

Resolution Honoring 50 Years of Salmon Restoration

WHEREAS, salmon have long been identified with the history, culture, cuisine, economy and environment of the Pacific Coast of North America from the Southern California bight to the Bering Sea, providing food, employment and recreation while nurturing bodies and souls; and

WHEREAS, salmon have been important to California for its native peoples for over 14,000 years, and it was salmon that sustained the miners on their way to the goldfields before statehood and salmon that helped populate and generate economic activity through portions of the state with the establishment of canneries along the Sacramento, the Klamath, the Eel and smaller rivers in the latter 19th century, with buying and processing plants along the coast from Santa Barbara to Crescent City during this past century; and recreational fisheries within the rivers and on the ocean; and

WHEREAS, early threats to the state's salmon populations, where it had been legend that streams could be crossed on the backs of these fish, as early as the 1870's were encountered - where nets had been strung across rivers and hydraulic mines inundating streams - when the U.S. Commissioner of Fisheries sent Livingston Stone to California to investigate the problems and establish the first West Coast salmon hatchery on the McCloud River; and

WHEREAS, following the closure of the century-old salmon net fishery on San Francisco Bay and the Delta by the Legislature in 1956 and in the face of continuing declines in salmon stocks and a state policy that declared it was "not in the public interest to maintain the salmon fishery," commercial and sport salmon fishing representatives, fish processors and fishery biologists joined together for the first time that year, establishing Salmon Unlimited and declaring their intent to protect and restore California's "magnificent salmon resource;" and

WHEREAS, the early work of those individuals beginning a half century ago, including Ray and Earl Carpenter, John Pelnar, Ray Welsh, William Grader, Joseph Paul, Frank Haun, Edmund Kohlauf, Dr. Herb Joseph, Bill Hill, Vern Smith, Nat Bingham, Michael Maahs and Mel Dodgin, along with public officials such as State Senators George Miller and Peter Behr, Assembly members Pauline Davis and Frank Belotti and County Supervisor Sam Mitchell, continues today moved by the tenacious spirit of these early restoration pioneers; and

WHEREAS, early restoration work began with efforts to ensure mitigation was fully provided for river projects and hatcheries met their mitigation responsibilities, to the focus today on rebuilding natural spawning populations and habitats that will support them; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these restoration efforts, it is now state policy to protect salmon and the salmon fishery and double natural spawning salmon populations, moreover California has through bond act funds, Tideland Oil revenues, federal Sportfishing Restoration Fund dollars and the Commercial Salmon Stamp Program dedicated millions to restoring the fish, and countless individuals from commercial and recreational fishing groups, tribes, salmon restoration organizations, the California Conservation Corps and AmeriCorps' Watershed Stewards Program have invested millions of hours in restoring this resource; and

WHEREAS, there is still much to be done for salmon including restoring flows to the San Joaquin, rebuilding Klamath stocks devastated by a deadly parasite and recovering coho and coastal chinook populations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Assembly and Senate that the Legislature honor the 50 years of work dedicated to salmon restoration and the individuals and organizations that have fought tirelessly to save for Californians this magnificent fish; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the Assembly and Senate that an appropriately framed copy of this resolution be presented on the occasion of the 34th Annual Legislative Fisheries Forum to the California Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout on behalf of the numerous individuals and organizations engaged in salmon restoration including the tribal governments of the Hupa, Yurok and Karuk peoples, California Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps' Watershed Stewards Project, the California Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout, the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee, California Trout, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the Salmonid Restoration Federation, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, Mattole Watershed Council, Golden Gate Fishermen's Association, Tyee Club, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Federation of Fly Fishers, Natural Resources Defense Council and all others working on behalf of the conservation and restoration of our great chinook, coho and steelhead salmon resources.

Memoriam of Individuals Committed to Salmon Restoration

RAY CARPENTER A pioneer Bodega Bay commercial fisherman, he was one of the founding members of Salmon Unlimited in 1956 and an advisor to the first California Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout established in 1970.

EARL CARPENTER. Son of Ray Carpenter, Earl was a member of California Bay Delta Advisory Committee in the 1970's and chaired the California Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout (CAC) during the 1980's. He was the 1985 recipient of the "Highliner" award, the most prestigious award given U.S. commercial fishermen. His son, Stanley, is currently a member of the Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee overseeing the expenditure of Salmon Stamp funds.

