

# CALIFORNIA FISHERMEN'S RESILIENCY ASSOCIATION

1118 6th St.  
Eureka, CA 95501

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 D Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California 95814  
December 26, 2024

Dear Governor Newsom,

It is my understanding that you have recently filed a request to declare the California Albacore tuna fishery a disaster. While albacore landings on the west coast are markedly reduced due to dismal global markets (for all fish), California's albacore fishery has mostly disappeared due to shoreside fishing infrastructure loss.

90% of albacore tuna caught by the West Coast fishing fleet are frozen at sea on the vessels catching the fish. Frozen fish must be delivered and unloaded into a cold storage facility capable of holding frozen tuna at zero degrees fahrenheit or below. The last major port in Northern California to have such a facility was Eureka in 2012. The Eureka Ice and Cold Storage, built before WWII was the largest freezer plant/cold storage north of San Francisco. When Eureka Ice and Cold Storage closed, it caused major negative disruption of nearly all Northern California Fisheries including albacore tuna.

Declaring a federal fisheries disaster for the California albacore fishery will do nothing to return albacore and other fisheries to California without proactive state actions. Currently, California albacore fishermen must deliver their product to the ports of Newport and Astoria in Oregon, and as far north as Westport, Washington where cold storage still exists.

Declare the fisheries disaster, but proactively put forth a solution to the California fishing infrastructure problem by tapping into federal infrastructure funds to build new modern cold storage in your California port of Eureka.

It's helpful to "declare", but it's constructive in the long term to "build". Dare to do this!

Thank you,  
Ken Bates, Executive Director

California Fishermen's Resiliency Association

Cc: Jared Huffman, John Driscoll, Mike McGuire