



Created to enhance and protect an economically viable Washington salmon troll fishery.

Dear Members,

The Coastal Trollers Association represents many Washington salmon troll fishers as well as supporting businesses. We were created to enhance and protect an economically viable troll fishery. Our members provide a quality product to restaurants, retail stores and farmers' markets as well as dockside wholesale buyers. Our mission is to promote long-term sustainability of troll fisheries resources, to enhance economically viable opportunities for troll fishermen and to fairly represent our members.

In support of those principles, we are opposed to Senate Bill 2533, the "California Long-Term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-Term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act" by Senator Feinstein. As currently written, this bill presents many problems for California's Sacramento River fall run Chinook Salmon. We are concerned that those problems will be exacerbated if this bill makes it to conference committee and is blended with bills similar to Representative Valadao's H.R. 2898.

Although we are some distance from California's Sacramento River Valley, fish that begin their life cycle there have constituted as much as 20% of Washington's total chinook landings in seasons past. We fear our brethren fishers in Oregon and California, where Sacramento River Chinook constitute as much as 70% and 90% of total catches, respectively. Those fishing communities depend on the health and volume of the Sacramento River, as well as the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, to support their families and their economies, as well as the unique fishing heritage and culture of rural port towns.

California's drought has had severe impacts salmon runs in the Sacramento River, where we understand mortality of naturally-spawned juveniles has reached crisis levels in recent years. The salmon fishery in California will be restricted this year because so few adult fish returned to their natal streams to spawn. We have great sympathy for our California compatriots who are suffering through a Dungeness crab closure. The financial impacts of that closure will be exacerbated with fewer salmon in the ocean, which is the likely result of provisions in S. 2533.

Moreover, the decline of southern fisheries has led to a not unexpected migration of fishing vessels to more northerly fishing grounds. We have seen both Oregon and California salmon trollers displaced by their failing fisheries come to shared grounds off the Columbia River, increasing pressure on stocks there. These migrant vessels are also acquiring Washington salmon permits, increasing pressures on our local fish stocks and displacing local fishermen. The foreseeable result of this movement is an accelerated decline of both the salmon fishery, and local fishing communities.

The West Coast salmon fishing industry is in need of stronger protection at this time. Because S. 2533 is bad for salmon, we cannot support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeremy Brown,
President.
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