

**Representative Jeff Denham  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans**

**Hearing:**

**“H.R. 4582, the *Save our Salmon Act*”**

**Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

- Thank you Chairman Fleming for holding this important legislative hearing today.
- Over the past year our Committee has heard a recurring theme in hearings that predation is a key stressor in efforts to protect fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, especially in California.
- In February, this Subcommittee held an oversight hearing on predation and a National Marine Fisheries Service witness testified that some salmonid populations in California are “extremely low due to an abundance of striped bass.”

- As the oversight hearing highlighted, in California, the problem of predation has been perpetuated in part by a counterintuitive provision in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992.
- As part of an effort to protect fish populations, the CVPIA mandated population doubling for all anadromous fish. This requirement applies to the endangered salmon and their non-native predator, the striped bass.
- Quite simply, my bill, H.R. 4582 - the Save our Salmon Act - aims to remove this doubling requirement for striped bass.
- I am grateful for the bipartisan support and local interest that is growing behind my common sense bill.
- To that end, I would like to make a motion to include these letters of support - representing 15 irrigation and water districts or associations throughout California - in the official record.

- I would like to thank Dr. Hanson and Mr. Iseman for their testimony here today. I find your opinions and technical insights most informative and I look forward to working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to make the technical changes necessary to accomplish my bill's intent.
- Thank you both for your endorsement and with that I yield back.