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## Rigs to Reefs Legislation on Arnold's Desk

August 31, 2010, Sacramento: Today the California legislature has sent AB 2503, commonly referred to as the "Rigs to Reefs" bill, to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his signature. The legislation would permit leaving in place the incredible marine habitat that has evolved under offshore oil platforms, if this can be shown to provide a positive environmental value. This landmark legislation has moved through both the California Senate and Assembly with broad support from legislators on both sides of the aisle, collecting but one single nay in the many committee and floor votes. Assembly Speaker John Perez authored the legislation that provides incentives for early decommissioning of offshore platforms, allows for the maintenance of the vibrant habitat beneath the structures and creates an independent ocean trust fund earmarked for California marine resources.

"AB 2503 does an incredible job of providing habitat for a number of California's at-risk fish populations and at the same time will provide an awesome marine legacy for the governor and legislators. This bill will create an endowment to help fund the management and enhancement that our marine resources desperately need", said Tom Raftican, president of The Sportfishing Conservancy. He added, "Recreational anglers have worked hard for this win-win solution and we urge the governor to sign this incredible legacy into law. Please tell Governor Schwarzenegger that you are a fisherman and ask him to sign AB 2503".

To send an email to the governor go to:

<http://gov.ca.gov/interact>

To write the governor:  
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
To call the governor:  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-558-3160