

William “Bill” James

Bill, despite a significant case of polio as a child and being told he would never make it past 40, commercially fished out of Avila for years and then moved to Oregon and fished out of Creston City for several years and passed Jan. 7 2022 of cardiac arrest many years past 40.

He was very passionate about fighting for the fishermen, especially with regards to the Deeper and Shallow Nearshore fisheries. Bill began his lobbying career with the Nearshore Fishery Management Plan that started in the late 1990's. He advocated for the small boat fishermen to be sure they were included with restricted access measures. He went to multiple California Department of Fish and Wildlife and commission meetings over several years fighting for the Nearshore fishermen.

Then the Marine Life Protection Act came about 2005. He went to multiple meetings in support of fishermen on the design and siting of the Marine Protected Areas.

Most recently he has spent multiple hours at Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings listening to the proposed policies that would impact our local fisheries and letting us know when we needed to speak up. He was a fighter, always doing his research, always speaking up, and constantly trying to do what was best for the fishermen's interest.

I think Marci Yaremko said it right: "Bill always kept us on our toes and never let us forget about the little guy that just wanted to wet a line and put a few bucks in his pocket. Very sad day, he will be missed."

~written by friends, Tom and Sheri Hafer