



May 2, 2018

The Honorable Tom Berryhill
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3067
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 518 (Berryhill) - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Berryhill:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) supports your SB 518, which would create a 12-month fishing license.

SB 518 would provide an additional licensing option for fishermen that would help them enjoy the full benefit of their fishing privileges. As you are aware, currently fishermen must obtain a license that expires at the end of December (regardless of when it is purchased), which may leave them with only a few months or even days under which they may use the license.

SB 518 would not only ensure that fisherman have the opportunity to enjoy a full 12 months of fishing, but would help encourage more people to purchase fishing licenses. In turn, this would generate additional funds for fish conservation purposes through increased Dingell-Johnson excise tax revenues on fishing equipment. (In 2017 California was apportioned \$16.6 million of these funds through grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Fishing license sales have generally declined since the 1970s. While many states have introduced new types of licenses to encourage more people to participate in the outdoors, the number of licenses that California offers has remained relatively low.

A study cited in a recent report entitled "Exploring Recent Increases in Hunting and Fishing Participation" found that "an important factor that may have increased license sales is changing types of licenses (e.g., creation of new licenses, repackaging or renaming licenses). Of state fish and wildlife agencies that were polled in the survey, from 28% to 37%, depending on which year was considered, named license type changes as a factor affecting their license sales increase."

With the Automated Data Licensing System now fully implemented, the Department of Fish and Wildlife should be able to implement the 12-month fishing license more easily and at less cost than in the past.

Thank you for your willingness to author this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Hennelly, Vice President
California Waterfowl Association