



PRESS RELEASE

California Sportsfishing League Survey Fishing participation rates are down in California

August 11, 2017 (Sacramento, CA): The California Sportsfishing League (CSL), an advocate for making recreational fishing more accessible and affordable, has launched an outline survey to determine what anglers believe are the barriers to fishing and perhaps, why California has the lowest fishing participation rate in the nation (per capita).

The survey, asking anglers why they don't fish anymore or not so often, was distributed by email and posted on CSL's [Facebook page](#) and website www.savefishing.com. The results of the survey will be shared with state policy makers in the hope that it will bring about meaningful public policies that stimulate participation and economic activity. To date, over 500 anglers have participated in the survey.

"According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, only 4.3% of California adults fish, which ranks dead last among the 50 states," said Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the CSL. "California's fishing participation rate is unacceptably low given its size and vast natural resources. It is time for California to review its fishing policies if they view outdoor tourism and recreation as important."

As fishing participation declines, recreational fishing's 4.6 billion annual contribution to California's economy will too. The Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) Fish and Game Preservation Fund, fueled by license sales, experienced a \$20 million deficit in 2017. License sales fund state fishery and conservation programs.

TakeMeFishing.com recently released a [report](#) that concluded that fishing participation rates in the Nation are on the rise and fishing remains one of the Nation's most popular sports. In contrast, annual fishing licenses have declined in California by over 55% since 1980.

The California Sportsfishing League (CSL) is a nonprofit coalition of fresh and saltwater anglers, and businesses devoted to protecting access to recreational fishing. California's 2,795,253 million anglers generate \$4.6 billion in economic activity annually, supporting local tourism and jobs.

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