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For Immediate Release



## Sportfishing: A Case Study of How Protecting Recreational Fishing Benefits Marinas

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At this year's 46th Annual MRA Educational Conference, the [California Sportfishing League](#) (CSL) executive director, Marko Mlikotin, will introduce the strategies and tactics the organization is using to communicate the importance of protecting recreational fishing and its benefits to marina operators.

As those gathered at the conference know, recreational anglers and boaters are a major source of revenue for marina operations. This is why CSL is leading an unprecedented coalition of organizations representing marina operators, business, labor, local government, travel and the boating and outdoor recreational community to introduce state policy changes that can protect recreational fishing's \$4.6 billion annual contribution to California's economy and jobs.

The threat to recreational fishing's future is very real. Despite California's abundant natural resources and size, the state's recreational fishing participation rate is ranked dead last (per capita) in the country, and [annual fishing license sales](#) have decreased over 55% since 1980. During this same period, California's population increased over 60%. In contrast, over the past ten years, the rest of the states combined have experienced an increase in fishing participation rates.



There are many reasons for this decline, and among them is bad public policy. Most notably, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is stocking fewer and smaller fish. Since 2012, the number of fishing stocked in California freshwaters has declined 39% and the number of pounds declined by 50%. Simply stated - LESS FISH, fewer anglers, less economic activity for freshwater marinas.

In addition, a national recession and a state imposed ban on fishing in over 850 square miles of California's coastline contributed to a decreased number of angler trips off the Southern California coast from a high of 2.5 million trips in 2006 to a low of 1.9 million trips in 2015. The number of fishing charter boat trips and number of anglers per a vessel have also decreased. Simply stated - LESS ACCESS, fewer anglers, less economic activity for saltwater marinas.

At the conference, join California's leading sport fishing organization for a discussion on how the challenges facing recreational fishing impact marina operations, and how effective public policy and political strategies can bring about meaningful reforms that can stimulate greater economic activity for businesses dependent on outdoor recreation.

**The California sportfishing League is a non-profit organization of anglers and businesses committed to making fishing more accessible. For more information, [www.SaveFishing.com](http://www.SaveFishing.com)**

*The Marine Recreation Association is a professional organization that represents marina owners, operators, and industry professionals located throughout the western United States with additional members in Canada, Mexico, and Australia. Created more than 46 years ago, the MRA actively promotes and represents recreational boating interests while providing educational, management, and operations seminars and information for marine industry owners, operators, and staff.*

*For additional information about the MRA, and all of its activities and interests, please contact Mariann Timms by phone at (209) 334-0661, email at [mra@marina.org](mailto:mra@marina.org) or go online at <http://www.marina.org>.*