

June 16, 2005

Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director
California Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Response to the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout (CAC) request regarding DFG letter to NOAA on Listing Determinations for 27 ESU's

Dear Director Broddrick:

On January 24, 2005 the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout (CAC) formally requested that the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) reconsider comments submitted via the November 12, 2004 letter to NOAA (addressed to Ms. Donna Darm) regarding the NOAA Proposed Rule on the listing determinations of 27 ESUs of west coast salmonids. The CAC has not received a response from you.

The CAC received updates from your staff (Mr. Gary Stacey) at our Jan. 13 meeting in Ukiah that DFG was considering that a letter of clarification be sent to NOAA. We agreed and recommended that potential alterations in the DFG data and positions be based upon peer review of the DFG information and comments. The CAC clearly articulated our specific concerns to you in our correspondence.

The CAC concerns were supported by a review conducted by the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) which was transmitted to NOAA on April 5, 2005. You were sent a carbon copy of this review.

While the CAC did not receive a response from you we did review your response to California Trout, Trout Unlimited and Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers dated May 10, 2005. We found your letter untimely, lacking specifics and generally unresponsive to the specific issues that have been brought to your attention.

The CAC urges DFG to take corrective action on the issues raised by the CAC and also those identified by the AFS review, by immediately sending a letter of clarification to NOAA. We recommend that in the future important policy matters like this will be brought to the CAC in a timely manner for discussion and recommendations as envisioned by the legislature.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Vivian Helliwell, Chair

cc: The Honorable Patty Berg
Secretary Mike Chrisman, Resources Agency
Mr. Rod McInnis, NMFS Regional Administrator
Larry Week, Chief, NAFWB