



PRESS RELEASE

Deadline Approaching on Proposed California Fishing Tackle Regulations Fishing Tackle Manufactures and Retailers Urged to Comment on Proposed Guidelines

January 26, 2017 (Sacramento, CA): The California Sportfishing League is advising fishing tackle manufacturers, sellers and retailers that February 3, 2017 is the last day to offer public comments on proposed guidelines that will dictate how fishing products could be regulated in the State of California.

The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) has requested public comments on the clarity and usefulness of its Draft Alternatives Analysis (AA) Guide. Fishing tackle manufacturers, sellers and retailers of fishing products will have to comply with these regulatory guidelines if selected from California Safer Consumer Products (SCP) Program Work Plan. Fishing sinkers and gear that contain metals such as lead, zinc and copper (and potentially other metals) are among seven products listed in the adopted SCP work plan. According to DTSC, the (SCP) program requires product designers and manufacturers to reduce toxic chemicals in their products. The SCP regulations establish approaches for entities to identify, evaluate, and adopt better product alternatives.

“It is advisable for manufacturers and retailers of fishing tackle to review the proposed guidelines,” said Marko Mlikotin, Executive Director of the California Sportfishing League. “If the state chooses to regulate fishing tackle, adopted guidelines will dedicate how their products are produced and sold. It is unfortunate that the fishing tackle industry has to engage in this process even though the State has not provided any evidence that fishing tackle poses an unreasonable risk to the public’s health or environment in California.”

Over 5000 members of [California’s angling community, and associations representing small businesses, tourism and the hospitality industry have also expressed concerns](#) over the proposed regulation’s impact on the manufacturing, distribution and sale of common fishing tackle, and how the regulations will impact the state’s economy, tourism and jobs.

“California’s proposed fishing gear regulations will increase the likelihood that manufacturers, sellers and retailers of fishing weights and gear will be subjected to costly and onerous regulations, and potential fines,” said [Maureen Gorsen](#), an environmental attorney at Alston & Bird, LLP and former director of DTSC. “The result could be a wide range of enforcement options requiring restrictions or bans on sale, product reformulation, additional environmental impact studies, development of disposal programs or funding for fundamental research and development. The bottom line is that the cost of manufacturing fishing gear will increase significantly and these costs will be passed on to consumers.”

Comment Online at - <https://calsafer.dtsc.ca.gov/Comments/PackageDetail.aspx?PID=11811>

Recreational fishing contributes over \$4.9 billion annually to California's economy, a major source of outdoor recreation, tourism and jobs. The California Sportfishing League is a nonprofit coalition of fresh and saltwater anglers, and small business owners devoted to protecting access to recreational fishing, and the leading opponent of additional fishing tackle regulations.