

David Bitts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Stephanie Mutz
Secretary
Chuck Cappotto
Treasurer

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS



W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen

Please Respond to:

California Office

P.O. Box 29370
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370
Tel: (415) 561-5080
Fax: (415) 561-5464

www.pcffa.org

27 May 2015

Northwest Office

P.O. Box 11170
Eugene, OR 97440-3370
Tel: (541) 689-2000
Fax: (541) 689-2500

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Representative,

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) writes to ask you to stand up for sustainable fisheries the week of 1 June 2015 by registering your opposition to H.R. 1335.

PCFFA is the largest trade association of commercial fishermen on the west coast, including members of the Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association operating out of Oakland and Berkeley. We have been intimately involved with crafting long-term fishery protections since 1976, when the Fishery Management and Conservation Act, now called the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), was first signed into law. We won fish protections and measures that would restore depleted fish stocks in both the 1996 and 2006 MSA reauthorizations.

We are now presented with a bill that would erode the conservation measures we fishermen fought to achieve. H.R. 1335 relaxes fishery rebuilding timelines and lets political and economic considerations, rather than hard science, form the basis for fishery management decisions. Moreover, the bill rolls back NEPA and Endangered Species Act protections that protect long-term fishing opportunity.

In its current form, the MSA works. Since 2000, 37 fish stocks have been rebuilt from overfished status, and only three stocks remain overfished on the west coast. Since the imposition of additional sustainability measures in the most recent MSA reauthorization in 2006, commercial landing revenues in the three west coastal states have increased by an average of 76%, from \$683 million in 2007 to \$1.23 billion in 2013. NOAA estimates that ex-vessel revenue could increase nationwide by \$2.2 billion if all U.S. fish stocks are rebuilt, leading to 500,000 new jobs. H.R. 1335 handicaps our ability to realize that economic future.

Moreover, our ocean is increasingly stressed. Climate change, drought, ocean warming, and pollution make it difficult to envision fishing in the future. For that reason, we ask that you now stand up for long-term sustainability and oppose short-term profiteering.

Please stand up to register your objection to H.R. 1335 when it comes to the floor next week, and VOTE NO on this threat to our economic and environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Sloane', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Sloane
PCFFA Program Director