



PRESS RELEASE

Opposition Swells Against State Plan to Regulate Fishing Gear

Thousands of Anglers, Small Businesses Rally to Stop Fishing Gear Ban

October 20, 2014 (Sacramento, CA): Considerable public opposition has grown to a plan that will harm participation and access to recreational fishing. A mere four weeks after the State of California announced plans to regulate and potentially ban common fishing gear, over 1,100 online petitions and over 250 public comments have been submitted to the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). With the deadline less than 36 hours away, CSL has called upon anglers to submit their comments prior to the public comment period closing at 5:00pm, tomorrow, October 21, 2014.

The extremely short comment period and the lack of independent analysis has ignited considerable public opposition by those concerned that increased regulations will contribute to California's already unacceptable decline in fishing participation.

"State regulators failed to comply with State law that requires them to conduct independent analysis before embarking on a regulatory campaign that will harm recreational fishing and the jobs that depend on it," said David Dickerson, President of CSL. "While there are many sources of pollution that pose a serious threat to California streams and its ocean, anglers are not among them. Anglers understand that they must be good stewards of the environment in order to enjoy our State's natural resources for years to come."

Those requesting that fishing equipment be removed from the Department's *Draft Priority Product Work Plan* include the California Sportfishing League, California Chamber of Commerce, California Travel Association, National Federation of Independent Business, California Parks Hospitality Association, California Association for Recreational Fishing, American Sportfishing Association, Coastside Fishing Club and others.

BACKGROUND:

The DTSC [Safer Consumer Products Draft Priority Product Work Plan](#) is the first release of Governor Jerry Brown's [Green Chemistry](#) Initiative. The DTSC plan identifies seven product types, including fishing sinkers and gear that contain metals such as lead, zinc and copper. The new regulations could ban the manufacturing, distribution and sale of popular fishing gear for one of California's most popular forms of outdoor recreation. The regulations could ban popular gear and drive up the costs of others by as much as 20-fold. Many fishing products have no known manufacturing alternatives.

To view the hundreds of public comments by anglers and small business owners generated by the California Sportfishing League, [click here](#). To read a legal analysis on regulatory impacts on California employers, [click here](#).

Recreational fishing contributes over \$4.9 billion annually to California's economy, a major source of outdoor recreation, tourism and jobs. While California has one the Nation's largest coastlines, over 4,000 lakes and reservoirs, 20,000 registered ponds and thousands of miles of streams, the [State ranks dead last](#) in the United States for fishing participation. Costs and access are major contributors to the decline in recreational fishing. Since 1980, annual fishing license sales have declined by nearly 55% while California's population has increased by nearly 65% to over 37 million.

The California Sportfishing League is a nonprofit coalition of fresh and saltwater anglers, and small business owners devoted to protecting access to recreational fishing.

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

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