

**Defenders of Wildlife \* Friends of the River \* Golden State Salmon Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations  
Restore the Delta \* Sierra Club \* The Bay Institute \* Winnemem Wintu Tribe**

April 24, 2023

Rep. Cliff Bentz, Chair  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and  
Fisheries  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Rep. Jared Huffman, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and  
Fisheries  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**RE: Opposition to H.R. 872 (Calvert)**

Dear Chair Bentz and Ranking Member Huffman,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to oppose H.R. 872 by Rep. Calvert. This legislation would undermine the coordinated management of salmon and other anadromous species, threatening Native American Tribes and thousands of fishing jobs that depend on healthy salmon runs.

Under existing law, the National Marine Fisheries Service (“NMFS”) manages ocean fisheries for salmon as well as protecting salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act throughout their range. As a result, NMFS acts as a steward for these species in both freshwater and the ocean, using its extensive scientific expertise regarding salmon and other anadromous species. NMFS plays a key role in working with international, Tribal, and state governments to manage salmon fisheries across the West Coast and ensure Endangered Species Act requirements are met.

H.R. 872 proposes to transfer Endangered Species Act authority over salmon and other anadromous species from NMFS to the Secretary of the Interior. This would fragment management of imperiled salmon species, undermining coordinated management of these species – and of the thousands of fishing jobs that depend on their health. In addition to lacking NMFS’ scientific expertise regarding the management of salmon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a significant backlog of species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and the Service lacks adequate staffing and resources to fulfill all of its obligations under the Endangered Species Act. H.R. 872 would further exacerbate those funding challenges.

Because this bill would undermine the coordinated management of salmon, we urge you to oppose H.R. 872.

Sincerely,



Doug Obegi  
Natural Resources Defense Council



Ashley Overhouse  
Defenders of Wildlife



Glen Spain  
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's  
Associations



Barbara Barrigan-Parilla  
Restore the Delta



Scott Artis  
Golden State Salmon Association



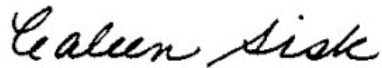
Gary Bobker  
The Bay Institute



Jann Dorman  
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Erin Woolley  
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Caleen Sisk  
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