

To assist Fishing Heritage Scholarship applicants in completing page 4, Central Coast Women for Fisheries has collected the information provided below from the websites listed:

California Department of Fish & Game (“CDF&G”): The Mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. The Department of Fish and Game maintains native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The department is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife including recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses. For more information, visit: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>

California Fish & Game Commission (“CF&GC”): Many Californians are not fully aware of the identity, function or responsibilities of the CF&GC, and consider it synonymous with CDF&G. Actually, CF&GC is a separate entity that has been involved in the management and wise use of California's fish and wildlife resources since 1870.

It is composed of up to five members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Commissioners are not full-time State employees, but individuals involved in private enterprise with expertise in various wildlife-related fields. They have a staff of eight employees, which handle day-to-day administrative activities. CF&GC meets at least eleven times each year to publicly discuss various proposed regulations, permits, licenses, management policies and other subjects within its areas of responsibility. It also holds a variety of special meetings to obtain public input on items of a more localized nature, requests for use permits on certain streams or establishment of new ecological reserves....

Its policies concern fisheries and wildlife management, introduction of exotics, use of departmentally-administered land and a variety of other subjects.

The CF&GC's mission is, on behalf of California's citizens, to ensure the long-term sustainability of California's fish and wildlife resources by:

- Guiding the ongoing scientific evaluation and assessment of California's fish and wildlife resources;
- Setting California's fish and wildlife resource management policies and ensuring these are implemented by the Department of Fish and Game;
- Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management rules and regulations; and
- Building active fish and wildlife resource management partnerships with individual landowners, the public and interest groups, and federal, State and local resource management agencies.

For more information, visit: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/>

The California Salmon Stamp Program (“CCSS”): California has a long tradition of harvesting salmon for food. With the coming of settlers and gold miners to California, commercial gillnetting began as early as 1851 on the Sacramento River. The spawning runs awed those early fishermen; the fish were large and their huge populations seemed inexhaustible. All too soon the runs began to decline as sediment from hydraulic mining washed into the rivers, choking spawning gravels and smothering juvenile salmon.

As California's human population grew, some of the nation's first environmental protection laws were enacted by the State of California to prevent mining debris from damaging the Sacramento and Feather rivers. Just as salmon runs were beginning to recover, irrigated agriculture began to develop, driven by droughts and the need to feed California's growing population. Hundreds of small dams and diversions were built in the Central Valley for hydropower and irrigation; then, beginning in the 1940's, and continuing today, the largest water diversion and delivery systems in the world were constructed. Unfortunately, mitigation for losses of salmon caused by the water projects was all too often an afterthought, insufficient to maintain runs at pre-project levels, or nonexistent.

Below some of the largest dams, salmon hatcheries were constructed to mitigate for the thousands of miles of habitat lost to dam construction. The hatcheries produced fish, but not enough to stem the tide of decline, not even in the rivers where hatcheries were built. In undammed drainages, problems caused by logging, road building, livestock grazing, irrigation, and other land-use practices added tremendously to the overall decline in salmon numbers. In dammed drainages where hatcheries were built, success in restoring salmon numbers has been mixed. In California's Central Valley drainage, where five major production hatcheries attempt to mitigate losses of salmon from dams, fall-run Chinook salmon populations appear to have responded well to hatchery culture, while the spring and winter runs have declined dramatically. But throughout the Central Valley, year after year most returning spawners (in recent years usually far more than the escapement goal) spawn in gravel but probably came from hatcheries. Hundreds of diversions remain unscreened in spite of the excellent work by DF&G's screen shops, while the Delta pumps that deliver water to the south remain a formidable obstacle for juvenile salmon trying to find the ocean.

Though ocean trolling began in the early 1900's, most commercial salmon fishing in California was once done with gillnets in the rivers. With statutory closing of the last such fishery in 1957, ocean trolling became the only way of commercially landing salmon in California. In recent years, mooching (drifting with rod-and-reel gear) has also become popular. With either method, California commercial salmon fishermen work from relatively small, ocean-going boats equipped with what amounts to numerous heavy-duty barbless hook-and-line fishing rigs. This technique produces high-quality fresh salmon available to market from May through September. Most salmon trolling vessels are owned by their operators, who work alone or with one deckhand. Many of the top producing boats are fished by husband-and-wife teams.

Salmon trolling became more than just an industry. A unique subculture, dependent on the annual foraging movements of California salmon along the Pacific coast, developed in small coastal communities. Some fishermen acquired larger boats capable of

following salmon at sea as they migrate along the coast, while others followed the fish by trailering their small boats from port to port. As the salmon troll fishery grew, the economies of coastal ports along California's coast from Morro Bay to Crescent City developed an infrastructure and support industry based on salmon landings. It has been estimated that by 1980, as many as 50,000 California jobs were based on recreational and commercial salmon fisheries.

As habitat loss drove salmon stocks into decline, state and federal fishery managers used the powers granted them under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, which created the PFMFC, to recommend ever more restrictive fishing seasons and quotas on the fishery. It would be a decade before federal fisheries managers would acknowledge that habitat loss, not over-fishing, was causing salmon runs to decline.

