

1 [Opposing the Budget Change Proposal of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife on
2 Commercial Fishing Landing Taxes]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Senate and Assembly to oppose the Budget**
4 **Change Proposal of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that would increase**
5 **commercial fishing landing taxes in the California State Budget FY2017-2018.**

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7 WHEREAS, California fisheries are among the most stringently managed in the world
8 and are often considered to be the gold standard of fisheries management; and

9 WHEREAS, California fisheries help offset the U.S. trade deficit, maintain harbor and
10 port infrastructure; and

11 WHEREAS, California's fishing communities have suffered through reduced
12 opportunity, the effects of drought, warmer ocean water temperatures, and algal bloom
13 disruptions; and

14 WHEREAS, The West Coast fisheries have been rebuilt and the communities that
15 depend on them, most importantly the consumers served by the industry, chefs, restaurants
16 and grocers need a supportive economic atmosphere upon which to grow and return to a
17 vibrant economic condition; and

18 WHEREAS, Many people in the industry trace their heritage to Italy when families
19 emigrated to San Francisco during the Gold Rush in the mid 1800's and are still active in the
20 industry; and

21 WHEREAS, The San Francisco fishermen and processors are a treasured part of the
22 City's heritage and are part of the flavor and aromas that have made Fisherman's Wharf an
23 international destination; and

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1 WHEREAS, In the California State FY2017-2018 budget, the California Department of
2 Fish and Wildlife proposed an average 1,300% increase on commercial fishing landing taxes
3 (from a low of 160% increase on herring to a high of 13,157% increase on crab); and

4 WHEREAS, The tax increases will not only destroy the economic margins of the
5 fishermen and processors, but also will have a profound effect on local coastal economies;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California State
8 Senate and Assembly to oppose this landing tax increase, particularly given the importance of
9 the seafood industry to the State, and the multi-year economic hardship the industry has
10 suffered; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be communicated to our legislative
12 delegation and City lobbyist.