

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515
September 12 2017
RECEIVED

Agenda Item G.1
Attachment 3
November 2017

Dr. Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
770 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

SEP 20 2017

PFMC

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

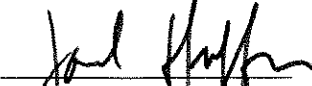
Thank you for the detailed analysis that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) provided our offices on drought legislation in the 114th Congress. Specifically, the PFMC provided us with a thorough investigation into the impacts that several bills (H.R. 2892, the Western Water and American Food Security Act (Rep. David Valadao), H.R. 2983, the Drought Recovery and Resilience Act (Rep. Jared Huffman), and S. 1894, the California Emergency Drought Relief Act (Sen. Dianne Feinstein) would have on West Coast salmon populations and the fishing industry. The PFMC's analyses on these bills played an important role in the consideration of similar bills in the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee.

Today, we are writing to request that the PFMC conduct analysis on another bill that could significantly impact salmon populations and their Delta habitat. As you know, in the 115th Congress, H.R. 23, Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017 (Rep. David Valadao) was introduced and passed through the House of Representatives. If enacted, this bill would likely impair salmon fisheries across California.

Chinook salmon from the Sacramento River form the backbone of California's commercial, recreational, and tribal salmon fishery, which supports tens of thousands of jobs and nearly \$10 million in annual revenue. Because of the multiple fishery disasters in recent years, salmon populations in California are already compromised. Moreover, this bill also affects management of the Trinity River. As such, careful analysis should be undertaken with any actions that may further impact inland spawning and rearing habitat and the long-term viability of salmon populations.

As the entity charged with managing and protecting marine fisheries resources on the West Coast, we ask that you provide thorough analysis and comments on the apparent and potential impacts of this bill on salmon fisheries and fishing communities. These comments will provide crucial perspective to the ongoing consideration of Western drought legislation and will help to ensure that the potential impacts to all stakeholders are taken into account.

Sincerely,


JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress


MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress