



**State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ocean Salmon Project – Marine Region**
www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon

April 2016 Ocean Salmon Sport Regulations*

OR/CA Border to Horse Mountain:

- ◆ Closed (season will be decided in April)

Horse Mountain to Point Arena (Fort Bragg):

- ◆ Opens April 2-30, 2016
 - minimum size limit: 20 inches total length
 - daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho

Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco):

- ◆ Opens April 2-30, 2016
 - minimum size limit: 24 inches total length
 - daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho

Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey and south):

- ◆ Opens April 2-30, 2016
 - minimum size limit: 24 inches total length
 - daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except coho



* Regulations effective on or after May 1 will be decided by the California Fish and Game Commission and the Pacific Fishery Management Council in April 2016.

General Sport Regulations

- **Retention of coho salmon or steelhead trout is prohibited in any ocean fishery.**
- **Possession limit:** No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit.
- **Salmon may not be filleted on any boat or prior to being brought ashore.**
- **Salmon may only be taken by angling as defined in Section 1.05.** No sinkers or weights exceeding 4 lbs may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line & the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked.
- **North of Point Conception:** No more than two single-point, single-shank barbless hooks shall be used & no more than one rod per angler when fishing for salmon or fishing from a boat with salmon on board.
- **Horse Mountain to Point Conception:** When fishing with bait and angling by any means other than TROLLING¹, no more than two single-point, single-shank barbless circle hooks² shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed 5 inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied).
 - Note:** These special gear restrictions apply to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.
 1. TROLLING is defined as angling from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions.
 2. A CIRCLE HOOK is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90-degree angle.

Recovery of coded-wire tag from salmon head: Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag (§1.73).