



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

February 22, 2016

**Referendum to Consider Implementation of  
Amendments to the California Salmon Council Law**  
*Voting Deadline Extended to March 22, 2016*

**To the California Salmon Handler Addressed:**

On January 22, 2016, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) initiated a referendum among salmon handlers in the state to determine whether or not to require salmon handlers to pay assessments to the California Salmon Council (CSC) at the same rate as commercial salmon vessel operators (CSVOs). Currently, only CSVOs are required to pay the CSC assessment of \$0.05 per pound of salmon landed. Should the referendum pass, handlers would also be required to pay the assessment. The amendments also expand the CSC Board of Directors to provide for additional handler representation. Before these amendments can be implemented, California salmon handlers must vote to approve implementation.

In order for this referendum to be valid, at least 40 percent of eligible handlers must participate in the vote. As of the date of this letter, CDFA has not received a sufficient number of ballots to meet this requirement. Therefore, as authorized by section 76953 of the California Salmon Council Law, CDFA is extending the voting period for an additional 30 days to provide more opportunity for handlers to participate in this referendum.

Since our office has yet to receive a completed ballot from your salmon handling entity, we are enclosing a duplicate copy of your ballot and a postage-prepaid return envelope. If you would like to participate in this referendum, please complete all applicable sections on the ballot and submit it to CDFA in the envelope provided. Ballots must be postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than **March 22, 2016**. If you have already submitted a ballot for this process, please disregard this notice (it is not necessary to re-submit a second ballot).

The California Salmon Council Law, as Amended, can be accessed at:

*<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/pdf/CaliforniaSalmonCouncil.pdf>*



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The following criteria must be achieved by the California handlers in order for the amendments to become effective:

- At least 40 percent of the total number of eligible handlers on record must submit valid ballots, *and*
- Of those voting, at least 65 percent of handlers who represent at least 51 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation, *or*
- Of those voting, at least 51 percent of handlers who represent at least 65 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation.

The results of this referendum will be announced after the voting period has ended and all ballots have been tabulated. All information provided on individual ballots will be kept confidential.

If you have questions regarding this referendum, please contact Ben Kardokus of this office at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief  
Marketing Branch

Enclosures