



NCWA
Northern California Water Association

*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Denham
United States House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Support for the Save Our Salmon Act (H.R. 4582)

Dear Representative Denham:

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) would like to express its support for the Save Our Salmon Act (H.R. 4582). Water suppliers, conservation organizations, and federal, state and local governments have invested millions of dollars into the recovery of endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead in the Sacramento River basin and we will continue to advance the [Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program](#). By removing the Central Valley Project Improvement Act's (CVPIA) doubling goal for striped bass, the Save or Salmon Act will help ensure that investments made to recover endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead in the Sacramento River basin are not undermined by contradictory and counterproductive striped bass recovery objectives.

Striped bass, which are not native to California, prey on native salmon and steelhead and pose a serious threat to their survival. Both the National Marine Fisheries Service and independent research has shown that predation from non-native species such as the striped bass is not only a significant stressor on salmon and steelhead populations but also a threat to the existence of the species. Until significant progress is made to address predation issues, many benefits of upstream actions, such as those taken by NCWA, Sacramento Valley water suppliers and conservation organizations.

Removing striped bass from the CVPIA's doubling goal will also make the federal fish doubling objective more consistent with the State of California's salmonid doubling objective in Water Code section 6902.

The CVIPA's requirement to protect both introduced predatory striped bass and federally-protected native salmonids is a contradiction of statute and science. Recovery efforts for endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead will continue to be hindered so long as the federal government is required to support a top-level non-native predator that is devastating the very species the federal government is obligated by law to protect.

Predation is not the only stressor on salmon, but the Save Our Salmon Act is an important step towards addressing the serious predation problem affecting important native anadromous fish populations in the Sacramento River basin. We appreciate your efforts to end the arbitrary doubling goal for striped bass and will continue to express our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Guy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

David J. Guy
President