

February 05, 2023

Hello Supervisors,

It seems like here we go again and it is so! The Center for Biodiversity (CBD) and the Native Fish Society have teamed up with Patagonia's money's and are coming for our fisheries, but in this case it seems that the fisheries are the tip of the iceberg. As I have tried to wade through this mess, I have found that this is more about Farming, logging and construction than controlling the fisheries.

In 2019 the California Fish and game commission went against the department recommendation to not list the Klamath Spring Chinook as an endangered species in the state of California. At the point of listing, it became very important that the scope of science be broadened. What I mean by that is we needed to know if Spring Chinook and Fall Chinook had different DNA. After a two year study process we ended up with mixed results. A scientist from UC Davis by the name of Dr. Mike Miller has concluded that Spring Chinook have a different genetical marker, but they can be produced by spawning fall Chinook. On the Other end of the rope, NOAA has concluded that there is no genetic difference. The relevance in all of this is that the environmental groups are using the conflicting science, to gain steam on this petition. In essence, the way it looks, they will take which ever scientist wins and roll this into a larger than seen lawsuit against all Fishing, Farming, logging, Construction and Development.

After a lot of research, I have found that this type of petition is fairly normal. After speaking with Congressman Huffman's office representative John Driscoll, he reached out to the PCFFA (Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association's) Glen Spain (Northwest regional Director/ acting Executive Director PCFFA). Glen did not seem too worried about the petition; however he acknowledged the severity of the ramifications if the petition were to move forward. He also explained that the ramifications would go much deeper than fishing itself. As we are already very aware of, the ESA (Endangered Species Act) is a very broad protective means. The ESA covering the Coho Salmon is a daily topic for most of us. I couldn't even imagine what it may look like if the Chinook salmon were to be listed. After more investigation, I have found that fishing itself may be affected by this petition as a bi product. The true intention of the petition is more to curtail development, logging and farming. This petition is also very broad in geographical nature. It extends from Cape Mendocino all the way to the Washington border.

Through my educating myself about this petition and its processes, I have found that the CBD is very well funded and if this petition is denied, they will likely file suit and take this to the higher courts. The fear is that the science won't be firm before they do so and due to the lack of scientific backing we may see the listing. As for here and today, I will be asking the Board to take action and write a letter of opposition and also ask all of our neighboring Counties to join you. I think it's crucial that we stand united.

Thank you all for your consideration and time - Mike Coopman

--

Mike Coopman
Mike Coopman's Guide Service
(707) 218-4501