

The Honorable Richard Rogers
Member, California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814.

Dear Commissioner Rogers:

The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, write to ask that you vote no on the proposed regulations of the Department of Fish and Game that would impose preposterous burdens and excessive regulations on the state's private hatcheries that provide a majority of the fish stocked in California lakes, ponds, rivers and streams.

Our members enjoy fishing, perhaps more than most. It is a very special opportunity to spend time outdoors with family members, our kids and grandkids, and yes, great grand kids. It is a wonderful thing to see their happy faces when they hook a fish. It is a great opportunity to teach them how to respect nature and the environment, and to cook the fish we catch. Imposing new and expensive regulations on the businesses that grow fish to be stocked will only result in increased costs to us, the consumer. That is if the fish farmer can afford to stay in business. And if they can't, there goes the stocking and the fishing opportunities that go along with it.

As you know, many of our veterans have physical limitations that can make access to lakes and other waters a critical factor. Privately stocked fishing lakes almost always have easy access because the owners make sure to provide us with this access.

We understand that the proposed regulations will cost not only the fish farmer, but the recipients of the fish, the private land owner, farmer, military base, and service club that has a lake or pond, also the homeowner association, and the city or county parks that want to stock fish. Fish farmers that stock fish have been doing so in the same waters for decades without incident.

We urge the department to come up with regulations that will make it easier and less expensive to fish in California and help more people enjoy the outdoors rather than restrict fishing opportunities and impose needless and costly regulation.

Please vote no on the proposed stocking regulations when they come before you on December 14th and remove the threat to one of the great outdoor activities we have left.

Respectfully,
John M Husak
3248 Bellaire Ave.
Clovis, CA 93619