

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture November 4, 2021 Hearing Background

[Senator Mike McGuire](#), Chair of the [Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture \(JCFA\)](#) is hosting the 48th Annual [Zeke Grader Fisheries Forum](#). The hearing will be held Thursday November 4th, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 4203 of the State Capitol building. The hearing will be livestreamed, and members of the public are encouraged to attend remotely if possible. Access information can be found on the [JCFA website](#).

Presentations and discussion will focus on California's fisheries and aquaculture industries, the processes that involve and impact them, and the coastal communities they support. The agenda features presentations by state agency and Tribal leaders, commercial fishing industry representatives, aquaculture and science program managers, researchers, and conservation advocates. There will be robust discussion of the ways that fishing communities have been impacted by, and are recovering from, the COVID-19 emergency as well as opportunities to provide enhanced sustainable access to ocean resources for the benefit of all Californians.

[Charlton Bonham](#), California's Director of the [Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), and [Dr. Mark Gold](#), Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy at the [Natural Resources Agency](#), headline this year's slate of California agency leaders. The Committee is honored to welcome [Chief Caleen Sisk](#) of the [Winnemem Wintu Tribe](#).

The hearing will also include testimony from the [California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout](#), the [Ocean Science Trust](#), the [Dungeness Crab Task Force](#), and the [State Aquaculture Program](#).

Senator Barry Keene was a freshman Assemblymember [in 1973 when Bill Grader, Zeke's father, approached him about holding a meeting between fishermen and legislators](#). According to Senator Keene, "the first Forum was open warfare. Now many of the issues that separated people have been resolved through the process, although the Forums still get heated. The fishermen often say they are not great orators, but in fact, their colorful prose descriptions make them wonderful storytellers. Eventually we learned a powerful lesson from the Forums – that if you can get together on issues you can multiply your political leverage." The Forum eventually led to the formation of the [Joint Legislative Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) via [Senate Concurrent Resolution in 1981](#). Now nearly 50 years later, the traditional hearing continues to be a vibrant venue for cross-cutting discussion of ocean and coastal issues that impact virtually every Californian.

Additional information including links to: the agenda, press releases, articles about the hearing, live stream links, and presenter biographies can be viewed at the [committee web site](#) under the ["2021 hearings"](#) heading.

Please contact [Noah Oppenheim](#), Interim Consultant, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture for more information.