, dogs and cats will cause much more damage if they get out. The diseases that hedgehogs may carry are preventable, and with a trip to the veterinarian, can be gotten rid of. The damage a hedgehog causes, as well as the chance of it escaping, are the same as that of a hamster. Farmers who are worried about crops being disrupted, are not aware of the fact that hedgehogs are insectivores, and they will not eat crops. Hedgehogs will not cause any more damage to an environment than any other domestic pet.

In conclusion, hedgehogs would make a perfectly harmless pet in California. They are nondestructive, hypoallergenic, low income, and easy pets to own. Please consider my letter and information, and take into account all of the evidence. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Emma Hanna  
6th grade student, The Incubator School

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION

2015 APR 28 PM 5:41

MLS

[REDACTED]  
March 26, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Jim Kellogg:

Did you know that California has the most illegal animals to keep as pets? There are animals you would expect, like tigers and crocodiles. Oddly, common animals such as ferrets, moles, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, and more are illegal to keep. You are not allowed to keep any of these animals without a license, which is extremely hard to obtain. These animals share one thing in common, there is little to no reason for them to be illegal. Today, I will talk about why it should be legal to keep a badger as a pet. Badgers are just like any other animal, and they follow their instincts and do what is natural to them. These reasons will prove why they are just like any other animal.

The first reason badgers should be legal is because they can be helpful. A badger can help remove pests. Because of their powerful hide, they are able to remove bees and insects. They can do this without any trouble. One family owned a badger. This badger was very helpful. It protected their children, since it could get rid of harm like bees and insects. The badger was very helpful to them, and they enjoyed it very much. Teddy Roosevelt himself owned a badger. The badger was a baby when he got it. He was able to train it to become a friendly companion.

The second reason badgers should be legal is because they are not dangerous unless provoked. A badger is actually about as powerful as a dog. Unless it is provoked in some way, a badger will not harm you. It is actually the other way around, badgers fear people. A bunch of people fear badgers because of an incident that happened involving a badger. Boris, a badger, was taken out of a zoo and attacked a handful of people. This left many people having a negative feeling toward badgers. Though this was just the badger's instinct. It felt threatened when taken out of its habitat, and was just using self defence to protect itself. In general though, a badger is actually afraid of people and will keep its distance. When you train it from a younger age, it will be calm around you.

The last reason badgers should be kept is that it will make them less endangered. Normally, a badger will live up to fourteen years in the wild. Though, many people have been tampering with their ecosystem. This causes less badgers to live to their natural age. People end up harming

badgers actually. A father and son went up a hill. They spotted a burrow, newly dug. They went back home to get their dog. Then, they put the dog by the hole. The badger came up, and the father and son immediately caught it. The authorities came soon after, though the injustice done to the badger was already done. Many people will harm badgers by pitting them against dogs. This is extremely cruel to them. Keeping badgers as pets will protect them from that. They will be able to enjoy a warm home, instead of being in their harmed ecosystem and having them be captured by others.

By allowing people to have pet badgers, you can save a generation of them. Badgers will be enjoyable companions who will protect you. Not only will they keep you safe, you will keep them safe. They will be able to live to their natural lifespan without being hurt from others. A badger will make a comfy companion. Roosevelt himself enjoyed his badger very much. It kept him as well as his kids comforted. A badger will be a well behaved pet when raised from a younger age. They will enjoy your company, as well as you will. Badgers will stay for another generation to come, if they are allowed to be pets.

Sincerely yours,

Deanna C.

6th grade student, The Incubator School

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION

April 13, 2015

2015 MAY 14 PM 3:56

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director

P.O. Box 944209

Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

I am currently a California resident, living in the state of Texas. This letter is about the issue of the illegality of ferrets within the state of California.

Dear Executive Director Sonke Mastrup,

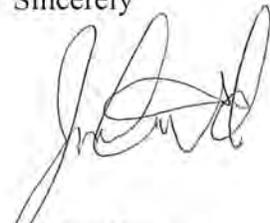
Within the state of California, ferrets are considered exotic animals, and have been given the stigma that if they escape their homes they will form businesses; and ruin the natural ecosystem. Yet here in Texas, ferrets are sold at pet stores with other domesticated animals

The reason for such a concern of whether ferrets are to be legalized, because there has been several majority votes for ferrets to be legalize. And yet, it seems as if it has been ignored. It affects every citizen with ferrets outside of the Golden State who wants to go in with their animal but can't because they might lose their pet that is a lot less dangerous to the ecosystem than a dog or cat.

It has been several decades since this issue has been brought up, and there are thousands of ferrets living within the state already. That have done no damage to the ecosystem. Why can you legalize Majuana but not just a one pound weasel?

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely



Jordan Custard

[REDACTED], San Antonio, Texas, [REDACTED]

**From:** [roy.thomas](#)  
**To:** [FGC](#)  
**Subject:** Fishing access loss of license funds and federal tax money  
**Date:** Monday, May 04, 2015 5:30:37 PM

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A major reason California is last in fishing license sales per capita is access to many of our rivers and lakes. The constitution of the great state of California tries very hard to protect its peoples right to fish. It states very clearly that all land owned or ever owned by the state shall have the peoples right to fish from it preserved. The state and county's have closed the majority of bank fishing access points I know of. This does not have to be the case. The federal government provides over 20,000,000 dollars each year to California to provide fishing and boating access. I tried to find where this excise tax from imported fishing equipment was being spent. It appears to be a secret. I hope you check that it is going to restoring bank fishing access. Many of the county roads use to end at the Sacramento river. Now most are blocked. Road 48 has almost a mile of gravel bar, now blocked off at the levee. The Russian river use to have lots of access. Now all blocked and private. Some of that 20 million needs to buy back access so people can fish again. Dose anyone on the comisson fish? Many have given up on California fishing for the lack of access to good fishing. Please do the right thing!!

May 26, 2015

California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 Ninth St., Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan, Chapter 5.3 - Bay Delta-Central Coast

Dear Commissioners:

The draft 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) calls for a reduction in **legal** hunting, fishing, and harvesting of aquatic resources in the Bay Delta-Central Coast Region.

This language in the draft SWAP conflicts with documents presented in 2013 regarding the Bay Delta-Central Coast Region. In 2013, CDFW released a Fact Sheet for the Region that called for the reduction of **illegal** hunting, fishing, and harvesting of aquatic resources.

It seems that the original 2013 concept of reducing illegal take has morphed into a general reduction in hunting, fishing, harvesting in the draft 2015 SWAP.

In the past, the Commission and the Department have sought science-based decisions concerning the regulation of California's wildlife. To that end, I've submitted to CDFW a Public Records Act Request for any data, reports, or information that support a reduction of **legal** hunting in the Bay Delta-Central Coast Region.

**I urge you to please ask the Department to amend the language of the draft 2015 SWAP to reflect the 2013 intent of reducing only illegal hunting, fishing, and harvesting.**

Here's a link to the 2013 Fact Sheet that calls for a reduction the illegal consumptive uses:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.a...79077&inline=1>

Here's where you can find the reductions to legal hunting and fishing in the 2015 SWAP:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.a...=100044&inline>

Chapter 5.3 – Bay Delta and Central Coast

Page 5.3-21 Table 5.3-4 – Key Pressures on Conservation Targets

Page 5.3-47 Conservation Strategies

Intended pressure(s) reduced: Recreational activities; hunting and collecting terrestrial animals; fishing and harvesting aquatic resources

Page 5.3-49 Conservation Strategy 7 (Management Planning)

Intended pressure(s) reduced: Dams and water management/use; shipping lanes; roads and railroads; recreational activities; hunting and collecting terrestrial animals; fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.

