

San Diego Fishermen's Working Group 8021 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941



The Honorable Assemblyman Mark Stone  
California's 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Sent electronically

March 26, 2021

RE SUPPORT for AB125

Dear Assemblyman Stone,

The San Diego Fishermen's Working Group (SDFWG) is a 501-c-3 non-profit organization with a Board of Directors comprised of all the major fishery gear types of the greater San Diego region. The SDFWG represents the interests of commercial fishermen in local, state, and federal processes. The term "fishermen" is used inclusive of both our fishing men and women.

The SDFWG supports B125, the *Equitable Economic Recovery, Healthy Food Access, Climate Resilient Farms, and Worker Protection Bond Act of 2022* generally, and in particular section 80752 which provides:

*(a) Of the moneys made available pursuant to Section 80750, thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) shall be available to the California Coastal Conservancy for grants for the development, restoration, and reconstruction of fishing facilities and related*

*infrastructure serving the commercial fishing industry in urban coastal waterfront areas.*

*(b) The California Coastal Conservancy shall award grants pursuant to this section only to fishermen, buyers, processors, and government agencies, such as port authorities and tribal governments, that provide fishing facilities and related infrastructure to the commercial fishing industry.*

*(c) For purposes of this section, "fishing facilities and related infrastructure" include, but are not limited to, fish handling and processing infrastructure and facilities, such as public hoists, ice machines, gear storage, refrigeration, freezers, and other processing facilities, and canneries.*

There exist numerous worthwhile commercial fishing infrastructure projects that can enable and support the production of sustainably caught seafood by California commercial fishermen. It is worth noting that seafood caught under US and/or California fishery management plans are among the lowest carbon-footprint of all protein sources; therefore, supporting California fishermen is a way of addressing our climate crisis.

The SDWG also seeks some modest amendments to AB125: There are numerous sections of AB 125 that provide funding support for farmer's markets and the use of agricultural products for programs feeding the food insecure. The SDFWG requests that "fishermen's markets" and "seafood" be added to these programs in the text of the Act.

Thank you for considering these amendment requests and please let us know how the San Diego Fishermen's Working Group can continue to support AB125.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Halmay". The signature is stylized and includes a large, bold letter "H" at the end.

Pete Halmay

President