

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 6-7, 2017

7. SPORT FISHING**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Adopt proposed changes to sport fishing regulations for 2018

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Notice hearing Aug 16-17, 2017; Sacramento
- Discussion hearing Oct 11-12, 2017; Atascadero
- **Today's Adoption hearing Dec 6-7, 2017; San Diego**

Background

Proposed regulation changes for the 2017 sport fishing season include both DFW and public recommendations in the following substantive changes to current regulations:

- Rock Creek (Shasta County) closure to protect Shasta crayfish
- Clarification of no take of salmon in the Sacramento and McCloud rivers and tributaries above Shasta Lake
- American River (Nimbus Basin) fishing closure
- Artificial lure and bait definition changes: amend multiple sections in Title 14 to align with the new definitions
- Allow bow and arrow fishing for catfish
- Revise low flow closure time period in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties to align with the adult steelhead season
- Add Rock Creek to the list of waters where take of crayfish is prohibited
- Steelhead report and restoration card requirements
- Sport fishing report card requirements
- Restrict leader length to less than six feet to reduce potential foul-hooking (snagging) of salmon and steelhead
- Updates to authority and reference citations based on recent legislation

FGC staff concurs with a concern raised at the Oct 2017 discussion hearing, that proposed changes to Section 1.74 would affect ocean sport fishing, but that vetting and notice did not include MRC or marine stakeholders. DFW submitted a pre-adoption statement of reasons (PSOR; Exhibit 3) supporting all of the proposed changes except for Section 1.74, for which it recommends the no change alternative so that the proposed change may be properly vetted by all interested parties (see significant public comments).

A negative declaration was filed with the California State Clearinghouse and the required 30-day review was completed on Nov 16, 2017; no comments were received. (Exhibit 4).

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 6-7, 2017

Significant Public Comments

1. During oral testimony at the Oct 11, 2017 discussion hearing, Wayne Kotow asked why Section 1.74 was only listed as an amendment to inland fishing when it would also affect duplicate report cards for ocean sport fishing. FGC staff and DFW concur with the concern.
2. Opposition to closing the Nimbus Basin to fishing on the American River, which is a very popular fishing spot (Exhibit 5). DFW has responded that the closure of the Nimbus Basin is necessary to protect Chinook salmon and steelhead runs for the future; with the placement of the fish ladder being moved to the south side base of Nimbus Dam, it is critical that fish are protected and provided the opportunity to enter the hatchery or spawn in the recently replaced gravel habitat.
3. Opposition to the leader length proposal because it will negatively affect fly fishermen from legally targeting steelhead, and ultimately lead to a loss of revenue for local guides and businesses; recommends allowing fly fishermen to use a leader over six feet long so long as they have a float/strike indicator attached to the leader, which will eliminate the problem of flossing (Exhibit 6). DFW has responded that the proposed regulation exempts integrated and sinking fly lines from being considered as weight, and that fly anglers will be able to use weighted flies and long leaders; however, it would be unlawful if the distance from any weight (as defined) is longer than six feet.

Recommendation

FGC staff: Adopt the proposed changes as recommended by DFW.

DFW: Adopt all of the proposed changes, except adopt the “no change” alternative for Section 1.74.

Exhibits

1. [Initial statement of reasons](#)
2. [DFW transmittal memo, received Nov 20, 2017](#)
3. [PSOR](#)
4. [State Clearinghouse letter and negative declaration, dated Nov 16, 2017](#)
5. [Email from Bob Hoppy, received Oct 19, 2017](#)
6. [Email from Kevin Okawa, received Oct 20, 2017](#)
7. [DFW presentation](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission finds the negative declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Commission, adopts the declaration, and adopts proposed changes to inland sport fishing regulations, with the exception of Section 1.74 where the Commission adopts the “no change” alternative.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Sections 1.05, 1.11, 1.18, 1.61, 1.74, 2.10, 2.25, 5.35, 5.41, 5.88,
Subsection (b) of Section 7.00, Subsection (b) of Section 7.50,
and Subsection (b) of Section 8.00; Repeal Section 1.60;
and Add Section 2.05,
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: June 2, 2017

