

# California State Senate

## SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

February 13, 2017



Mr. Michael Cohen, Director  
State Capitol, Room 1145  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Cohen *Michael!*

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for staff's (Ms. Costa) January 17, 2017 presentation to the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee on the Governor's 2017-18 proposed budget.

I appreciated the overview and request additional details on the Department of Fish and Wildlife proposal to augment the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The proposal includes an increase of \$12.4 million in additional revenue from commercial fish landing taxes and a one-time redirection of \$10.6 million from the Lifetime License Account.

Currently, annual revenue from the commercial fish landing fees support is approximately \$900,000 and would be subject to an increase greater than 1300%. Although these fees may not have been adjusted in 20 years, the implicit price deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services index rate for that time would be a small fraction of the proposal. Additionally, fisheries such as crab and salmon have suffered severe impacts in recent seasons that may require federal and state disaster assistance. The United States Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker recently declared the 2015-16 Dungeness crab season a disaster. Fee increases during a disaster appears contradictory.

It is difficult to evaluate the proposed budget changes without additional information. On behalf of the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, I respectfully request details of how the tax increase would be applied to the various commercial fisheries, including the specifics of the eleven tier approach, and the departments actual cost breakdowns for commercial fishing management and law enforcement by species. Please include identification of any federal funds the department utilizes. Additionally, I respectfully request the implicit price deflator calculation since the last landing tax increase.

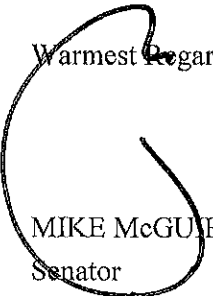


I am also concerned about draining the Lifetime License Account and the future impact to hunters and anglers when those funds are no longer available. Please provide the rationale for the one-time redirection and abolishment of the Lifetime License Account and a description of how the department would continue to fund services to lifetime holders after the account is drained.

I look forward to receiving your response and working with you and your department during the ongoing budget process.

If my office can be of assistance in the future, please don't hesitate to call anytime at (916) 651-4002.

Warmest regards,



MIKE MCGUIRE  
Senator

Michael -  
Thank you for all of your  
work - Please let me know  
if I can answer any questions.  
Thank you for your consideration  
of this request.