P 5.3-49 Conservation Strategy 8 (Partner Engagement):

Intended pressure(s) reduced: Dams and water management/use; shipping lanes; roads and railroads; recreational activities; hunting and collecting terrestrial animals; fishing and harvesting aquatic resources.

Page 5.3-50 Table 5.3-9 Stresses and Pressures for North American Pacific Coastal Salt Marsh

Hunting and Collecting terrestrial animals and Fishing & Harvesting aquatic resources are listing as pressures.

Page 5.3-51 Table 5.3-10 Conservation Targets and Strategies for the Bay Delta and Central Coast Province

Hunting and Collecting terrestrial animals and Fishing & Harvesting aquatic resources are listed as pressures.

Thank you.

Best Regards,  
/s/  
Scott McMorrow  
Inverness, CA  
[REDACTED]

**From:**  
**To:** [FGC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: condor  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 12:57:40 PM

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To whom it concerns, After reading this I have a conclusion about these here condors. I cannot believe that they are getting the lead from animals left in the field. I think lead ammo is the scapegoat. I have also heard about them eating road paint. There is too much of a percentage of lead in the flock to be getting all this lead from ammo. One more thing about these buzzards, do we have people making an agenda of this to ban things. I do not like the smell of this whole thing, I personally do not want to pay for feeding them. I hope to hell you are not using my lic. and tags fees for this. ARE YOU? That is my feelings on this. Gary Grabowsky  
Atascadero Calif.

-----  
**From:** "FGC"  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** Wed, 13 May 2015 14:23:48 +0000  
**Subject:** RE: condor

The majority of information regarding condors may be found on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's webpage: [https://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t\\_e\\_spp/condor/](https://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t_e_spp/condor/).

Attached are some additional reports that were provided to the Fish and Game Commission.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2015 4:21 PM  
**To:** FGC  
**Subject:** condor

I have been trying to find out about condors eating bullets. Do you people know anything? I have e-mailed people in agencies involved in condor research--no

answer. I think it is a hoax. I do not think we need a lead ban, you people didn't do any research. I would like to see some proof for all this. Gary Grabowsky  
Atascadero, Ca.

**From:** kathy Lynch <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** May 20, 2015 at 5:59:19 PM PDT  
**To:** "Sonke Mastrup", "Dan Yparraguirre"  
**Subject:** FW: New study supports BASC position on lead ammunition | The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

-Sonke- Please share with the commissioners. Thank you. Kathy

<http://basc.org.uk/blog/press-releases/latest-news/new-study-supports-basc-position-on-lead-ammunition/>



The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

## **New study supports BASC position on lead ammunition**

Posted on May 19, 2015

The results of a new study by Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) supports BASC's position on lead ammunition: "no sound evidence, no change".

The NHMRC Statement and Information Paper "Evidence on the Effects of Lead on Human Health" includes the statement:

"It is not possible to conclude that lead was the direct cause of any of the reported health effects in individuals with blood levels less than 10 micrograms per decilitre. While the results from some studies indicate that blood levels less than 10 micrograms per decilitre may be associated with some health effects, the available cross section studies do not provide the type of convincing evidence that would enable public health experts and statisticians to make confident conclusions about cause and effect."

Alan Jarrett, Chairman of BASC said:

"This comprehensive study from Australia supports BASC's position that there is no need to change the existing UK Food Standards Agency guidelines on the consumption of game meat."

BASC continues to back compliance with the law on the use of lead ammunition and promotes good game handling practices.

ENDS

FSA guidelines on the consumption of game can be found here – <http://goo.gl/VV6x8M>

The NHMRC paper is here – <https://goo.gl/IFU7Vf>

BASC's policy on lead ammunition is here: – <http://goo.gl/gpoZ3s>



Keeping Northwest California wild since 1977

*Sent via e-mail on date shown below*

May 19, 2015

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 Ninth Street, 12th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Department of Fish and Wildlife Status Report for the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)**

Dear Director Bonham,

This letter is submitted on behalf of the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), regarding the status of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) progress in producing its status report for the northern spotted owl (NSO) (*Strix occidentalis caurina*).

In 2012, EPIC, concerned with the long-term viability of the NSO in California, submitted a listing petition under the California Endangered Species Act to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). On August 7, 2013 the Commission voted to advance the NSO to candidacy status. The Commission adopted findings for this decision on December 11, 2013, thereby beginning the Department's obligation to conduct a status report within 12 months to aid the Commission in making its final determination. On October 9, 2014, the Department sought a six-month extension to complete the status report pursuant to Cal. Fish & Game Code § 2074.6(a). On December 3, 2014, the Commission approved the Department's six-month extension with a new due date of June 26, 2015.

It has come to our attention that the Department does not intend to submit its status report for the NSO on June 26, 2015, as was agreed by the Commission. In a personal communication with Ms. Carie Battistone at the Department's Wildlife Branch dated May 11, 2015, it was relayed to us that the Department does not intend to submit its status report for the NSO at the time agreed pursuant to the six-month extension granted by the Commission. Ms. Battistone imparted to us that the Department was facing "circumstances" that have caused delays in the production of its report. Ms. Battistone indicates that there is now no date-certain for submittal of the Department's status report for the NSO to the Commission. Further, Ms. Battistone stated that the Department hopes to submit the report to the Commission by the end of 2015.

Environmental Protection Information Center  
145 G Street Suite A Arcata, CA 95521  
(707) 822-7711  
[www.wildcalifornia.org](http://www.wildcalifornia.org)

We wish to remind the Department that CESA allows for a single six-month extension on submittal of status reports. The Department has already applied for, and received a six-month extension on the production of its status report for the NSO. We see no statutory or regulatory authority which would allow the Department to push-out the date for submittal of its report indefinitely, or even beyond the six-month extension for submittal of the report.

Furthermore, EPIC questions the legality of the original six-month extension. As provided in Fish and Game Code § 2074.6(a), “The commission may grant an extension of up to six months if the director determines an extension is necessary to complete independent peer review of the report to provide a minimum of 30 days for public review of the peer reviewed report prior to the public hearing specified in Section 2075.” From EPIC’s understanding, the Department did not obtain the extension for either of the enumerated permissible reasons: is not even at the independent peer review stage and no report is available for public review. As such, the December 3, 2014 deadline extension appears to be wrongfully procured.

The ongoing delays in the production and submittal of the Department’s status report for the NSO has harmed EPIC. We have long ago contracted an independent wildlife ecologist to prepare an independent status report for the NSO in California. The delays in the Department’s submittal of its NSO status report have caused EPIC to retain our independent contractor much longer than was originally envisioned or desired because the timing of the submittal of our independent report is contingent upon the timing of the Department’s submittal of its review. These delays have thus cost our organization valuable time, money, and resources.

Furthermore, the Department’s failure to timely produce the status report harms EPIC’s and the public’s interest in the conservation of the NSO. Wildlife generally, and the owl specifically, are part of the public trust, and the State must manage the wildlife within its borders on behalf of its citizens. Because of the Department’s delay, the Commission cannot act on the proposed listing. This delay directly harms the NSO—which is experiencing declining populations—because until the NSO is listed, it does not receive full protections under CESA.