JOHN PELNAR. A fishery biologist and manager of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Battle Creek National Fish Hatchery on the Upper Sacramento River. Pelnar was an early member of Salmon Unlimited and later sponsored an award in his name annually for a fisherman contributing to "the enhancement of salmon and steelhead resources."

RAY WELSH. A former fishermen's union official, Welsh operated a charter sportfishing business in Fort Bragg, following the government's break-up of the union. He was also an outdoors writer for the *Santa Rosa Press-Democrat* and a founding member of Salmon Unlimited. He was president of Salmon Unlimited and remained in the position until his death in the early 1980's.

WILLIAM GRADER. A Fort Bragg fish processor, who served as Deputy Resources Secretary in the administration of Governor Pat Brown, Grader was a founding member and long-time secretary for

Salmon Unlimited. He was the first chair of the California Citizens Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

JOSEPH PAUL. A San Francisco sportsman, Paul was involved in many of the early salmon and steelhead restoration efforts and helped to raise money for those causes.

FRANK HAUN. A Fort Bragg commercial fisherman, Haun was an early member of Salmon Unlimited and served in an advisory role to the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

EDMUND KOHLAUF. A San Francisco charter sport fishing vessel operator, Kohlauf was the first president of the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association (representing charter boat operators) and was a founding member of Salmon Unlimited and a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

Dr. HERB JOSEPH. A California Trout founder, Joseph of Vallejo, was involved in numerous fish restoration efforts and a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

BILL HILL. A Eureka commercial fisherman, Hill was a long-time member of Salmon Unlimited, the Humboldt Fish Action Council and served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

VERN SMITH. A San Jose resident, Smith was a member of the California Wildlife Federation who served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout. He was later named in 1976 to serve on the Pacific Fishery Management Council when it was established by the passage of HR 200 that year.

NAT BINGHAM. A Mendocino commercial fisherman, Bingham began his restoration work in the late 1960's with hatchbox programs. The grandson of Yale archeologist and explorer Hiram Bingham (the discoverer of the ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu), he was a member of Salmon Unlimited and served nine years as president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. He lead the effort to prevent the extinction of Sacramento winter-run salmon and at the time of his death in 1998 was working on restoration efforts in the Upper Sacramento watershed, including the removal of Battle Creek dams. He served a term as member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and was a 1989 "Highliner" recipient and was awarded posthumously the Department of Commerce's "Environmental Hero Award."

MICHAEL MAAHS. A fishery biologist and commercial fisherman from Fort Bragg, Maahs, along with his father Bill, served on the California Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout, and at the time of his death in a freak crab fishing accident in 2000, Maahs was president of Salmon Unlimited.

MELVIN DODGIN. A commercial salmon fisherman from Sacramento and president of the Golden State Fishermen's Association, Dodgin was the longtime fishery representative on the "SB 1086" committee to restore riparian and fishery habitat and fish resources in the Upper Sacramento River watershed.

SENATOR GEORGE MILLER. A Democrat from Martinez, Miller carried the legislation to compensate fishermen for their vessels after the Legislature closed the century-old salmon net fishery on San Francisco Bay and the Delta. Miller went on to support measures aimed at restoring salmon populations. His son George, a Congressman, carried the landmark 1992 legislation – the Central Valley Project Improvement Act – to reform the operations of the west's largest reclamation program to be operated for the protection of fish and wildlife.

SENATOR PETER BEHR, a Republican from Tiburon, Behr played an instrumental role in the protection of California's salmon bearing rivers while in the Legislature and was an ardent supporter of salmon protection and restoration.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER PAULINE DAVIS. A Democrat from Portola, Davis chaired the Assembly's Fish & Game Committee and carried the 1969 Legislation to establish the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Salmon & Steelhead Trout.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER FRANK BELOTTI. A Humboldt County Republican, Bellotti, whose district covered a third of the California coast, supported various measures to protect and restore California's salmon and steelhead during the three different decades he served in the Legislature.

SUPERVISOR SAM MITCHELL. A Humboldt County supervisor, Mitchell was active in Salmon Unlimited and the Humboldt Fish Action Council and initiated county measures to protect and restore salmon populations.

Presented to the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout by Senator Wes Chesbro and Assemblymember Patty Berg at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Fisheries Forum, March 2006.