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| (a) | Notice Hearing: | Date: | August 16, 2017 |
| | | Location: | Sacramento |
| (b) | Discussion Hearing: | Date: | October 11, 2017 |
| | | Location: | Atascadero |
| (c) | Adoption Hearing: | Date: | December 6, 2017 |
| | | Location: | San Diego |

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal combines Department and public requests for changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the 2017 Sport Fishing Regulations Review Cycle. This proposal will reduce foul-hooking of salmon, protect Shasta crayfish, protect salmon released above Shasta Dam, clarify regulations for artificial lures and bait, increase protection for Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, increase bow fishing opportunities, update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

ROCK CREEK (SHASTA COUNTY) CLOSURE TO PROTECT SHASTA CRAYFISH

Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) is listed as an Endangered Species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.)(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5(B)) and the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)(53 Fed.Reg. 38460-38465 (1988)). The current distribution for Shasta crayfish includes small and isolated spring fed areas in the Fall and Pit River drainages (Shasta County). Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, was historically occupied by Shasta crayfish and was recently restored to provide refuge for and aid in the survival of the species. The Department is proposing to close Rock Creek to all fishing all year from Rock Creek spring downstream to Baum Lake. This proposal will aid in the protection of Shasta crayfish and its habitat.

Proposal: Add new subsection (b)(151.5) to Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Add Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, to the Special Fishing Regulations with an all year fishing closure to protect Shasta crayfish.

CLARIFICATION OF NO TAKE OF SALMON IN THE SACRAMENTO AND MCCLOUD RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE SHASTA LAKE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are conducting feasibility studies for the reintroduction of winter-run and spring-run Chinook Salmon into the McCloud and Sacramento rivers. As part of a Fish Passage Pilot Project, federal agencies will be introducing an experimental release of Chinook Salmon into the Sacramento and McCloud drainages starting in 2017 or 2018 and continuing indefinitely. It is imperative that these rivers and their tributaries above Shasta Lake be closed to salmon fishing to reduce salmon loss and increase the success of the Fish Passage Pilot Project.

Proposal: Add new language to Section 7.00, District General Regulations, and to subsection (b)(115), McCloud River, in Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations.

Amend the Sierra District Regulations to clarify that all rivers and associated tributaries above Shasta Lake are closed to the take of salmon, and amend subsection (b)(115) to Section 7.50 to direct readers to the District General Regulations. These changes will protect Chinook Salmon when they are reintroduced into the upper Sacramento and McCloud rivers above the Shasta Lake.

AMERICAN RIVER (NIMBUS BASIN) FISHING CLOSURE

Under current regulations, the American River (in Sacramento County) from Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers is open to fishing all year (Section 7.50(b)(5)(A)), and from the Hazel Avenue bridge piers to the U.S. Geological

Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish weir is open to fishing January 1 through August 15 (Section 7.50(b)(5)(B)). The current request for closure is designed to protect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout, which will utilize this section of the river for both in-river spawning and rearing along with essential hatchery operations.

The BOR and the Department have completed a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage Project (Project). The primary goal of the Project is to maintain a fully functional system of collecting adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout sufficient to meet the hatchery's mitigation goals. Phase 1 of the Project extends the Nimbus Hatchery fish ladder 1500 feet (.30 miles) upstream into the Nimbus Basin. With the completion of the new fish ladder, Phase 2 of the Project will permanently remove the existing Nimbus Hatchery fish weir, and spawning gravel injections will be completed within the section of river associated with Section 7.50 (b)(5)(B). A gravel restoration and side channel creation project to create spawning and rearing habitat in the Nimbus Basin was completed in 2014.