EPIC therefore requests that the Department provide: (1) an explanation as to the reasons for delay in production of the NSO status report; (2) a date-certain for the submittal of its report to the Fish and Game Commission; and (3) a statement of the steps it will take to ensure this new date-certain will be met. We expect this information be provided no later than June 1, 2015. Failure to provide us with the requested information will compel us to seek alternate remedies.

Please do not hesitate to contact me as necessary if there are questions or if there is a need to discuss this matter further. EPIC looks forward to the Department’s response.

Sincerely,



Rob DiPerna  
California Forest and Wildlife Advocate  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
145 G Street, Suite A  
Arcata, California 95521  
Office: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Cc: Mr. Jack Bayless, President, California Fish and Game Commission  
Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission  
Ms. Lacy Bauer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife



## **Dedicated to Preserving Your Rights To Hunt and Fish In the State of California**

April 22, 2015

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

Mr. Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Re: Deaths of Point Reyes Elk Herd**

Dear President Baylis and Director Bonham:

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California is a nonprofit organization of sportsman's clubs and individuals dedicated to preserving outdoor recreation in California. Our principal activities are to monitor legislation that might negatively impact hunting, fishing and other recreation, and to oppose unwise changes in laws and regulations relating to these activities.

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California (OSCC) promotes the conservation enhancement, scientific management, and wise use of all our natural resources; OSCC seeks to end activities needlessly destructive to natural resources; OSCC endeavors to educate and encourage the public generally, and the youth specifically, to an understanding of the advantages and importance of the conservation and enhancement of our natural resources.

OSCC works to enhance outdoor opportunities for all citizens. With several thousand members located throughout California, we stay in contact with our membership via newsletters and the internet so they can be involved as they see fit.

I have read this article, "Conservationists Upset as Much of Point Reyes Elk Herd Dies," SF-Gate (<http://m.sfgate.com/science/article/Conservationists-upset-after-nearly-half-tule-elk-6204983.php>) and am disturbed by its content. The elk referred to in this article were in a locked pen. Therefore, somebody is responsible for their care and well-being. The evidence of neglect is that the wild, free roaming elk are doing fine while these fenced-in elk are not. If they cannot be properly cared for they should be released.

The way I see this, the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is ultimately responsible for the well-being of these lost elk. Not only has this resource been harmed due to neglect, but many thousands of conservation dollars have also been wasted.

The Mission Statement (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore>) of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is “to manage California’s diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.”

Among the responsibilities listed on the Fish and Game Commission’s website (<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/public/information/>) are the following:

- Regulating uses of protected areas
- Authorizing terms and conditions for Private Lands Management Program, and
- Assuming a quasi-judicial role in considering appeal hearings for revocation of suspension of licenses and permits

Sportsmen are under continual assault from the Legislature, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and those that claim a higher degree of moral superiority. For years OSCC has worked for common sense in wildlife management. In addition, we also promote management based on good science by professionals in the department. Unfortunately we spend entirely too much time defending sportsmen against an agenda driven process, and I suppose that will not end anytime soon.

No one, however, can defend a loss of this nature, especially due to neglect. Had even one elk died, due to neglect or for any reason at the hands of a landowner or sportsman, the penalties would be severe and expensive.

AS SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSWOMEN WE EXPECT THE VERY SAME ACCOUNTABILITY BY THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

Sincerely,



Keith Ringgenberg  
President, Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown  
Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, California Fish and Game Commission  
California Fish and Game Commission  
Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3  
Senator Lois Wolk, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2  
Assemblymember Toni Atkins  
Assemblymember Kristin Olsen  
Senator Kevin de Leon  
Senator Robert Huff  
Senator Jean Fuller  
Mr. Peter Fimrite, SF-Gate  
Outdoor Sportsmen’s Association of California



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Region 1 – Northern  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



2015 APR -9 AM 10:15

MCS

April 3, 2015

**Subject: Elk Depredation in Round Valley, Covelo**

Dear Covelo Landowner:

Your letter of January 13, 2015 to the Governor was forwarded to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for response. You expressed concerns regarding property damage resulting from an expanding elk population in Round Valley near Covelo.

Tule elk are native to California, originally ranging from east of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, west to the coast line and as far north as the headwaters of the Sacramento River south to the Tehachapi Mountains. Some accounts indicate that the number of Tule elk may have approached 500,000. Their numbers were reduced to near extinction through un-regulated hunting. Efforts to restore this California-native species began in the early 1900s, and these efforts returned Tule elk to the Cache Creek area and many other portions of their historical range. It is a key part of the Department's mission to manage and restore native species. The Department has relocated elk several times in or near Mendocino County between 1978 and 1990. Some elk from these releases were fitted with radio (VHF) transmitters and subsequently dispersed into Mendocino County. For example, at least 15 elk released near Lake Pillsbury moved about 14 miles southwest and became established at Potter Valley within the Mendocino unit by the end of 1981. Although most releases occurred on or near public land (such as Elk Creek and Lake Pillsbury), Tule elk subherds became established primarily on private property.

Roosevelt elk are also native and were once widely distributed in Mendocino County and in the coastal redwood forests. Periodic sightings of elk in Laytonville, Sherwood Valley and Fort Bragg have been reported as recently as 2013. Some of these appear to be the Roosevelt subspecies or possible Roosevelt/Tule elk hybrids, however genetic analysis has not been performed to confirm/refute this.

There are several options available to address elk depredation, and the Department is available to discuss them at your convenience. Among them are the take of elk through hunting or under a depredation permit. Opportunities are available for landowners to charge hunters a fee when providing hunting access. Such fees may be realized by drawing a Cooperative Elk Hunting Permit (landowner tag), enrolling in the Private Lands Management Program, or providing access to a hunter(s) who has drawn an elk tag for the Mendocino Elk Hunt Zone. The Department has proposed

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

Covelo Landowner

April 3, 2015

Page 2

regulations to the Fish and Game Commission that would establish additional elk hunts throughout the state using the Department's Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) program. Under the SHARE program, participating landowners receive compensation and liability protection in exchange for allowing access to hunters. Other options can include elk deterrence techniques and possibly elk exclusion fencing.

Environmental Scientist Scott Koller covers depredation issues, among other duties, in the Mendocino County area for the Department's Northern Region Wildlife Program. He has assisted other landowners with elk depredation concerns and is available to help you as well. He can be reached at (707) 456-0329.

Sincerely,



Neil Manji  
Regional Manager

cc: Assembly Member Jim Wood  
State Assembly (District 2)  
Ukiah Valley Conference Center  
200 S. School Street, Suite D  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Senator Mike McGuire  
State Senate (District 2)  
200 South School Street, Suite K  
Ukiah, CA 95482

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

ec: Mss. Karen Kovacs, Renee Willgrubs, Susan LaGrande  
Messrs. Richard Callas, Scott Koller, Craig Stowers, Joe Hobbs, Wayne Kidwell,  
Dan Yparraguirre, and Eric Loft  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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[Susan.LaGrande@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Susan.LaGrande@wildlife.ca.gov), [Richard.Callas@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Callas@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Scott.Koller@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Koller@wildlife.ca.gov), [Craig.Stowers@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Stowers@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Joe.Hobbs@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Joe.Hobbs@wildlife.ca.gov), [Wayne.Kidwell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Wayne.Kidwell@wildlife.ca.gov),  
[Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov), [Eric.Loft@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Loft@wildlife.ca.gov)



April 21, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) has released a study that finds that the high cost of purchasing an “annual” recreational fishing license has proven to be a formidable barrier to access and has contributed to an unprecedented decline in recreational fishing.

