



## COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

Senator Tom Berryhill  
State Capitol, Room 3067  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 518, as amended, Berryhill. Sport fishing licenses: duration.

Introduced by Senator Berryhill

(Coauthors: Senators Anderson, Bates, Bradford, Fuller, Gaines, Nielsen, and Vidak)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Acosta, Bigelow, Brough, Chávez, Gallagher, Harper, Lackey, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, Salas, Steinorth, Voepel, and Waldron)

Dear Senator Berryhill,

The Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA CAL) supports Senate Bill 518, an act to amend Section 7149.05 of the Fish and Game Code, relating to California fishing licenses. We hope that with your leadership and support can get the much needed license reform that will support access and participation in sportfishing opportunities throughout the state's coastal and inland waters.

The Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA CAL) is a member of the national Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and it's over 126,000 members. We focus on saltwater fishing and marine conservation issues in California. Our Board of Directors is made up of many of the most respected sportfishing industry leaders in California and our members consist of tackle manufacturers, tackle store owners, sportboat owners, landing owner/operators, members of yacht and fishing clubs to name a few and are all California saltwater anglers and individuals who care about our marine resources. Our focus is to work toward conserving the marine resource and anglers' access to it. Our three priorities are to: 1) Enhance the habitat off the coast of California; 2) enhance populations of fish in California; and 3) be the advocate for the California saltwater angler. CCA CAL has members throughout California and growing.

Senate Bill 518 would address two of the big reasons that fishing in California is declining, price and accessibility. This bill would ensure that purchase of a true 12 month license provides access to fishing in California for one year from the date of purchase, the same method that is followed in fishing-friendly states, such as Florida. California fishing licenses are among the most expensive in the U.S. and it seems unfair that an angler paying the annual fee not be able to have the benefit of fishing for a full twelve months.

Recreational fishing provides the opportunity for youth and families to bond while experiencing the outdoors. In fact, anglers are the most ardent supporters of conservation and resource management. It is anglers and boaters who carry the financial burden for most state conservation programs in this country (\$1.2 billion annually from user fees, license fees and excise taxes). Anglers are more environmentally aware than the general population as they are those on the water closest to the state's natural resources. Fishing provides clean recreational fun and quality of life for Californians and visitors to the state from stream fishing in the Sierra Nevada to fishing kelp paddies for Yellowtail off San Diego.

June 1, 2018



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Sportfishing also is about jobs and California's economy and according to the U.S. Census/Fish and Wildlife Service data, in 2011 alone fresh and saltwater sportfishing accounted for approximately 36,000 jobs in California with salaries and wages of almost \$1.6 billion per year. Retail sales from recreational fishing are estimated to have created almost \$4.6 billion in economic activity with state and local government in California collecting \$334 million in revenue.

CCA CAL has partnered with many fishing clubs and even our CDFW on their fishing passport program to get more people fishing. We are always looking for ways to get more people involved in our favorite sport of fishing. We are active stakeholders in the new R3 program (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation) that is supposed to help the steep decline of fishermen.

Californians and tourists visiting the state need access to enjoy our sport. The waning participation in recreational fishing will have negative short- and long-term consequences for California. The first step to reverse this trend is to provide affordable access for men and women in the state who want to fish. The goal for any state, including California, should be to improve access and ease to enjoy our favorite sport of fishing. SB 518, if enacted, will have an immediate and positive impact on California resident and tourist anglers and our valuable industry that supports them.

Thank you for your continued support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Wayne Kotow  
Executive Director CCA California

*The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCA CAL) have an objective to conserve, promote and enhance the present and future availability of coastal resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public. We strive for conservation and sustainability of recreational fishing. CCA CAL is fighting to keep our waters open and available for coastal recreational fishing, but we are also conservationists and firm supporters of artificial reef programs, youth programs and the hatchery programs like the Hubbs Sea World Research Institute white seabass program. We believe in creating a long term sustainable sport that can be enjoyed and supported by future generations. Many of our members are fishermen and hunters as well as conservationists. We want to make sure our government and commissions, who regulate our resources, are fair and balanced.*

June 1, 2018