



Will California have 12-month fishing licenses? (Column)

Jim Matthews  April 17, 2017

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has repeatedly battled sportfishing groups not to pass legislation or implement a policy change that would allow annual fishing licenses to be valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.

The agency makes a host of financial excuses why it's a bad idea, but they refuse to take into consideration what would be best deal for the license buyer. No surprise there. This is the same agency that has stood by idle while fishing license sales have plummeted over the last 50 years from 2.5 million to about a million.

Two bills are working their way through the legislature (AB 986 and SB 187) that would force the DFW to sell annual fishing licenses that would be valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. The assembly bill is out of the policy committee, while the Senate bill is slated to be heard in committee April 25.

I bet the DFW top brass is lobbying against this bill behind the scenes.

<http://www.fishrapnews.com/features/column-will-fishing-licenses-be-good-for-12-months-from-purchase-date/>