As you consider public policy related to recreational fishing, we would encourage your administration to consider the findings of our recent study. This comprehensive study may be the first time an effort has been made to compare the state-by-state cost and value of annual fishing licenses. The results provide California policy makers an insight as to how costly annual fishing licenses are impacting participation rates, and how it could harm the communities dependent on recreational fishing for \$4.9 billion in economic activity each year.

The study finds that, since 1980, annual recreational fishing license sales have declined by over 55% in a state that has witnessed a near 60% increase in population. It also reaches an alarming projection that there could be fewer than 500,000 annual fishing licenses sold by 2027.

## Key Findings

### *Fishing in California is Costly*

- California requires the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest cost fresh/saltwater annual fishing license in the U.S. What once sold for \$5 in 1980, costs \$47.01 today, not including additional permits that could increase the cost to as much as \$120 a year.
- California’s “annual” base residential license of \$47.01 is 66% above the average fishing license cost of all coastal states (\$28.30) and 76% above the average fishing license cost for all states (\$26.73), not including additional permits.

### *California Offers Less Value Than Any Other States*

- Even though Washington’s saltwater/fresh water “combo” license is the costliest license in the U.S., many states, including Washington, offer greater savings and value to their anglers by requiring fewer permits, and the option of purchasing a fresh or saltwater license, independently, at a reduced price. California does not.



- California also operates under an antiquated calendar system, whereby licenses expire on December 31st of every year, regardless of when purchased.

### ***Decline in License Sales Exposes Threat of Death Spiral***

- Despite having one of the longest coastlines in the U.S.; over 4,000 lakes; and thousands of rivers and streams; California's fishing participation rate is ranked dead last in the US.
- Since 1980, when annual licenses were sold for as little as \$5.00, California's annual fishing license sales have dropped by more than 55% (1980: 2.26 million; 2014: 990k).
- If the 35-year trend remains constant, annual fishing license sales could fall below 500,000 by 2027, or another 49% over the next 12 years. This downward trend could accelerate if fees are increased substantially or new regulations are imposed.

The study also introduces policy recommendations as to how the state could address high costs and unwarranted restrictions on fishing that have led to an unprecedented and alarming trend. The state has a strong incentive to consider them, as fishing licenses are a major source of revenue for fishing and wildlife conservation programs.

If the State of California recognizes the economic value of protecting recreational fishing, it needs to take immediate action to stop a rapidly declining participation rate from turning into an out-of-control death spiral.

Reforming a costly and antiquated licensing program and lifting unwarranted restrictions on recreational fishing are the first steps to protecting a great form of family recreation that supports jobs and our state's economy. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to provide a solution.

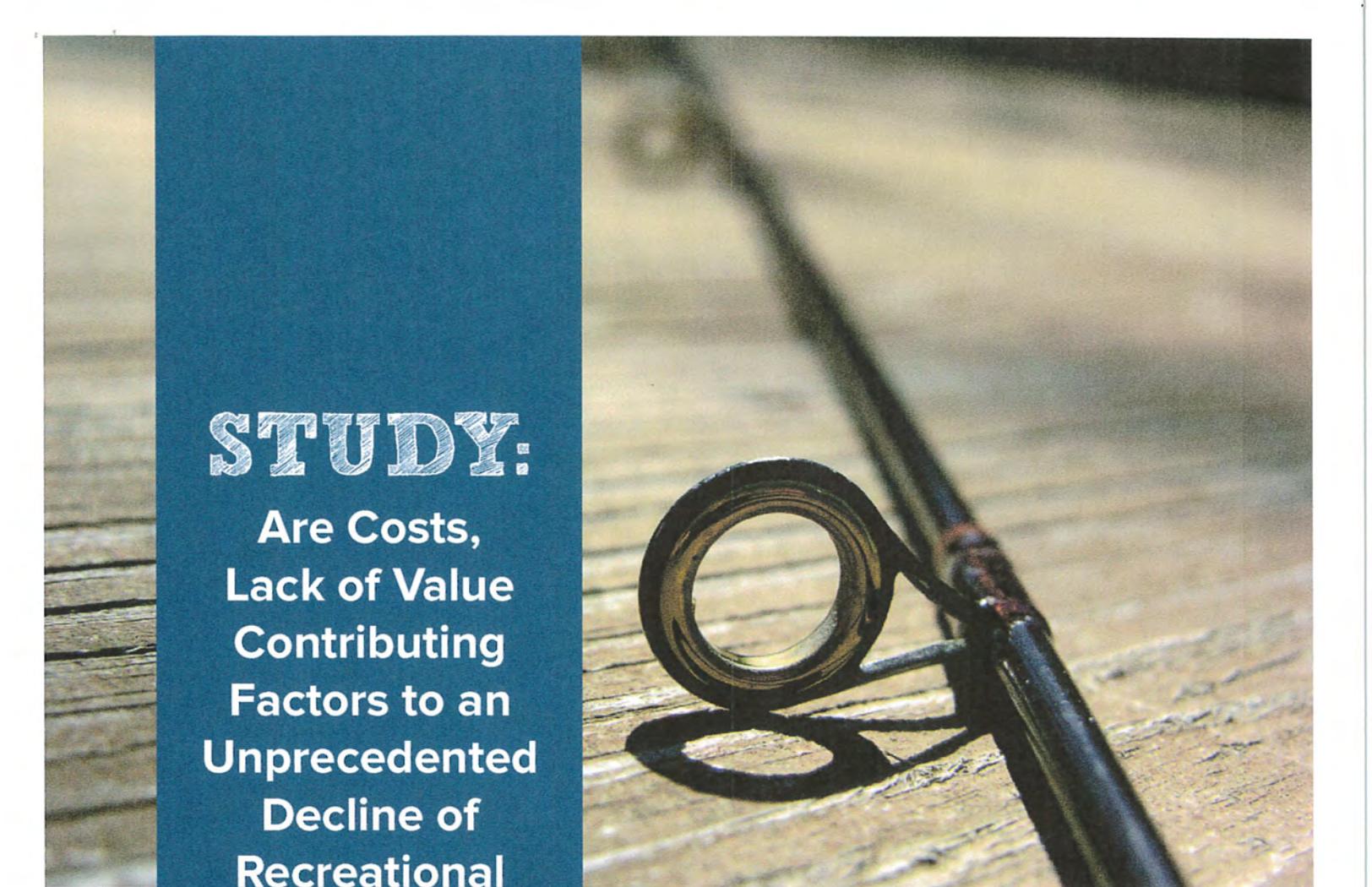
If you have any questions, feel free to contact our legislative advocate, George Osborn, at (916) 446-7752. Thank you in advance for considering the study's findings and the future of recreational fishing.

