

**Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations * Natural Resources Defense Council
Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermen's Association * Defenders of Wildlife
Water4Fish * Environmental Defense Fund * The Bay Institute**

June 16, 2009

Dear Representative:

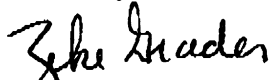
The undersigned conservation, commercial fishing, and recreational fishing organizations urge you to oppose the amendment offered by Congressman Nunes to H.R. 2847 (making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies). This amendment proposes to prohibit the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from implementing the June 4, 2009 biological opinion on the operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

NMFS' 2009 biological opinion requires changes to the operations of the water projects in order to protect threatened and endangered salmon, orcas, and other species from extinction. The biological opinion also will help to restore and sustain California's sport and commercial salmon fishery, which has been closed the past two years, resulting in more than \$270M in economic losses and nearly 2,700 lost jobs in 2009.

The biological opinion is the result of several years of consultation with state and federal agencies, and underwent two separate peer reviews, in order to ensure that it is based on sound science. NMFS' biological opinion also is consistent with the federal district court's 2008 opinions and orders, which found that the prior biological opinion was not based on the best available science and failed to adequately protect the species or comply with the law. The court also found that current operations were jeopardizing the species, necessitating the operational changes required by the biological opinion.

Our organizations urge you to support sound, science based decision making by opposing this highly controversial amendment. Doing so will ensure that sensitive species and California's salmon fishing industry will enjoy a healthy future. Thank you for consideration of our view.

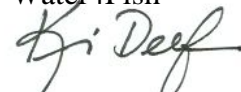
Sincerely,



Zeke Grader
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Associations



Dick Pool
Water4Fish



Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife



Gary Bobker
The Bay Institute



Doug Obegi
Natural Resources Defense Council



Ann Hayden
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Mike Hudson
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