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***In Memoriam:***  
Nathaniel S. Bingham  
Harold C. Christensen

**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**



<http://www.pcffa.org>

W.F. "Zeke"  
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22 April 2009

The Honorable Jean Fuller  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1253 – Oppose

Dear Assemblymember Fuller:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the West Coast commercial fishing fleet, regrets to inform you that it must oppose your AB 1253 as now written. Among others, PCFFA represents the vast majority of California's organized commercial salmon fishermen.

We appreciate your concern for our native fish stocks such as salmon and the concern over predation by non-native species. However, we note that in the time since the early 1870's when Striped bass were introduced to this state and for which there was a commercial fishery until 1934, salmon and Striped bass have thrived together in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay estuary. Predation may exist but it is certainly not the limiting factor. The single largest cause of the decline of our Central Valley salmon resource – the second largest salmon producing system in the lower 48, second only to the Columbia/Snake system – has been the loss of fresh water inflow to the Delta and Bay disrupting the migratory pattern of downstream migrating baby salmon and causing the ecological collapse of the most important estuary on the west coast of North and South America. This, of course, has had a ripple effect up and down the coast costing thousands of jobs and the production of one of the world's premiere sources of food.

If you were to amend your bill to identify the true cause of our fish declines – diversions upstream and within the Delta that are far in excess of whatever water may be surplus to the

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needs of the fish and the ecosystem – then we could support it. But blaming Striped bass for the salmon decline is at best a red herring. Indeed, if there were no Striped bass, salmon and other native fish to the Delta, such as Delta smelt, could still not survive the onslaught of diversions destroying the ecosystem of this estuary.

Our organization has begun an outreach effort to farmers from throughout the state as well as other water users to sit down and tackle the issues of how to provide for the needs of the fish – and the jobs and economy they support or supported – and still meet the reasonable needs of agriculture and municipalities. We think it can be done, but not by scapegoating fish that have existed in the state for over 130 years or trying to apply tired old failed 1950's thinking to our water problems. To that end, we would be more than willing to work with you and your constituents on solutions that will be good for all involved and the environment.

Sincerely,

W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director

cc: Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee