



# FISH • TALES

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*Salmon fishing will get a needed lift if GGSA's plan to release baby salmon in Bodega Bay is approved*

## BODEGA BAY NET PEN EFFORT

GGSA's founder, Victor Gonella, and Executive Director John McManus met this summer with a top ranking Dept. of Fish and Wildlife official to talk about operating an acclimation net pen for hatchery baby salmon in Bodega Bay. GGSA is asking that 250,000 baby hatchery salmon be trucked to Bodega Bay where they'd be transferred to a net pen, held a few hours, and then released. This type of release is already common in the Bay and Delta.

Gonella also pushed on his congressional allies, who are excited to lend their support to this project. Since that time, he and GGSA staff have been working non-stop in an effort to make this happen for Bodega in the spring of 2017.

The state has warned that winning approval for 2017 is a long shot. The concern is due to the fact that fish released in Bodega Bay might pose a problem for nearby wild Coho, Chinook and Steelhead, a claim GGSA is skeptical of. Be sure that GGSA will push as hard and as far as possible

as Bodega desperately needs help. If permission is granted, the state will require that all of the fish be adipose fin-clipped and tagged, which is expected to cost about \$25,000 a year. GGSA has also asked the Commercial Salmon Stamp Committee to consider helping to defray some of this cost.

Because of GGSA efforts, over 25 million extra hatchery salmon have been trucked to safe release sites over the last three years which has greatly increased salmon in the ocean. Without this action, the 2016 and 2017 fishing seasons might not be possible. ■

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