

--- Long leader line snagging ---

Imagine you're traveling up the highway of life to meet your mate and suddenly something is attached to your body, pulling you in a different direction. You're being dragged and pulled and you're trying to pull away from this force that is much stronger than you. You're trying with all your strength and energy to pull away, then all of a sudden you see your mate and the same thing is happened to her. She is really pulling hard and trying to get away from the same kind of pulling force. This strong force has been pulling for a long time. Then the pulling stops you find yourself looking up at an alien that is standing above you. The alien is pulling out a device that penetrated your flesh, and it hurts. The alien pushes you around but you're in shock. You're feeling free, but exhausted, beat-up, hurt, confused but manage to swim away. You are wondering what happened to your mate. Your mission was to go up this river and find a mate. You're now weak and scared—unaware of what's happening.

This is not what happens to fish in nature. How much damage can happen to a fish that is snagged and played out? Depending where it's hooked, it can screw up the fish. Many of the same fish are hooked several times. These beat up fish are expected to continue on and reproduce in the rivers. Can they?

This happens when long leader lines are used. Over 95 percent of the fish that are hooked using long leader lines are snagged. Some lucky snagged fish are unhooked by a sportsman and set free. Others are not so lucky the fisherman kills them anyway as long as no one is near to see the fish has been snagged (that's a poacher).

Only a small percent of Anadromous fish (steelhead, salmon) naturally or instinctively bite lures, or baits.

The California Fish & Game law reads:

- 1-Snagging is prohibited.
- 2-Fish must voluntarily take the bait or artificial lure in its mouth.
- 3- It is unlawful to use any hook which is directly or indirectly attached closer than 18 inches to any weight exceeding ½ ounce.

For that reason the leader length Law should be enacted. **No leader line length shall exceed a maximum of 72 inches in length from the weight (weight exceeding ½ ounce or more) to the hook.**

This law will help stop the biggest percentage of snagged fish but it will not eliminate snagging entirely.

Long leader lining fishing or flossing fishing is becoming a **very popular** way of fishing among the fishermen who have no respect or concern for the law or fish. This type of fishing needs to be stopped NOW.

We are sure long leader line snagging is one of the big contributing factors of the decline of fish population over the years in California Rivers.

Imagine if it happened to you how your body would feel. Fish can't talk and it is up to the experienced fisherman and lawmakers to understand the problems and protect endangered fish. The fish and Game needs to stop this type of fishing.

Jim Lambert



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**Petition: to eliminate the use of long leader line fishing in anadromous Waters.**

As a resident of the State of California I protest the use of **long leader line fishing** that is used in rod and reel fishing in California Anadromous Waters with endangered species.

Many of these fishermen (know as liners) are using leader lines twenty feet long or longer. This fishing application is cruel to the fish, because many of the fish are snagged or foul-hooked in the belly, fins or tails causing damage before spawning. This is unsportsmanlike conduct, and the fish are not voluntarily biting the bait.

We urge the California State Fish and Game lawmakers to enforce a leader line length law. No leader line length shall exceed a maximum of 72 inches in length from the weight to the hook.

Print name: Louie Rothstein Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Louie Rothstein Date: 11-10-12

Print name: Jack Rule Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Jack Rule Date: 11-10-12

Print name: DAVID CARRIGER Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: David Carriger Date: 11-10-12

Print name: BARBARA CARRIGER Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Barbara Carriger Date: 11-10-12

Print name: MARY ROTHSTEIN Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Mary Rothstein Date: 11-10-12

Print name: Colette Rule Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Colette Rule Date: 11-11-12

Print name: BARBARA BITTNER Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Barbara Bittner Date: 11/10/12

Print name: MONICA FLORES Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: Monica Flores Date: 11-10-12

Print name: Ron Poppino Address: [REDACTED]  
Signature: R Poppino Date: 11-10-12

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Make copies of this form. When filled out save a copy and send the originals to the Department of Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth St. Room 1320, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

Also copies to California Governor the honorable Jerry Brown, State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA 95814