Sincerely,



Marko Mlikotin  
Executive Director

cc: California Fish and Game Commission  
California Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham



# STUDY:

## Are Costs, Lack of Value Contributing Factors to an Unprecedented Decline of Recreational Fishing in California?



Presented by the  
California Sportfishing League

March 23, 2015



/CASportfishingLeague

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is a nonprofit coalition of fresh and saltwater anglers, and small business owners devoted to protecting access to recreational fishing. Recreational fishing contributes over \$4.9 billion annually to California's economy, supporting outdoor tourism and jobs, and generates a substantial amount of tax revenue for state and local government. For more information, visit [www.SportfishingConservation.org](http://www.SportfishingConservation.org)

## INTRODUCTION

The California Sportfishing League (CSL) is the state's leading advocate for salt- and freshwater recreational fishing. With over 10,000 Facebook Fans and growing, CSL actively engages California anglers on various public policy issues concerning recreational fishing. Chief among anglers' many concerns is the future of recreational fishing and the high costs associated with their favorite pastime.

The posts on CSL's Facebook page are clear: California's recreational anglers have become increasingly frustrated with the state for increasing the cost of fishing, all the while imposing greater barriers to access, and constantly adding new and burdensome regulations.

Based on the number of concerns expressed, CSL chose to investigate whether or not the cost of fishing licenses in California was truly too expensive in comparison to other states. Are California licenses a good value? Are costs discouraging participation? If so, what are the consequences for the long-term future of recreational fishing, and the jobs and communities dependent on it?

The results were just as much surprising as they were alarming, and they underscored the need for CSL to release its findings to the public — especially if recreational fishing is to be an affordable form of family recreation, a source of food for the table, and a creator of jobs.

## METHODOLOGY

CSL conducted a state-by-state analysis to measure the value of state “**annual**” fishing licenses. CSL did not compare “reduced-fee” licenses, as the terms and definitions differ from state to state, and annual licenses represent the most common license purchased. For example, California offers lifetime licenses and discounts for seniors, veterans, youth and disabled Americans.

CSL found the cost of a resident annual fishing license and term of license (12-month v. calendar year) on each state's individual website or by directly calling state fish and wildlife offices.

By using U.S. Census data,<sup>1</sup> CSL compiled all state participation rates by combining the study's “Fished Only” and “Fished and Hunted” percent of population. This number is reflected as “Participation Rate.”

Our analysis below defines “**value**” as the price and term of the annual state license (12-month vs. calendar year).

## FINDINGS

### California Anglers Are Experiencing High Costs

In 1980, California's annual fishing license fee was a mere \$5.00.<sup>2</sup> Today, California's annual resident fishing license is the second highest in the Country,<sup>3</sup> at \$47.01 for a base "annual" license,<sup>4</sup> excluding permits and stamps that a substantial number of anglers are required to purchase throughout the year. If an angler purchased every available permit and stamp to catch all the various fish in California, fees could exceed \$120 per calendar year.<sup>5</sup> The price to fish for a family of four, excluding cost for tackle, transportation, food or lodging can easily cost several hundred dollars or more.

"It's simply TOO EXPENSIVE to buy a license anymore!"

- Central Valley Angler on 

California's "annual" base residential license is 66% above the average fishing license cost of all coastal states (\$28.30) and 76% above the average fishing license cost for all states (\$26.73),<sup>6</sup> and these figures do not include the extra fees California requires for additional permits.

Only the State of Washington surpasses California for the priciest fishing license in the U.S., at a cost of \$54.25 per year for a salt/freshwater combo, and Washington also operates under a calendar system. However, the state does present price conscious anglers greater choices by offering the option of purchasing a freshwater-specific license for \$29.50 or a saltwater-specific license for \$30.05.<sup>7</sup> With exception to mostly shellfish and fishing on the Columbia River, the state also appears to mandate fewer permits than California.<sup>8</sup> All these options may be contributing factors to why Washington's fishing participation rate is 17%, or nearly three times that of California.<sup>9</sup>

### California's So-Called "Annual" License Provides Least Bang for the Buck

Value is just as important to anglers as cost. So, what are they getting for their money?

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) offers what they call an "annual" fishing license. However, California's annual fishing licenses operate on a calendar system, which expires on December 31 of every year, regardless of when purchased.<sup>10</sup> In reality, an annual license can expire just months after being purchased. It is truly an antiquated system that motorists would never tolerate if the Department of Motor Vehicles applied the same system to car registration fees.

While 13 other coastal states practice such a calendar system, their annual fees are significantly less expensive, with one state offering a calendar year fishing license for a mere \$8.50.<sup>11</sup> In fact, when compared to all states offering a calendar year license, California's license costs 84% above the national average price (\$25.52).<sup>12</sup> Again, these figures do not include the extra fees for additional permits.

"A good change would be to have a YEAR'S worth of use from the date purchased!"

- California Angler on 

Even if a California angler is cost conscious or fishes infrequently, California's two-day license costs \$23.50 (not including additional permits/stamps),<sup>13</sup> or more than the annual resident license offered in 19 other states and just half the cost of California's annual license.<sup>14</sup>

According to the most recent records available, DFW sold approximately 445,000 two-day fishing licenses<sup>15</sup> at a cost of \$9.50 in 1999.<sup>16</sup> By 2015, the number of 2-day licenses plummeted 78% to approximately 96,000.<sup>17</sup> California also offers a lifetime license, with no expiration date. Its sales have been fairly consistent at roughly 11,000 since 2009.<sup>18</sup> If it was the state's goal to maintain fishing participation rates by offering lifetime and short-term licenses at a lower cost, that goal has not been achieved.

"Look at the cost from \$5 a couple decades ago to getting close to \$100 when all the bells and whistles are included. Then there are all the complex and confusing regulations."

- Santa Rosa Angler on 

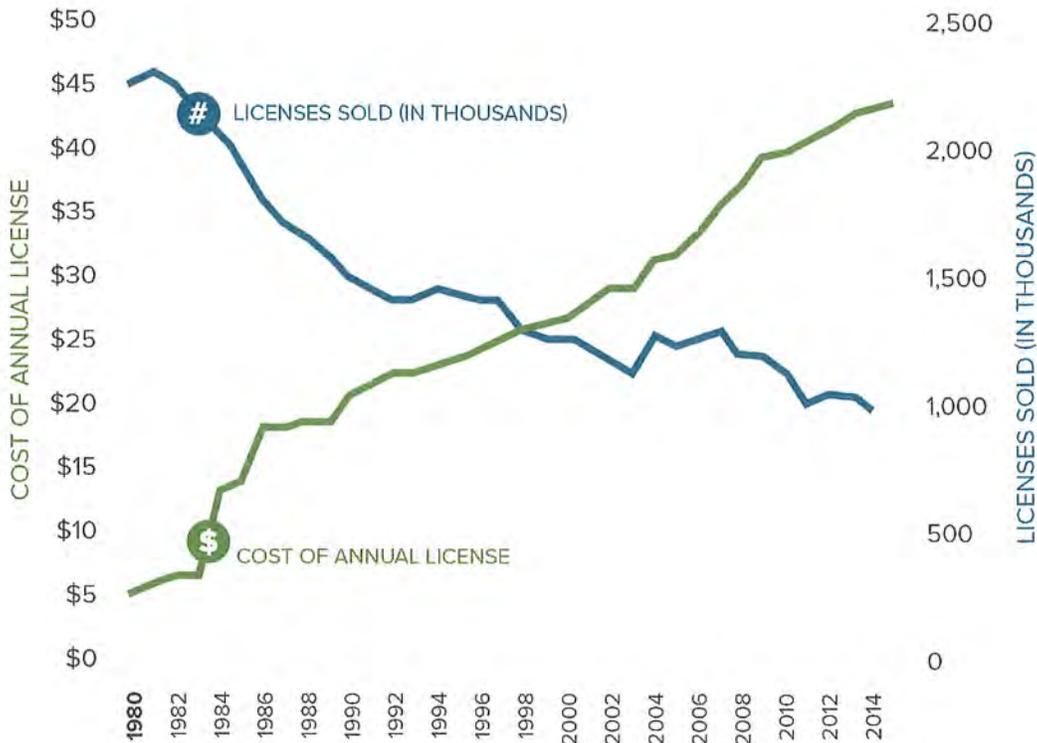
As is the case in Washington, it is also important to note that several coastal states (9) sell saltwater and inland fishing licenses separately, providing considerable savings depending on one's fishing preference.<sup>19</sup>

