

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture March 8, 2018 Hearing Background

[Senator Mike McGuire](#), Chairman of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture \(JCFA\)](#), and [Assemblymember Mark Stone](#), Vice-Chairman, are hosting the 45th Annual [Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum](#). The hearing will be held Wednesday March 8, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 2040 of the State Capitol building.

Presentations and discussion will focus on offshore oil threats to California's ecosystems and fisheries, crab, salmon, sea urchins and aquaculture. The agenda features presentations by state agency leaders, commercial and recreational fishing representatives, aquaculture producers, and environmental advocates.

[John Laird](#), California's Natural Resources Secretary, [Charlton Bonham](#), California's Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and [Anthony Williams](#), Vice President of the California Fish and Game Commission headline this year's list of speakers and presenters.

The hearing will also include testimony from the [California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout](#), the [California Salmon Stamp Committee](#), the [Ocean Science Trust](#), and the [Dungeness Crab Task Force](#).

Senator Barry Keene was a freshman Assemblymember in 1973 when Bill Grader, Zeke's father, approached him about holding a meeting between fishermen and legislators. According to Senator Keene, "the first Forum was open warfare. Now many of the issues that separated people have been resolved through the process, although the Forums still get heated. The fishermen often say they are not great orators, but in fact, their colorful prose descriptions make them wonderful storytellers. Eventually we learned a powerful lesson from the Forums – that if you can get together on issues you can multiply your political leverage." The Forum eventually led to the formation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Additional information including links to: the agenda, press releases, articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies can be viewed at the [committee web site](#) under the "[2018 hearings](#)" heading.

Please contact [Tom Weseloh](#), Chief Consultant, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture for more information.