



PRESS RELEASE

California Anglers Oppose State's New Trout Stocking Procedures Local Government Leaders Blast Department for an "Alarming" Decision

January 6, 2015 (Sacramento, CA): Today, one of California's leading recreational fishing organizations joined the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and several other California communities by expressing concerns with the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) recent decision to stock smaller trout in California lakes and streams.

[According to the Union Democrat](#), Tuolumne County leaders "blasted" the department for a decision that was "alarming" and showed "callous disregard for the public interest."

[In a January 6, 2015 letter](#) to the DFW Director Chuck Bonham, Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the [California Sportfishing League](#), wrote, "As you are well aware, recreational fishing generates over \$4.9 billion annually in economic activity for the State of California, attracting visitors from all over the world. Many California communities are extremely dependent on outdoor recreation and fishing to generate jobs, tax revenue and tourism. This is especially so for rural economies dependent on tens of thousands of visitors returning to their communities each year."

It is reported that the department has revised its fish production by half due to a lack of funding for statewide fish production and distribution. As a consequence, the average stocked trout could be reduced by half, from approximately 12 inches to 6 inches in length.

Mlikotin stated further, "While the stated reason for this new practice is purely financial, it has the unintended consequence of being economically short-sided. As fish size and populations are reduced, so will the economic activity generated by recreational fishing in California. In other words, as the quality of fishing declines, jobs dependent on outdoor recreation and tourism will as well, thus generating less tax revenue for the State's general fund and fewer fish licenses that fund department programs. The California Sportfishing League strongly encourages the department to reverse course before doing irreparable harm to California's outdoor experience and economy."

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, a major source of outdoor tourism and jobs.

To learn more visit www.SportfishingConservation.org or @CASportfishing

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