Higher fees have not benefitted the state's fish stocking programs, as it has been widely reported that DFW is struggling to finance these programs. Much to the dismay of several rural counties dependent on fishing for outdoor tourism and tax revenue,<sup>20</sup> DFW announced in November of 2014 that it was reducing the average size of stocked trout by half due to budget constraints.<sup>21</sup>

Furthermore, fishing license fees have been subsidizing the cost of regulating the state's commercial fishing industry as far back as 2007, which is disingenuous to anglers at best, and potentially unlawful at worst.<sup>22</sup> If such funds were allocated properly, an additional \$17 million a year, or more, could be invested in the state's fishing programs.

## CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH COSTS

COST OF ANNUAL FISHING LICENSES AND LICENSES SOLD  
1980-2014



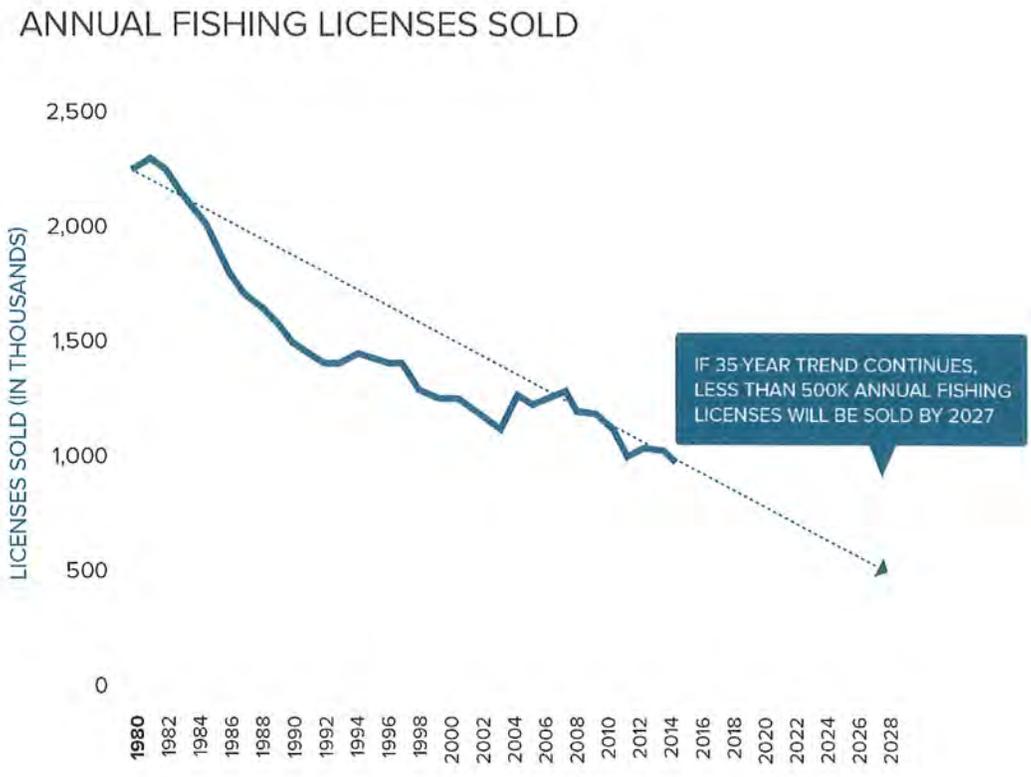
### Unprecedented Decline in Recreational Fishing

Despite one of the country's longest coastlines; 4,000 thousand lakes/reservoirs and over 20,000 registered ponds; and thousands of miles of streams and rivers; California has experienced an unprecedented decline in recreational fishing.

According to the U.S. Census, 10% of California's population fished in 2001,<sup>23</sup> tied for the 46th place in participation.<sup>24</sup> Ten years later, California's fishing participation rate plummeted to just 6%<sup>25</sup> and ranks dead last in the nation.<sup>26</sup>

Since 1980, when annual licenses were sold for as little as \$5.00, California's annual fishing license sales have dropped by more than 55% (1980: 2.26 million<sup>27</sup>; 2014: 990k<sup>28</sup>), while our state's population has increased by nearly 60%. In 2014, 40,000 fewer annual fishing licenses were sold compared to 2013.<sup>29</sup>

If the 35-year trend remains constant, annual fishing license sales are expected to drop below 500k by 2027, or another 49% over the next 12 years. Should this occur, between 1980 and 2027, annual license sales will have dropped 78%.<sup>30</sup> This downward trend could accelerate even faster if fees are increased substantially, or new regulations are imposed that increase costs or barriers to fishing.



### Other Contributing Factors

In addition to expensive fishing licenses, there are many other economic factors and social reasons as to why fishing participation in California has decreased dramatically. While not the subject of this study, it is important to underscore that restructuring California’s fishing fees alone may not stop fishing’s declining participation rate. There is little doubt that regulatory barriers to access are also major contributing factors to California’s accelerated decline in fishing.

These barriers include, but are not limited to: Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that deny recreational anglers access to approximately 800 square miles of California coast (even though commercial fishing is the greatest cause of overfishing); outright fishing bans and illegal local fishing ordinances; new burdensome regulations; and fewer resources spent on state conservation programs that protect wildlife and stock fish.

## A CALL TO ACTION

If California's policy makers continue to ignore these facts, they stand to harm the state's economy and specifically, the communities and businesses dependent on outdoor recreation and tourism for jobs.

While our state's fishing participation rate is ranked last, the 2010 U.S. Census reports that California is still home to roughly 1.7 million anglers,<sup>31</sup> one of the largest consumer markets in the country. As a result, recreational fishing contributes over \$4.9 billion annually in economic activity,<sup>32</sup> while commercial fishing only generates an estimated \$1.7 billion in economic activity.<sup>33</sup>

This is why so many fishing tackle manufacturers, boating and outdoor apparel companies were founded here in California, and why so many more find California to be a lucrative consumer market. What's more, fishing makes California an attractive destination for tourists who spend millions of dollars each year to visit our communities. But, this is likely to change.

High costs are barriers for all forms of outdoor recreation, but it is abundantly clear that the significant decline in recreational fishing will continue, especially as fewer young people select fishing as a form of outdoor recreation. This point is underscored by a study commissioned by the American Sportfishing Association, which found that 71% of anglers first started fishing when they were under 18 years old.<sup>34</sup> Fishing's future is dependent on more young people being introduced to fishing, and the best way to do that is to make it more affordable for families.

