



May 2025

Member Newsletter of the Golden State Salmon Association

[goldenstatesalmon.org](http://goldenstatesalmon.org)

## GSSA's 13th Annual Santa Rosa Dinner - Hope for the Future

Tickets are selling fast, so get yours today and be part of GSSA's biggest night of the year. Join us on June 20th at the Friedman Event Center to enjoy a mouthwatering BBQ dinner, refreshing local beer and wine, and a lively atmosphere filled with old friends and new faces.

Throughout the evening, you'll have the opportunity to bid on once-in-a-lifetime guided fishing adventures, premium tackle, custom rods and reels, outdoor gear, vacations, beautiful artwork, and more. The Santa Rosa Dinner's raffles and auctions are always a highlight, full of surprises and big wins. Whether you're looking to upgrade your gear, support salmon, or simply have a great time, there's something for everyone.



This dinner is more than a celebration. It brings together those who care deeply about salmon and the communities that depend on them, and offers a chance to stand united and make a difference.



*The annual Santa Rosa Dinner is always full of big smiles and big wins!*

With your support, GSSA continues to make a real impact for California's salmon, giving everyone hope for the future.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to our auction or raffle please contact Cat.  
Thank you for your support!  
[cat@goldenstatesalmon.org](mailto:cat@goldenstatesalmon.org)

Scan this code with your phone camera to get your Santa Rosa Dinner tickets!



# WE'RE FIGHTING



## Fighting for Salmon and California's Water Future at the Capitol

In May, the Golden State Salmon Association spent a week at the State Capitol meeting with California senators and assemblymembers to sound the alarm over Governor Gavin Newsom's dangerous May Revise budget trailer bills. These bills would fast-track the controversial Delta Tunnel, undermine environmental protections, and open the door to long-term harm for salmon, fishing communities, and public water governance.



The trailer bills would rewrite existing law — gutting California Environmental Quality Act protections, stripping authority from the State Water Board, limiting court reviews and fast-tracking land acquisitions for tunnel construction. One of these bills would prevent any state court from blocking construction of the tunnel, even if agency reviews and permits were clearly illegal and even if the operations of the tunnel would be devastating to salmon runs and jobs. The legislation would also overturn a state court ruling that found that DWR does not have the legal authority to issue bonds for the Delta tunnel.



*GSSA's Senior Policy Advisor Barry Nelson spoke out against the Governor's fast-tracked Delta Conveyance Project in a recent press conference.*

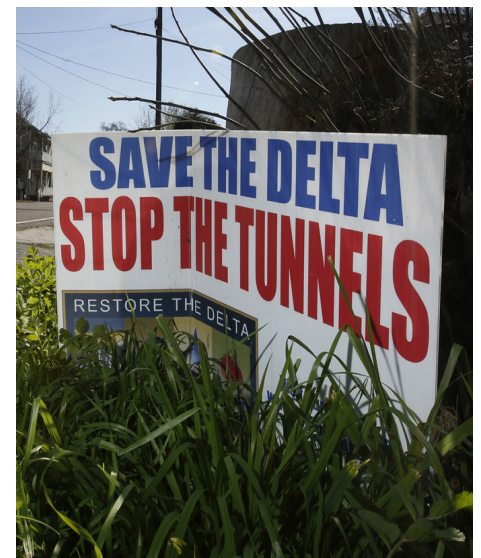
GSSA joined with conservation organizations, Tribes, and environmental justice advocates to urge lawmakers to reject these backdoor budget tricks. Our coalition stood firm in defending the public's voice, scientific integrity, and the principle that those who benefit should pay—not California families.

The Governor's office frames these bills as "streamlining." But they amount to a power grab, green-washed with climate buzzwords to benefit a few powerful water agencies and industrial agriculture—at the expense of our salmon, rivers, and livelihoods.

GSSA's Barry Nelson spoke at a press conference with Delta legislators, and urged the legislature "to say not just no, but Hell no" to these trailer bills.

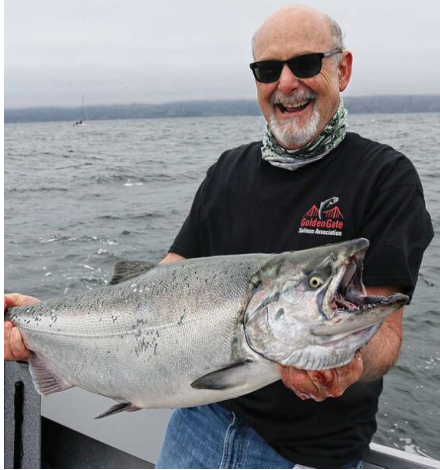
GSSA continues to call on the legislature to reject this budget overreach and instead protect California's salmon fishery.

The Delta Caucus is a group of Delta legislators, led by Senator Jerry McNerney and Assemblymember Lori Wilson have led an effort to oppose the Delta tunnel trailer bill. A letter started by the Delta legislative caucus has now been signed by 18 members, including legislators, such as Assemblymembers Damon Connolly and Chris Rogers, as well as Senator Jessie Arreguin, who represent important parts of the California salmon fishing community.



# FOR SALMO

## Recreational Ocean Salmon Fishing Reopens in California



After two challenging years without a salmon season, we are excited that recreational ocean salmon fishing is returning to California! On April 15, the PFMC approved a limited 2025 season — a much-needed bright spot for anglers and fishing businesses alike.

