

## **Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture March 29, 2017 Hearing Background**

[Senator Mike McGuire](#), Chairman of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture \(JCFA\)](#), and [Assemblymember Jim Wood](#), Vice-Chairman, are hosting the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual [Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum](#), "[Fisheries in a Changing Climate](#)". The hearing will be held Wednesday March 29, 2017 from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 2040 of the State Capitol building.

Presentations and discussion will focus on crab, salmon, lobster, sea urchins, aquaculture, seafood marketing needs and the Governor's proposed increases to commercial fishing landing taxes. The agenda features presentations by state agency leaders, commercial and recreational fishing representatives, aquaculture producers, and fish processors.

[John Laird](#), California's Natural Resources Secretary, [Charlton Bonham](#), California's Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and [Eric Sklar](#), President of the California Fish and Game Commission headline this year's list of speakers and presenters.

The hearing will also include testimony from the [California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout](#), the [California Salmon Stamp Committee](#), the [Ocean Science Trust](#), The [Dungeness Crab Task Force](#), the [California Salmon Council](#) and the [California Sea Urchin Commission](#).

Senator Barry Keene was a freshman Assemblymember in 1973 when Bill Grader, Zeke's father, approached him about holding a meeting between fishermen and legislators. According to Senator Keene, "the first Forum was open warfare. Now many of the issues that separated people have been resolved through the process, although the Forums still get heated. The fishermen often say they are not great orators, but in fact, their colorful prose descriptions make them wonderful storytellers. Eventually we learned a powerful lesson from the Forums – that if you can get together on issues you can multiply your political leverage." The Forum eventually led to the formation of the Joint Legislative Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Additional information including links to: the [agenda](#), [press releases](#), articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies can be viewed at the [committee web site under the "2017 hearings" heading](#).

Please contact [Tom Weseloh](#), Chief Consultant, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture for more information.