However, the Project has the potential to affect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout holding, spawning, and rearing in this section of the lower American River. Under current hatchery operations, large numbers of adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout hold below the existing fish weir located below the Hazel Avenue bridge before being routed to the fish ladder located at the south end of weir. Fish that enter the hatchery that are not ripe for spawning are released back into the river through the outfall, located approximately 100 feet below the existing fish ladder. As a result, current hatchery operations utilize a small portion of the river below the weir to cycle fish in and out of the hatchery. However, once the existing fish ladder is moved upstream into the Nimbus Basin, the length of river utilized for hatchery operations will increase by approximately 1,500 feet. Upon completion of the Project, holding, spawning, and rearing Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout will distribute throughout the hatchery operations area. As a result, the entire section of river should be closed to fishing all year to ensure successful hatchery operations.

Consequently, if the area is not closed to fishing by the Fall of 2018, anglers will continue fishing in the Nimbus Basin downstream to the USGS gauging station and target holding and spawning Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout. Although Section 2.35 states that fishing shall not take place within 250 feet of a fish ladder, this would have little effect in protecting salmon and steelhead under the new configuration. The new ladder entrance would be greater than 250 feet from where salmon are expected to hold until the ladder is opened to allow salmon and steelhead into the Nimbus Hatchery. The proposed

closure would also provide the American River Trout Hatchery and Nimbus Hatchery with greater protection from contamination by the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS), which have been documented adjacent to the hatchery in Section 7.50(b)(5)(B).

Proposal: Amend subsections (b)(5)(A) and (b)(5)(B) of Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Combine subsections 7.50(b)(5)(A) and 7.50(b)(5)(B) and close this section of river to fishing all year.

ARTIFICIAL LURE AND BAIT DEFINITION CHANGES

The purpose of the regulation change is to clarify that no scents or flavors shall be used on lures on waters where only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. After consulting with wildlife officers on this subject, it has become clear there is some subjectivity in interpreting the current regulation which has resulted in inconsistency and confusion. By clarifying this definition, law enforcement will have increased success enforcing this rule and the public will have a clearer description of this rule.

The definition of a lure (Section 1.60) would be removed from the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations and only “artificial lure” would be used. With this change, three substitutions in the current regulations would need to be made: (1) Section 1.05, Angling; (2) Section 1.61, Non-buoyant Lure; and (3) Section 2.10(b)(3), Hook and Weight Restrictions. In all three sections lure would be changed to artificial lure. In addition, the definition of artificial lure would be amended to clarify that only non-scented and non-flavored lures may be used. Lastly, there is currently no definition of bait in Title 14. A definition of bait is needed to help clarify when scents and flavors can be used.

Proposal: Repeal Section 1.60, Lure; Amend Sections 1.05, Angling; 1.11, Artificial Lure; 1.61, Non-buoyant lure; and 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions; and add Section 1.18, Bait

Amend multiples sections in Title 14 to align with the new definitions for artificial lure and bait.

ALLOW BOW AND ARROW FISHING FOR CATFISH

The bow and arrow fishing community has requested the opportunity to fish for catfish in certain waters in the state. Bowfishers have expressed that they often encounter catfish in their pursuit for carp and would like to be able to take catfish as well. This request was considered by Department law enforcement and regional biologists who determined that bowfishing could be allowed on waters with large carp populations and that are popular for bowfishing. These waters include the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta, Lake Isabella in Kern County and Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County. Allowing bowfishing for catfish on these waters will increase fishing opportunities for bowfishers.

Proposal: Amend Section 2.25, Bow and Arrow Fishing

Amend Section 2.25 to allow bowfishing for bullheads and catfish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County, and Lake Isabella in Kern County.