A harvest quota of 7,000 fall-run Chinook salmon which will be applied to the 2025 season between June and the end of August. Fishing will be open June 7-8, July 5-6, July 31-August 3, and August 25-31.

Additionally, there will be a second set of fishing openers with a separate quota of 7,500 fish. Fishing is permitted within special sub-areas and, depending on the zone, will be open September 4-7, September 29-30, October 1-5, and October 27-31.

If the total harvest approaches the quota number, in-season action may close the season at any time. Be sure to stay up to date on current regulations, and tight lines!

## GSSA Advances Promising Survival Strategy with USFWS

On April 10, GSSA met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Coleman National Fish Hatchery to review results from our Butte City pilot release — and the data is undeniable. Trucking Coleman fish to Butte City dramatically boosts survival, with up to 15 times more fish returning compared to river releases. This strategy is vital for strong broodstock numbers and could jumpstart recolonization of fall-run Chinook on the upper Sacramento River.

Key outcomes from the meeting include agreement that 10,000 cfs at Wilkins Slough is a solid benchmark for good outmigration. Discussions are underway to create a new protocol for when trucking is necessary during tough water years.



USFWS will incorporate Parentage Based Tagging (PBT) into Coleman operations, enhancing survival tracking between release strategies. The agency also plans to truck 960,000 smolts to Butte City in 2025. With improved coordination between Shasta and Coleman, GSSA is advancing a stronger future for California's salmon.

## A Coalition Push for Stronger Salmon Protections in Newsom's Strategy

GSSA joined forces with Defenders of Wildlife, the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, and Save California Salmon to submit formal recommendations to strengthen Governor Newsom's "California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Progress Report (Jan 2024–Mar 2025)."



*Pictured left to right: Chuck Bonham (CDFW Director), Sarah Bates, Scott Artis, Samantha Arthur (Deputy Secretary for Water), Randy Repass, & Rachel Zwelling.*

Our coalition delivered these critical recommendations just ahead of the California Natural Resources Agency's Salmon Strategy Roundtable on April 23, attended by over 100 representatives from nonprofits, Tribes, agencies, and state water contractors.

GSSA's executive director Scott Artis participated on the roundtable's hatchery panel, stressing the urgent need for increased released strategies, coordination between state and federal agencies to boost juvenile survival with cold-water dam releases, and action to address the C. shasta parasite killing baby salmon on the Feather River. Coalition partner Ashley Overhouse of Defenders of Wildlife called for stronger protections and adequate coldwater for salmon.

# N FAMILIES



## A Coalition Push for Stronger Salmon Protections... *(continued)*

Our recommendations include: urging for Shasta Dam temperature protections; expanding the geographic focus of salmon recovery efforts; requiring stronger, science-based flow and temperature protections in the Bay-Delta; committing the state to oppose raising Shasta Dam; and pushing for permanent protections for key rivers like the Shasta and Scott. We also called for faster, creative action on long-delayed restoration projects like the Thermalito Retrofit and real-time solutions for Butte Creek salmon.

With California's salmon fishery closed for a third year, "business-as-usual" won't cut it. We need stronger commitments, stricter enforcement, and faster action to save salmon.

## CDFW Releases 3.5 Million Smolts to Support Sac River

In a major shift in salmon strategy, CDFW released 3.5 million juvenile fall-run Chinook into the main stem of the Sacramento River for the first time. These fish came from increased production at Feather and Mokelumne hatcheries.



"This historic move gives juvenile fish a fighting chance," said Scott Artis, GSSA Executive Director. We applaud the hatchery staff and support efforts to rebuild salmon runs and revive fisheries." Despite signs of improvement in other parts of the Central Valley,

returns to the Sacramento River remain critically low.

"The Sacramento River has long supported California's salmon fisheries," said CDFW's Jay Rowan. "Drought impacts have led to poor returns, but increased hatchery production is helping speed up rebuilding of spawning areas."

These fish are part of a 2025 effort to raise and release over 28 million salmon, 9.7 million more than normal. CDFW also provided Coleman Hatchery with 10 million eggs to support federal production and offset low adult returns. Released smolts are expected to imprint on the river and boost future natural spawning.



## Golden State Salmon Association Founding Members

Chris Arcoleo, John Atkinson, Raymond Bonneau, Dennis Burkell, Hugh Chatham, Coastside Fishing Club, Joseph Conte, Crab Boat Owners Association, Tom Creedon, Ron Davis, Jim DeMartini, Joe Donatini, Jacky Douglas, Chris Duba, Kerry Egan, Ken Elie, Patrick Elie, Tim Elie, Yancy Forest-Knowles, Douglas R. Gaebe, Vic Giacalone, Victor Gonella, Zeke Grader, Ren Harris, Eric Holthouse, Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association, Paul Johnson, Perry Kerson, Jonah Li, Todd Magaline, John McManus, Joseph Meiswinkel, Mark Mlcoch, Galen Onizuka, Rick Powers, Bob Praszker, Queen of Hearts Sportfishing, Randy Repass, Frank Rescino, Jeff Robles, Patty Schifferle, Frank Seghesio, Richard Shears, Ken Stagnaro, Roger Thomas, Edwin A. Tognetti, Aaron Weinzinger, Jay Yokomizo, David Zeff, Thomas Zizzo



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