

Scott Breneman
Written Testimony
Joint Field Hearing (CA Oil Leak)
October 18, 2021

I will testify that I smelled the oil when coming in from fishing on that Friday night. I noticed it while just off shore before come in the harbor.

I will also testify that this drastically affected my business. I have a commercial fishing business with my boat located in the Newport Harbor. I am an owner of a fish market in Newport Beach, the Newport Beach Dory Fishing Fleet. Our market is open Wednesday-Sunday mornings. The news came out Saturday and on that Sunday our market was dead. People were immediately afraid that the fish is now contaminated.

Monday the harbor closed. Therefore, not only was everyone now scared of the fish, but I could not fish as I could not leave the harbor.

First sales Wednesday-Sunday of that first week were down at least 90%. And this is a huge season for us as it's spawning season and the weather is always beautiful for fishing.

My wholesalers and other restaurant customers were also not interested in "local" product as customer are scared. Note that I catch my fish way outside. Nowhere near where the oil spilled.

I was able to get my boat out to fish this last week. But sales are way down.

Also, I fish tuna and swordfish closer to the coast. Many of my spots are currently closed for 6 weeks due to the oil spill.

As shown, my business has been drastically affected by the oil spill.