Hispanics, California's fastest growing demographic, cannot be ignored, either. A market study prepared for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation found that recreational fishing's costly barriers to entry are directing Hispanics to other more affordable forms of outdoor recreation.<sup>35</sup>

## CONCLUSION

**The high costs and lack of value of a California fishing license, combined with high regulatory barriers, have contributed to an unprecedented decline of recreational fishing in the state.**

CSL's analysis validates the concerns raised by our Facebook Fans. It is expensive to fish in California and ranks second only to Washington for the most expensive state to fish both salt- and freshwater. However, one can also make a strong case that California is comparatively more expensive than Washington since California requires a substantial number of anglers to purchase additional permits. California also does not offer the option of purchasing a saltwater or freshwater license separately, at a reduced rate.

**Combine the high costs with an antiquated calendar-year license system, and California provides the least value to anglers in the United States.** As a result, fewer Californians are being introduced to fishing and many more no longer participate in a great form of family-oriented outdoor recreation.

The dramatic downward trend in the number of annual state licenses sold should be a wakeup call for California policy makers. If the State of California sees the value of recreational fishing and outdoor tourism, it needs to offer a better value and remove unwarranted barriers to access in order to pull fishing participation out of its inevitable death spiral.

The important question CSL cannot address is whether policymakers will recognize that costs and barriers to entry are truly a threat to recreational fishing in a state with an abundance of natural resources, and for an economy heavily dependent on a \$95 billion tourism industry.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Fish and Wildlife should conduct a full evaluation of its current licensing structure in order to develop a new one that not only ensures that recreational fishing is affordable and accessible, but also supports fishing and wildlife programs for years to come.

With even lower participation rates anticipated in the immediate future, fewer anglers will be financing fish stocking and conservation programs that are becoming more costly. Taking into account CSL's analysis, higher fees are not a realistic solution to generate greater revenue for the state. Higher costs and poor value will only encourage more anglers to abandon fishing and raise barriers to entry, putting critical fishing and conservation programs at further risk.

Given this reality, the need for full-scale reform is immediate.

### Controlling Costs and Increasing Value for Longtime/First Time Anglers

- Establish a full 12-month annual fishing license.
- Suspend automatic cost of living adjustments (COLA) on fishing licenses.
- Consider a family pack license fee, making fishing more affordable for California families.
- Establish a low cost, junior fishing license, for those aged 16 and 17, similar to California hunting licenses.
- Ensure that recreational fishing license fees no longer subsidize the cost of regulating the California commercial fishing industry.

## Reducing Regulatory Costs

- Exempt recreational anglers from fishing restrictions that were intended to address unsustainable commercial fishing practices and destructive gear.
- Eliminate fishing restrictions that have insignificant impacts on wildlife.
- Eliminate illegal fishing restrictions imposed by local governments, such as limits or bans on pier fishing and jetties.
- Oppose efforts to regulate or ban common fishing gear that have an insignificant impact on wildlife, but could substantially increase the cost of equipment or require impractical substitute gear.

The California Sportfishing League is pleased to have shared these findings with California's fishing community and policymakers, and remains committed to working with them to ensure a strong future for recreational fishing in California.

## PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



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3. See Fishing License Data by State, Attached
4. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sport Fishing Licenses and Report Cards <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing>
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6. See Fishing License Data by State, Attached
7. See Fishing License Data by State, Attached
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21. November, 2014 Department of Fish and Wildlife Memo: "Why is DFW Planting Fewer and Smaller Fish in 2015?" <https://www.dropbox.com/s/abr770wn6z3i92l/Why%20is%20DFW%20planting%20fewer%20and%20smaller%20fish%20in%202015.pdf?dl=0>
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## FISHING LICENSE DATA BY STATE

State	2011 Participation Rate	2011 U.S. Ranking	Resident Adult Cost	Annual vs. Calendar
Alabama	14%	30	Fresh \$12.85/Salt 22.60	Calendar/expires Aug 31
Alaska	41%	1	\$25.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Arizona*	11%	40	\$37.00	12 months
Arkansas*	21%	10	\$10.50	12 months
California	6%	49	\$47.01	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Colorado*	17%	19	\$36.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
Connecticut	13%	33	\$32.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Delaware	13%	33	\$8.50	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Florida	14%	30	Fresh \$17.00/Salt \$17.00	12 months
Georgia	11%	40	\$9.00	12 months
Hawaii	11%	40	Free	No licenses required
Idaho*	24%	8	\$25.75	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Illinois*	13%	33	\$15.00	March of following year
Indiana*	15%	27	\$17.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
Iowa*	22%	9	\$19.00	Calendar/expires Dec 15
Kansas*	20%	13	\$20.50	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Kentucky*	15%	27	\$20.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
Louisiana	21%	10	\$9.50	Calendar/expires Jun 30
Maine	19%	15	\$25.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Maryland	10%	44	Fresh \$20.50/Salt \$15	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Massachusetts	8%	47	Fresh \$27.50/Salt \$10	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Michigan*	18%	17	\$26.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
Minnesota*	32%	2	\$22.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
Mississippi	27%	3	Fresh \$32/Salt \$10	12 months
Missouri*	19%	15	\$12.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
Montana*	25%	7	\$26.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
Nebraska*	14%	30	\$28.50	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Nevada*	8%	47	\$29.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
New Hampshire	16%	25	Fresh \$35/Salt \$11	Calendar/expires Dec 31
New Jersey	10%	44	\$22.50	Calendar/expires Dec 31
New Mexico*	15%	27	\$25.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
New York	12%	38	\$25.00	12 months
North Carolina	18%	17	Fresh \$20/Salt \$15	12 months
North Dakota*	N/A	N/A	\$17.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
Ohio*	16%	25	\$19.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28

State	2011 Participation Rate	2011 U.S. Ranking	Resident Adult Cost	Annual vs. Calendar
Oklahoma*	26%	5	\$25.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31 OR June 30
Oregon	13%	33	\$33.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Pennsylvania*	10%	44	\$21.70	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Rhode Island	11%	40	\$18.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
South Carolina	17%	19	Fresh \$30/Salt \$10	12 months <sup>a</sup>
South Dakota*	26%	5	\$30.00	Calendar/expires Jan 31
Tennessee*	17%	19	\$28.00	Calendar/expires Feb 28
Texas	13%	33	\$40.00	12 months
Utah*	17%	19	\$34.00	12 months
Vermont*	20%	13	\$25.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Virginia	12%	38	\$44.50	12 months
Washington	17%	19	\$54.25 <sup>b</sup>	Calendar/expires Mar 31
West Virginia*	17%	19	\$19.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31
Wisconsin*	21%	10	\$20.00	Calendar/expires Mar 31
Wyoming*	27%	3	\$24.00	Calendar/expires Dec 31

\* Inland State

a. Changed from calendar year to 12-month license in 2015

b. WA also offers separate fresh and saltwater licenses for \$29.50 and \$30.05, respectively.

RECEIVED  
CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME  
COMMISSION

2015 APR 30 PM 5:03

MCS

April 28, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Political and Non Scientific Agenda of the Governor & DFGC & Management of Resources.

