

SPORTFISHING LEGISLATION

POSITION: The Chamber's Energy & Water Committee voted to SUPPORT these four bills on April 6, 2017.

STATUS: AB 478 (Waldron) is currently in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations; AB 986 (Gallagher) is currently in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations; SB 234 (Berryhill) will be read for a third time in the Senate Committee on Appropriations; and SB 187 (Berryhill) will be heard in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water on April 25, 2017.

AT-A-GLANCE

These four sportfishing bills will enhance accessibility to the sportfishing industry in California.

SUMMARY

- AB 478 (Waldron) raises the age requirement for fishing licenses from 16 to 18 years old, allowing minors to fish for free for an additional two years.
- AB 986 (Gallagher) requires sportfishing licenses to be issued for a period of 12 consecutive months from the date of purchase and discounts lifetime hunting and annual sportfishing licenses for all honorably discharged California veterans by 25%.
- SB 234 (Berryhill) prohibits a local agency from adopting and enforcing an ordinance to regulate fishing and provide that this provision is declaratory of existing law. It also allows parties subject to such discrimination to engage legal counsel which would otherwise be denied on the basis of financial capacity.
- SB 187 (Berryhill) allows the state's sportfishing license to be good for 12 consecutive months from the date of purchase, instead of the current license that expires at the end of the year regardless of when it was purchased.

ANALYSIS

Fishing is not only a hobby but a way of life for many Californians. These four bills would expand access to sportfishing by increasing the age requirement for fishing licenses, support California's veteran population by offering licenses at a discounted rate, and leaves the regulating authority to the California Fish and Game Commission.

SUPPORT

- California Chamber of Commerce
- San Diego Tourism Authority
- San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
- Oxnard Chamber of Commerce
- Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
- California Sportfishing League
- California Hotel & Lodging Association
- California Lodging Industry Association
- California Parks Hospitality Association
- California Travel Association
- National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)
- AMVETS-Department of California
- American Sportfishing Association
- California Aquaculture Association
- California Association for Recreational Fishing
- California Hotel & Lodging Association
- California Lodging Industry Association

- California Parks Hospitality Association
- California Sportfishing League
- California Travel Association
- California Yacht Brokers Association

- Marina Recreation Association
- National Federation of Independent Business
- California Yacht Brokers Association

OPPOSITION

None known