REVISION OF MENDOCINO, SONOMA, AND MARIN COUNTIES' LOW FLOW CLOSURE TIME PERIOD TO ALIGN WITH THE ADULT STEELHEAD SEASON

Section 8.00(b) establishes a season for special low flow conditions for Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams; however, the current end date extends the length of the low flow season past the adult steelhead fishing season on most coastal streams (except Russian River) which provides an unnecessary protection and may potentially confuse anglers. The current sport fishing regulations allow fishing in coastal streams of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties from the fourth Saturday in May through March 31, except for the Russian River which is open all year. Gear restrictions change from November 1 through March 31 to accommodate fishing for adult steelhead on all Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams. There is no need for the season of special low flow conditions to extend beyond March 31, as most streams (except Russian River) are closed to any fishing from April 1 until the fourth Saturday in May, which is prior to the end of the current low flow season. The Russian River is the exception because it is open year round due to other sport fisheries such as American shad and smallmouth bass. For consistency, the Russian River should be included in this change, but it would result in the potential reduction of protected days under a low flow closure between April 1 and the fourth Saturday in May (52-57 days depending upon the calendar year). The loss of this additional protection on the Russian River is not likely to be significant as the bulk of the steelhead will have spawned and angler effort targeting steelhead will be low in the months of April and May. The steelhead population on the Russian River is also unlike other coastal streams because it is supplemented with hatchery steelhead. Additionally, the Russian River is a flow regulated stream and flows are likely to be higher in April and May than other coastal streams and less likely to be subject to a low flow closure due to water releases. Conforming the low flow closure season with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams helps simplify regulations and reduces confusion between the fishing season and low flow closure season and it would not significantly impact the Russian River steelhead population in the event of low flow conditions in the months of April and May.

Proposal: Amend Subsection (b) of Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions

Revise Section 8.00(b) to redefine the season of the Special Low Flow Conditions to coincide with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on March 31.

CRAYFISH

In alignment with the proposal to close Rock Creek to fishing to protect Shasta crayfish, Section 5.35 will need to be amended to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where take of crayfish is prohibited. Rock Creek is a tributary to Baum Lake, which is an instream lake of Hat Creek in the Hat Creek Drainage.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.35, Crayfish

Amend Section 5.35 to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where fishing for crayfish is prohibited.

STEELHEAD REPORT AND RESTORATION CARD REQUIREMENTS

Department staff reassessed the fisheries management objectives of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card and determined that the data being collected, location codes, and reporting instructions and requirements can be simplified. In order to accomplish this, verbiage within Section 5.88 must be changed.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.88, Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements

Remove reference to “wild” steelhead because it is not legal to retain a wild steelhead, and remove the requirement to report the number of hours that were fished for steelhead.

SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until for 90 days after the reporting deadline.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a duplicate, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a duplicate report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a duplicate report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a duplicate report card.

Proposal: Amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements

Amend Section 1.74 to update procedures for reporting online and for lost report cards.

RESTRICT LEADER LENGTH TO LESS THAN SIX FEET TO REDUCE POTENTIAL FOUL-HOOKING (SNAGGING) OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD

The Department and the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) have struggled for years to eliminate and/or regulate snagging salmon. This has proven difficult given that some of the spawning aggregations, habitat, and creative snagging techniques that have evolved over time. Water operations, changes in angling ethics, and population growth likely have also contributed to this ongoing problem. After struggling with these issues statewide, the Commission directed the Department to find a solution.

In 2014, the Department formulated a snagging working group to help evaluate the issue through a structured decision making process. Both Department staff and angling stakeholders participated in multiple meetings. One action resulting from this effort was a directed study to assess the efficacy of a reduced leader length in relation to the “flossing” fishing technique based angling/snagging rig. Although this technique/rig is not the only gear that can be used to purposefully foul-hook salmon, it is currently legal and very effective when used in the right habitat (Feather, American, Sacramento, Yuba, and Klamath rivers) with high densities of spawning/migrating salmon. The results of the study showed a significant correlation with foul-hooking (82-94%) regardless of the leader length and a reduction in landing rates for the shortest leader.

Proposal: Add Section 2.05 to Title 14, Leader Length Restriction

Add the leader length restriction to Title 14, Chapter 2, Article 1, to reduce foul-hooking of salmon and steelhead in anadromous waters.