*Re: Commission of Fish & Game Copy*

Dear Jerry Brown, Governor:

I know that I am in violation of state policy, as a Hunter Education Instructor, by complaining about you, the California Department of Fish & Game Commission (DFGC) and Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). However, I am very upset and tired of the DFGC & the DFW catering to the Anti-Hunting Groups, the non-consumptive user and the other restrictive users of our Renewable Natural Resources. The DFGC is ignoring its mandated role in "Proper" Wildlife Management when having discussions and establishing regulations restricting, controlling or removing Hunters & Fisherman from the management plan. Hunters are the first true conservationists and are an integral part of Proper Wildlife Management. Their removal from the equation hobbles Wildlife Management Plans and Models which ultimately endangers all of California's Wildlife and Habitat.

For several years now I have been very unhappy with the Politics that drive the DFGC and its policies. Policies that are supposed to manage our natural resources. You, Governor, are ultimately responsible for maintaining all of our natural resources as mandated by our State Constitution without having a biased ideology. However, you have signed into law, legislation that is in direct contradiction to Proper Wildlife Management with no regard to research results or the lack of such research. Our State Constitution Mandates Proper Management of all Natural Resources which includes Wildlife and with that you are mandated to appoint only those individuals that meet and follow this criteria. The individuals you appoint must understand what they are responsible for and what the Mandate Goals are. If one of your appointments is not fulfilling this obligation you are obligated to reprimand or remove that person immediately. However, you are allowing individuals that are not fulfilling their obligation to remain on the DFGC and allowing them to make decisions that are not in the best interest of our state's wildlife as a whole. Examples of legislation that you signed into law bans the use of hounds for hunting bear and bobcats, bobcat trapping and of course banning all lead ammunition for hunting. You are currently allowing three commissioners, Michael Sutton, Richard Rogers, and Jack Baylis to remain on the DFGC who voice their anti-hunting agenda based solely upon their ideology and or close associations with anti-hunting groups. You are not fulfilling your responsibility as Governor to reprimand nor remove those individuals. Please review the proceedings from December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 and April 9, 2015, for examples of their statements, actions and conduct.

As most of us get older we learn how reality and nature work and we get more conservative and concerned about our natural resources. Governor you and I are both close to the same age. However, we

have lived different lives. You have lived most of your adult life walking on blacktop. I, on the other hand, a dedicated outdoors person have walked in the dirt on our public lands observing wildlife and nature most of my life. You have been somewhat insulated from our wildlife and its required management. As an outdoors family of 8 (my wife, 6 children & dog) our non working time has always been in our National Forests enjoying nature giving me an intimate relationship with it and what is happening to our wildlife and the habitat. A 60 year old Natural Resource Biologist once told me that he learned more about wildlife in one day while bowhunting from a treestand than he did in four years of college. Learning is what I have been doing all of my life. I am currently seeing the negative effects on our wildlife populations caused by the "politically correct politics" that are dictating our wildlife management programs which is destroying Scientifically Based Wildlife Management Plans. It's all about being there and being involved.

I want you to understand why I am writing this letter to you. I am a lifelong dedicated volunteer and outdoorsman and a concerned citizen. I am not just some local yokel who likes complaining about things. I am and have been an involved contributor to society. Here is a short summary of what I have contributed. I purchased my first California Hunting license in 1954. I have been teaching conservation through wildlife management since 1977, when archery first became a part of California's Hunter Education Program. My wife, Joan, and I have donated more than 25 years to teaching archery to the physically challenged and have been instructing the "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" archery and bowhunting classes for 20 years. I have been instructing "National Bowhunter Education Foundation" classes since 1976, and I served as California's Volunteer Chairman for eleven years. Joan and I have received many awards for promoting all aspects of archery, hunting and conservation. The California Bowman Hunters and State Archery Association have awarded us many of those awards. I also have received awards from California's Hunter Education Program for my many years of teaching. Additionally, for many years prior to my retirement, a 55 year career as an electrician and member of the IBEW in Sacramento, working and serving as an elected officer of the Electricians Local 340 several of those years.

Governor, it appears that you, our many legislators and your appointed committee members seem to be only concerned with being politically correct. We are seeing that our elected officials are only listening to the "uninformed" and "misinformed" squeaky wheels who think the only way to manage our natural resources is to remove all "positive" human influences. This include enhancing habitat and managing individual wildlife species populations so that all species can thrive for generations to come. Decision makers for our Natural Resource management who have no hands on experience with nature and wildlife appear to have no idea how to manage real wildlife or they are intentionally allowing their ideologies or anti-hunting groups to influence their decisions. Governor, I believe you, our legislators and managers have no idea where you are taking our Renewable Natural Resource and the future of our wildlife and that disturbs me greatly.

The decisions by the DFGC and bills being passed by our legislators and signed into law by you are in direct conflict with what is taught in every DFW Hunter Education Class for proper management of our renewable natural resources. Wildlife management through hunting, trapping and fishing are past proven methods and supported by DFW's Mission Statement. I suggest you ask the following questions of DFGC and DFW. Is California's predator management working? Is wildlife depredation requests increasing or decreasing? How is the wild pig being managed? What is being done to enhance deer populations and decrease coyote, mountain lion and bear (not to mention wolves in our future) predation on adults and fawns? How are we managing bear populations now that the Houndsmen have been eliminated from bear management? Is the increase in our bear population a concern of yours? What is

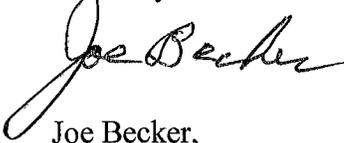
being done to enhance pheasant hunting other than Licensed Bird Clubs? Why isn't the blood tests of condors for lead content indicating a decrease in content? Why is the lead content in their blood remaining at the same levels or increasing while there is no hunter lead for them to consume in the Condor area? How are the wildlife species populations being managed in State Parks? Do all of these programs make money and improve our Natural Resources in California, or are they not meeting Resource Goals.

I would suggest that you one day in the near future attend a California Hunter Education Class which is taught by one of your very dedicated Volunteer Instructors who get nothing for teaching hundreds of students each year. Their only reward is to have their students purchase a hunting license and head afield. Then experience first hand the thrill of having their wildlife quarry within a few feet of them and are successful in harvesting that specie, field dress it, care for and enjoy wild game meat. As an added bonus they experiences and witness nature each day in the wild, making them a true sportsperson, conservationist and manager of our wildlife for generations to come. What we attempt to do in our California Hunters Education Classes is to teach wildlife and Resources Management based upon Hunter Education Materials. However, in reality our Wildlife and Resources are not being managed properly because of our Government's nonscientific and politically correct attitude and decision making over the past several years.

In recent years I have noticed that DFW field staff are retiring as soon as they reach the minimum retirement age. These individuals are not leaving because they don't like working with wildlife and sportspeople but because they are sick and tired of having to deal with the Politically Correct laws and decisions made by the DFGC and Legislators that is in direct conflict with their mandated responsibilities and goals. These retired employees are dedicated wildlife managers and many are giving of themselves to non-profit conservation organizations like I do daily with Hunter Ed and Archery.

For many years my wife and I have been giving of ourselves doing whatever we can for conservation and the future of wildlife management. We enjoy teaching women, youth and the disabled individuals the sport of archery and bowhunting. However, I'm not sure how long our Historic Hunting Heritage will last under the current anti-hunting and politically correct direction of the Governor and the DFGC.

Sincerely & God Bless;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Becker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "Joe Becker".

Joe Becker,

cc: CA.DFGC, CA.H.Ed. & CBHSA