...working through [the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations ("PCFFA") (<http://www.pcffa.org>)], commercial salmon trollers undertook a comprehensive effort to reform California water and land use policies to improve freshwater habitat conditions for salmon. This was an ambitious and politically difficult effort which the PCFFA board knew would take years to be successful. Powerful interests stood in the way of reform. To keep the fishery viable in the meantime, fishermen had to turn to more effective artificial propagation. Their hope was that as policy and regulatory reforms created long-term habitat protection and restoration, emphasis could be shifted toward natural production, at least in undammed streams. In drainages with irreparable habitat loss, either from dams or from damaging land use, commercial and sport fishermen and responsible, realistic members of the scientific and environmental communities agreed that salmon propagation through hatcheries was the only realistic means available to restore salmon numbers. As an initial effort to address short-term production needs, in 1978 PCFFA sponsored legislation, carried by State Senator Barry Keene, which created the Commercial Salmon Trollers Enhancement and Restoration Program (Salmon Stamp Program).

The Salmon Stamp concept was simple: fishermen would tax themselves to pay for increasing freshwater production of young salmon. Coded wire tag recoveries in the troll fishery showed remarkable returns from DF&G's pilot program to rear hatchery fish to yearling size. PCFFA proposed to supplement funding for DFG through self-taxation as a way to expand this pilot program, thus increasing the numbers of salmon available for ocean harvest. Fishermen believed that as salmon landings increased, the program could be augmented.

The self-taxation program required purchase of a "stamp," the commercial fishing salmon stamp, in addition to the basic commercial fishing license. The Salmon Stamp Program began in 1979 with a \$30 stamp, matched by state funds. The program reared one million surplus hatchery salmon to yearling size in an unused spawning channel at Mokelumne River Hatchery. When these fish were ready for their journey to salt water, they were trucked to release sites in the San Francisco Bay area that were far enough downriver to avoid the flow of water drawn to the large south-delta pumping plants. Bypassing the Delta pumps has substantially increased survival of juvenile salmon and, hence, salmon landings.

For more information, visit <http://www.dgmgnt.com/salmonstamp.html>.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (“MBNMS”): Federally protected marine area offshore of California’s central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline length of 276 miles and 5,322 square miles of ocean. Supporting one of the world’s most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use of this national treasure. The MBNMS is part of a system of 13 National Marine Sanctuaries administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For more information, visit: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (“MFAC”): Advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. MFAC members will draw on their expertise and other appropriate sources, such as NMFS, to evaluate and recommend priorities and needed changes in national programs which include the ongoing reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens, the Endangered Species and the Marine Mammal Protection Acts. The members represent a wide spectrum of fisheries interests, environmental, academic, state, tribal, consumer and other related national interests. The MFAC functions solely as an advisory body (complying fully with the Federal Advisory Committee Act) who reports to the Secretary. The Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere is the designated chair of the Committee. For more information, visit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/index.htm>

National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”): NMFS is dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and the promotion of healthy ecosystems. As a steward, NMFS conserves, protects, and manages living marine resources in a way that ensures their continuation as functioning components of marine ecosystems, affords economic opportunities, and enhances the quality of life for the American public. For more information, visit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”): In a July 1970 statement to Congress, President Nixon proposed creating NOAA to serve a national need "...for better protection of life and property from natural hazards...for a better understanding of the total environment...[and] for exploration and development leading to the intelligent use of our marine resources..." On October 3, NOAA was established under the Department of Commerce. Although NOAA was formed in 1970, the agencies that came together at that time are among the oldest in the Federal Government. The agencies included the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey formed in 1807, the Weather Bureau formed in 1870, and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries formed in 1871. Individually these organizations were America's first physical science agency, America's first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and America's

first conservation agency. Much of America's scientific heritage resides in these agencies. They brought their cultures of scientific accuracy and precision, stewardship of resources, and protection of life and property to the newly formed agency. For more information, visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/>

Pacific Fishery Management Council (“PFMC”): One of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 for the purpose of managing fisheries 3-200 miles offshore of the United States of America coastline. The Pacific Council is responsible for fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington. For more information, visit: <http://www.pcouncil.org>

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (“PSMFC”): The PSMFC Compact states that its purpose shall be “to promote the better utilization of fisheries – marine, shell, and anadromous, which are of mutual concern, and to develop a joint program of protection and prevention of physical waste of such fisheries in all of those areas of the Pacific Ocean over which the compacting states jointly or separately now have or may hereafter acquire jurisdiction.” PSMFC promotes and supports policies and actions to conserve, develop, and manage our fishery resources in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska. For more information, visit: <http://www.psmfc.org/index.php>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (“USF&W”): Created by Congress in 1871 and charged with studying and recommending solutions to the decline in food fishes and to promote fish culture, today the mission of the USF&W is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit: <http://www.fws.gov/>