



KOANEE POWER
P.O. BOX 3857 MERCED, CA 95344-1857

THE KOKANEE KRONICLE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOKANEE POWER

LETTERS TO THE COMMISSION

BY: WES HAMASAKI

As the 2013 kokanee season has come to a close, it's always nice to recap and be thankful for the great memories over the last eight months. Some examples could be the fishing trips with family and friends, the hysterical laughter shared on the boat, the "hot" lures from this season, and personal best achievements that may have happened such as the biggest kokanee, derby finishes, or even how fast limits were taken. It is these memories that will stay with us until next spring when we will get the opportunity to duel with these miraculous game fish once again.

However, with the memories, kokanee anglers also have questions that will go unanswered until the next spring. The biggest question is most likely how big the kokanee will be at our favorite fisheries? Will the kokanee be 10 inches long or will they be 16 inches? Over the last few years, with the exception of Lake Berryessa, the majority of our kokanee fisheries have been plagued by small fish largely due to the overpopulation. We as kokanee anglers can do something about this!

Change doesn't come from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Change comes to it!

In [February's](#) installment of the Kokanee Kronicle, there was an article entitled "Make a Difference in Fishing Regulations." Within this article, it outlined the process of how to participate in the DFW's sport fishing regulatory process. We have a voice, and we have the ability to make those changes!

At a high level, recommendations for sport fishing regulations originate from the public, department staff, the Fish and Wildlife Commission, Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commissions, and local governments. These recommendations are then evaluated within the appropriate DFW region and by the Fisheries Management Committee. If the proposal passes evaluation, DFW prepares a regulation change recommendation for the Fish and Wildlife Commission to consider. Through a series of meetings held by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the public has the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation change. At the end of the public process, the Fish and Wildlife Commission may approve the regulation change.

In order to alleviate the overpopulation of kokanee, there are two potential solutions:

1. Increase the kokanee limits to 10 per person
2. Make the kokanee possession limits consistent across all regions

On the next couple pages are two sample letters for each of these proposed solutions. I highly encourage everyone to write their own and submit it to the California Fish and Game Commission. There are two addresses. I recommend sending your letters to both to ensure the letters are received. The two addresses are below:

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Send in a proposal today!

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS OF THE KOKANEE KRONICLE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:

<http://www.kokaneepower.org>

OR



Search "Kokanee Power" on Facebook

September 20, 2013

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Increase per Person Bag Limit

To whom it may concern:

My name is Wes Hamasaki, and I am a Director on the Board for Central California Inland Fisheries, Kokanee & Salmon Foundation, Inc (DBA Kokanee Power). I have been fishing for nearly three decades, and kokanee fishing has been and continues to be a large part of my life. I am writing to you in regards to the current situation of California's kokanee fishery. Our cherished lakes are suffering from an overpopulation of kokanee which I feel is stunting the growth of kokanee and having direct detrimental impact on local economies, organizations like Kokanee Power who are trying to help enhance the fishery, and ultimately the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

As I look back at past childhood photos from the late '80s and early '90s, I reminisce about the two to four pound kokanee that my family and I used to catch in our favorite Northern California bodies of impoundments such as Stampede and Lake Tahoe. As a young child at the time, I wish I had the awareness to appreciate the quality of the fish in those days. However, I would not have thought that over the years, the fishery would decline to what it is today – small kokanee plaguing our lakes and reservoirs. Due to the size of our state's kokanee, local economies such as the town of Angels Camp, for example, are suffering. Families are not taking weekend trips or vacations to these lakes to go fishing as they cannot justify the costs to catch such a limited number of kokanee. Instead, they are traveling to Oregon or as far as Wyoming to catch world class kokanee in excess of five pounds or to lakes where the limits are up to 25 fish per day. This is revenue that California is losing to other states. Organizations such as Kokanee Power are also being negatively affected because the lack of enthusiasm towards kokanee fishing has decreased interest in the fishery. As a result, there is less money raised to supplement the inland fisheries including kokanee. In turn, that is less money for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enhance and sustain California's inland fisheries.

In order to generate more interest in California's kokanee fishing, support local economies, and ultimately help the Department of Fish and Wildlife, ***I would like the Department to consider increasing the daily bag limit of kokanee from five per day to 10 per day.*** This in turn will help with the overpopulation of kokanee as there will be less competition for food and fewer kokanee to reproduce naturally, if that should occur. I hope this change will be considered. Please contact me if a further discussion is warranted. My contact information is below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wes Hamasaki
<< address >>
<< city / state / zip >>
<< email >>
<< phone number >>

September 6, 2013

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Make Kokanee Possession Limits Consistent Across All Regions

To whom it may concern:

My name is Wes Hamasaki, and I am a Director on the Board for Central California Inland Fisheries, Kokanee & Salmon Foundation, Inc (DBA Kokanee Power). I am writing to you not only as an inland fisheries advocate but also as a concerned kokanee angler with regard to the current situation of California's kokanee fishery. Our lakes are being plagued with an overpopulation of kokanee which I feel is inhibiting the growth of kokanee and having unfavorable impacts on local economies, organizations like Kokanee Power who are trying to help enhance the fishery, and ultimately the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Growing up, and even now, some of my favorite lakes to fish for kokanee are New Melones, Don Pedro, and Pardee. Ironically, these are lakes that I cannot consider taking long weekend trips to over the summer because of the possession limit of only five kokanee. This possession limit has a direct correlation to the overpopulation of kokanee and the decrease in size. The low possession limits prevent more kokanee from being taken. Also, this prevents anglers from even considering certain lakes. Why spend \$150 in fuel to travel to a lake with only a five possession limit instead of traveling to a lake the same distance and you can have a 10 possession limit for a weekend? Local economies such as the town of Angels Camp are suffering. Families are not taking weekend trips or vacations to these lakes to go fishing as they cannot justify the costs to catch such a limited number of kokanee. As an extreme, anglers are traveling to Oregon where the limits are more lax. This is revenue that California is losing. Organizations such as Kokanee Power are also being affected because the lack of enthusiasm towards Kokanee fishing has decreased. As a result, there is less money raised to support the Kokanee fishery. In turn, that is less money for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to enhance and sustain California's inland fisheries.

In order to generate more interest in California's kokanee fishing, support local economies, and ultimately help the Department of Fish and Wildlife, ***I would like the Department to consider making the 10 kokanee in possession limit consistent across all regions.*** The overpopulation of kokanee will diminish as there will be less competition for food and less kokanee to reproduce naturally, if that should occur. I hope this change will be considered. Please contact me if a further discussion is warranted. My contact information is below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wes Hamasaki
<< address >>
<< city / state / zip >>
<< email >>
<< phone number >>