

May 19, 2020

OSA Conservation Update

All,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. This has been a difficult and frustrating time and know many are very confused. I just wanted to make sure to keep the group updated on everything that has been going on from the government relations side. We have been very active with getting our beaches, marinas, boat ramps, lakes and piers opened for responsible recreation. We have been engaged at all levels of government down to individual counties, cities and ports. We have been successful in getting most marinas and many boat ramps open (no small task). Recreational fishing with members within your household is accepted in most areas as long as you abide by health guidelines and social distancing protocols.

We have been attending many meetings as part of these efforts as well as to represent our angling interests with all the agencies. Below are some highlights.

1. The Fish & Game Commission held emergency meeting to allow CDFW Director temporary authority to postpone the trout opener in certain counties. This was due to requests from Mono, Inyo, Alpine and Sierra counties to keep people away since they don't have the resources if the pandemic spread in their counties. The expiration date of this temporary action is set to expire on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Since then Alpine County asked to open their trout season on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The other 3 counties are scheduled to open on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. We continue to work on opening Cowcod. We are asking to move depth restrictions out to 100fa, set a bag limit, remove Cowcod and Rockfish conservation areas, and remove time based closure. This is an ongoing project.
3. We continue to push for AB 1387, the 12 month fishing license bill. CDFW still needs to amend the bill to match the R3 (Recruit, Retain, Reactivate) standards. Then it should be heard in the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate.
4. AB 1949 is the CCA CAL bill to update the statutory language of the original OREHP (Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program) White Seabass program. This legislation update is badly needed to keep the program legal. We are also continuing our efforts to increase the funds allocated to the program.

\*\*\* AB 3030 is MLPA 2.0 PLUS MORE. We all need to fight this one.

5. AB 3030 – This bill would declare it to be the goals of the state by 2030 to protect at least 30% of land areas and waters within the state; to protect at least 30% of the ocean waters off the coast of the state; and to support regional, national, and international efforts to protect at least 30% of the world's land areas and waters and 30% of the world's ocean. The bill would require these goals to be accomplished through an effort that includes specified objectives.

This bill made it out of Natural Resources Committee and on to Appropriations. We need to write letters in opposition to this Bill.

6. Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Proposal. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has a review process. This proposal was last reviewed in 2017 and deemed to not meet the 11 requirements to move forward. This is the final review process to see if this proposal can be removed from listing. This proposal would create a National Marine Sanctuary from the bottom of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary to just above Santa Barbara. This would be devastating for the whole central coast.
7. We are working with CDFW staff on potential swordfish regulation changes. The recreational community has been very successful with their current deep drop swordfish efforts and some feel we need to make sure there isn't abuse of the resources.
8. We are working with CDFW staff on possible updates to recreational rules for Dungeness crab in central and northern CA. This is important because changes can affect our lobster fishery down in Southern California.
9. Our hatchery program had to do emergency release of white seabass from our growout facilities and the hatchery due to the massive red tide we've been experiencing. We also had to release fish that was destined for our newly repaired Catalina pens. We have to wait for the red tide to subside and this pandemic to ease before we can try to start up operations again.
10. I personally have been working with others to get our San Diego City Lakes opened and saved from budget cuts. We got 3 of the lakes opened but have much work to do to get the rest opened and the hunting and fishing programs saved.
11. We don't know when the Sportboat fleet in San Diego will be allowed to start fishing again but latest rumor is June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be changes in customer loads, health protocols and social distancing requirements once they do open so please make sure to understand them all before you book a trip.
12. Oceanside Harbor officially opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> for recreational usage including the boat ramp and marina. Only members from your household are allowed on your vessel and all health guidelines and social distancing guidelines are in effect. We have been trying to share all updates to our OSA Facebook page.

CCA CAL continues to represent our angling community and have not taken any time off during this pandemic. We are holding weekly online seminars on Facebook on Thursdays at 4pm. We are participating on Instagram and You Tube channels. We had a virtual banquet sale to try and raise some badly needed funds. We will continue to hold sales and raffles. We hope to see you all soon.

Regards,

Wayne Kotow