



## DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

### **California Fishing License Legislation Passes First Committee Business Community Rallies in Defense of Recreational Anglers**

April 28, 2015 (Sacramento, CA): Today, the California State Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water passed Senate Bill 345, the California Sportfishing Stimulus Act of 2015, by a vote of 8-0.

“Today, a bipartisan panel of California legislators recognized that reforming California’s fishing license program is necessary to increase fishing participation and grow the economy,” said Marko Mlikotin, executive director for the California Sportfishing League. “As consumers, it makes no sense for anglers to pay full price for annual fishing license that is not valid for a full 12-months. It’s time to reform a costly and antiquated program that is discouraging participation and harming the jobs dependent on the future of recreational fishing.”

An unprecedented number of prominent angling, business and tourism associations appeared at the hearing in defense of a form of outdoor recreation that generates over \$4.9 billion in economic activity each year, supporting communities dependent on fishing for tourism, jobs and tax revenue.

“California’s great outdoors and vast coastline, and thousands of lakes and streams attract anglers from all over the world, generating tax revenue and jobs for communities dependent on recreational anglers,” said Ken DeVore, Legislative Director, National Federation of Independent Business/CA. “Unless California’s extraordinary decline in fishing participation is addressed quickly, jobs and tourism dollars will be at risk.”

Senate Bill 345, sponsored by the California Sportfishing League and introduced by Senator Tom Berryhill (R-Twain Harte) and Assembly Member Frank Bigelow (R-O’Neals), must be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee before the legislation goes to the full California Senate.

Members of the Committee who voted in support of SB 345 were: **Chair Fran Pavley** (D-Agoura Hills), **Vice Chair Jeff Stone** (R-Riverside County), **Senator Bill Monning** (D-Carmel), **Senator Lois Wolk** (D-Davis), **Senator Bob Hertzberg** (D-Van Nuys), **Senator Ben Hueso** (D-San Diego), **Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson** (D-Santa Barbara) and **Senator Ben Allen** (D-Santa Monica).

**Partial List of Supporters (support letters hyperlinked):** [California Sportfishing League](#), [California Chamber of Commerce](#), [National Federation of Independent Business](#), [American Sportfishing Association](#), [California Hotel and Lodging Association](#), [California Travel](#)

[Association](#), [California Aquaculture Association](#), [CA Association for Recreational Fishing](#), [California Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds](#), [California Association of Boutique and Breakfast Inns](#), [Pure Fishing \(Berkley, Penn, Abu Garcia, Shakespeare\)](#), [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#), [California Parks Hospitality Association](#), [California Parks Company](#), [Turner's Outdoorsman](#), [California Yacht Brokers](#), [Marina Recreation Association](#), [Worldwide Boater Safety Association](#), [San Francisco Chamber of Commerce](#), [Lip RipperZ, Inc.](#), [Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club](#), [Visit Huntington Beach](#), [Coastal Conservation Association of California](#), [Tackle Warehouse](#), California Waterfowl Association

For more information about the bill or to become a supporter, visit CSL's website or [click here](#).

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. To learn more visit [www.SportfishingConservation.org](http://www.SportfishingConservation.org) or @CASportfishing

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