



5000 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92106  
(619) 322-7421  
[www.californiasportfishing.org](http://www.californiasportfishing.org)

March 17, 2017

Assembly Member Gallagher  
State Capitol, Room #2158  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Support for AB 986 – 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount

Dear Assembly Member Gallagher,

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) is a non-profit organization whose membership includes the majority of the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV) in Southern California.

The purpose of this letter is to express SAC's support for AB 986, the 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount, which aims to increase fishing participation rates, license sales, and state revenue by making annual fishing license sales valid for a full 12-months from the date of purchase. Currently, fishing licenses expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, regardless of date of purchase. The bill also discounts annual fishing licenses for American veterans by 25%, and by 50% for veterans that have a 50% or greater service-connected disability.

Fishing participation has been in decline since the 1980s, which is reflected in a significant reduction of annual state fishing license sales. Since 1980, fishing license sales have declined over 55%. A 12-Month license system will increase sales and fishing participation in the State, and benefit the many regions that rely upon recreational fishing for jobs and tourism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Franke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ken Franke  
President, Sportfishing Association of California

