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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CA FISHERIES COMMENT ON WATER LEGISLATION

- Water packages deal blow to collapsing fishing industry, others that rely on healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**
- B-Roll, Images Available at www.salmonwaternow.org.**

Zeke Grader, Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations:

"The Bay-Delta is not a reservoir; it is the most important estuary on the West coast and gives life to many of our coastal fisheries. With this bill, the health of the delta and our fisheries lies with an unfunded council with no authority. The majority of its members will be appointed by the governor, and Schwarzenegger has made it clear he is willing to drain the delta if it means more water for land speculators and developers. We have little faith this council will support and act on the pressing needs of our delta and our fisheries, especially if it means putting a halt to the south's attempts at a water grab. This back-room, special-interest bill is fishy for sure, but definitely not because it will restore our industry to its former health."

Larry Collins, President of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association:

"After months of special interests distorting the facts about our water woes, the legislature went behind closed doors and came up with this stinking dead fish of a package that is sure to continue draining the delta and killing what is left of our salmon fishery. This bill was introduced to protect the delta, but that's just a smokescreen; it undermines current protections and creates new layers of bureaucracy. The simple fact is that this legislation will cause the delta to collapse and turn the San Francisco Bay estuary into a cesspool, undoing decades of work to restore the Bay to good health. Westlands Water District, private land developers, and the Governor all deserve a special place in hell for engineering the destruction of Northern California's ecosystems.

Fifteen years ago there were 5,000 salmon boats; now there are 500. We had a chance to reverse that trend, but land development special interests won out with this bill. What will we call Fishermen's Wharf when the last fishing boat is sold for scrap? This legislation should have died but instead the final nail was put in our industry's coffin."

Zeke Grader on AB13x7 / Peripheral Canal:

"Destroying the Bay-Delta, as a peripheral canal and new diversions would do, makes the sheer environmental destruction of Hetch Hetchy pale in comparison. Bigger than the Panama Canal, it would suck water away from Northern California and ensure our rivers go dry and fisheries remain closed. The people who rely on this water need a voice in this process. We just watched the major water bills get negotiated in back-room deals, and AB13x7 ensures that special interests can't sneak this disastrous project through.

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Salmon Water Now! is a coalition that raises public awareness of the plight of wild California salmon, and the communities dependent on healthy freshwater delta flows, by creating and distributing videos, podcasts, and other resources