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Salmon & Steelhead Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Salmon and Steelhead Coalition Applauds Governor Newsom for Signing AB 809 into Law

Sacramento, CA - The California Salmon and Steelhead Coalition, a partnership comprised of California Trout, The Nature Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited, welcomes the signing of AB 809 (Bennett, D-Ventura) into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. This important legislation formally codifies the existing California Monitoring Program (CMP) within the Department of Fish and Wildlife which monitors California's native salmon and steelhead trout populations over the long term.

AB 809 will allow the Legislature to appropriate funding directly to the California Monitoring Program, which the state has operated for over ten years using less predictable funding sources such as federal grants and state ballot measures.

The CMP – formerly known as the Coastal Monitoring Program – was created to measure the recovery of endangered anadromous fish species, including Chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead. The Program originally started in selected watersheds along the California coast, and was later expanded to include some anadromous rivers of the Central Valley. Population and habitat data collected through the CMP is used to assess the efficacy of habitat protection and restoration investments, track and demonstrate the progress of salmon and steelhead restoration and recovery efforts, and make informed decisions regarding the future of a species' recovery plans.

“We would like to extend our gratitude to Assemblymember Bennet for championing this bill and to Governor Gavin Newsom for signing it into law. This collaborative effort represents a significant stride towards a sustainable future for salmon and steelhead in California” said Redgie Collins, Legal and Policy Director for California Trout.

“Salmon and steelhead are indicator species. Their health is directly linked to the health of our watersheds. Understanding how these species are doing allows us to better manage and protect healthy river systems,” said Matt Clifford, California Director of Law and Policy, Trout Unlimited



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Megan Cleveland from TNC stated, "This legislation reflects California's unwavering commitment to preserving our natural heritage. Our rivers, salmon, and steelhead are integral to our state's identity, and with AB 809, we are taking a vital step towards securing their future."

For more information about the California Salmon and Steelhead Coalition and our mission, please visit www.casalmonandsteelhead.org