



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission
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HC Board of Supervisors
825 Fifth Street
Eureka, CA 95536

Re: Proposed low flow closure on the Eel River estuary

Dear Humboldt County Supervisors,

At the regular HCF&GAC meeting April 12, the commissioners discussed and voted for a letter to be written to you, the Board of Supervisors, regarding proposed low flow closures on the Eel River estuary. We believe this section of the river should be exempt from any low flow angling restrictions.

In Dec. 2021, the California Fish and Game Commission enacted emergency low flow regulations in response to the ongoing drought. These restrictions became effective Jan. 31, 2022 and the adoption vote to make the regulations permanent will take place at the August 17-18 Commission meeting. As part of the new regulations, a low-flow fishing restriction was implemented between September 1 through April 30 on the stretch of the Eel River from the mouth to Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River. Hook and line gear restrictions will be in place during this timeframe when flows are less than 350 cfs at the gauging station near Scotia.

Recreation anglers, guides, tackle shops and hotels will all be affected by this angling restriction. The Wiyot Tribe, in an email to the HCF&GAC, has also expressed concern regarding the hook and line restrictions, which if implemented, could potentially eliminate their ability to pole fish within the lower estuary of the Eel River, which they have done since time immemorial.

We would like to bring this item to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors attention, and ask that they send the attached letter to the California Fish and Game Commission requesting this section of the Eel River not be included in the low flow closures. I would be willing to attend a Board meeting to answer any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kenny Priest
Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission

Cc: Rex Bohn
Kathy Hayes
Tracy D'Amico
Nancy Kaytis-Slocum