

Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (8th District)
Assemblyman Jared Huffman (6th District)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legislators call for water management reform to restore California's salmon fishery
Urge immediate action to protect declining Delta fish populations

Sacramento, CA – Assemblywoman Lois Wolk and Assemblyman Jared Huffman issued a joint statement today calling on the state to reform its water management to restore salmon fisheries:

“The crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta fisheries demands immediate action, and it won't resolve itself. How the state manages its water projects will determine whether the Central Valley salmon, as well as the communities and thousands of fishing jobs that depend on healthy salmon populations, will be restored and sustained for future generations, or lost forever.

Operation of the state and federal water projects plays a significant role in the death of millions of salmon and other species, although other factors also play a part. In order to recover salmon populations in California's Central Valley, the state must reform its water management policies. And it must do so immediately, before the Delta fisheries collapse permanently.

In addition to the recommendations made today, Assembly and Senate Democrats are supporting legislation to appropriate hundreds of millions of bond funds already approved by the voters for water quality improvements and ecosystem restoration projects that will benefit salmon and other Delta fisheries. Another urgent action is legislation now pending (AB 1806 by Wolk) which requires the state and federal projects that pump water out of the Delta to mitigate for their destructive impact on our state's fisheries, as well as the commercial and sport fishing industries that contribute billions of dollars to our economy.

The report released today by the NRDC, PCFFA, and Water-4-Fish details troubling information about the health of the Delta. It isn't all gloom and doom. The report sounds an optimistic note that environmentalists and fishermen can work together to restore and sustain both the Delta's water quality and salmon fish population. We look forward to taking on this challenge with the Governor to restore California's salmon fisheries, building on the final report from the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.”

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