Updates to Authority and Reference Citations Based on Recent Legislation

Senate Bill 1473 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 546) made organizational changes to the Fish and Game Code that became effective January 1, 2017. The changes included moving the Commission’s exemptions from specified Administrative Procedure Act time frames from Section 202 to Section 265 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission’s organization and meeting from Section 206 to Section 110 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission’s effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, and moving the Commission’s authority to adopt emergency regulations from Section 240 to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code. In accordance with these changes to the Fish and Game Code, sections 202, 206, 215, and 240 are removed from, and sections 110, 265, 270, and 399 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking. Senate Bill 1473 also repealed subdivision (b) of Section 220 of the Fish and Game Code; therefore, Section 220 is removed from the list of authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265, 270, 315, 316.5, 399, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7380 and 8491, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 206, 255, 265, 270, 316.5, 399, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381, 7382, 8490 and 8491, Fish and Game Code.

- (c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

- (d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

None.

- (e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

No public meetings are scheduled prior to the notice publication. The 45-day public notice comment period provides adequate time for review of the

proposed changes.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

Smith River Petition

Petition #2016-023; received by the Commission at its Oct 2016 meeting; at Dec 2016 meeting Commission granted petition for consideration in the 2017 rulemaking for the 2018-19 season.

Petitioner recommends that the Department ban the use of roe as bait for fishing for salmon and steelhead. Petitioner also recommends closing the middle and south forks of the Smith River to fishing in November and December to protect spawning salmon.

Department Response

The current Smith River fishing regulations provide for protection of salmon and steelhead. The Smith River special fishing regulations include limited harvest, seasonal closures, a permanent section closure, and restricted angling gear (Section 7.50(b)(180)). The proposed fishing regulation changes listed in the petition (2016-023) show a local concern for the sport salmon fishery, but are unlikely to achieve the desired outcome based on past and current fish monitoring data for the Smith River. For example, the salmon trends in the Smith River do not indicate a declining trend over time, but show a stable population with normal variability (USFS 1960, Moyle 2002, Larson 2014). Alternatively, local Pacific Oceans trends, which are likely a mix of Oregon and California stocks have shown declines over time and should not be an indicator of Smith River salmon status.

As noted in the petition, hooking mortality as described in the “1997/98 Smith River Survey Summary” report did indicate a 26% swallowing rate for bait and 0% for flies, but the following year 1998/99 Sparkman (2000) indicated 17% of fly caught fish swallowed the hook. While there is no doubt that fish may swallow a hook with any angling method used, the annual variability described in these studies leads to some uncertainty about targeting specific gear types and expectations. In addition, the angler surveys grouped steelhead and salmon together comparing hook swallowing, although steelhead represented the majority of the catch (70-83%) in all years (petitioner is concerned about salmon hook swallowing).

While the Department agrees there are salmon spawning above the “forks” of the Smith River, mainstem Middle and South fork access is mainly limited to shore anglers as drift boats face harsher drift/water

conditions and typical do not fish above the forks. The proposed area/seasonal closure would be targeting a specific user group with no substantial evidence to support the perceived protection for salmon during this time.

Striped Bass Petition

Petition #2016-003; received by the Commission at its Feb 2016 meeting; at April 2016 meeting Commission granted petition for consideration in the 2017 rulemaking for the 2018-19 season.

The petitioner requests a change to the bag, possession, and size limits for striped bass on the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and Highway 140 in Fresno, Madera, and Merced counties. Petitioner recommends increasing the daily bag limit for striped bass to 10, with no size limit in the San Joaquin River.

Department Response

The Department does not support the proposal because it will not likely accomplish the overall intended purpose, increase juvenile salmon survival at a level of statistical significance, given striped bass life history (ability to recolonize) and lack of prey preference. The confounding part of the striped bass predation issue relative to the San Joaquin River and its tributaries is that, pending location, there can exist both resident and anadromous populations of striped bass. Though the resident population is reduced, in theory, with greater harvest, the anadromous population can overcome any reductions made to resident populations thereby negating any population reduction effects.

Spearfishing Petition

Petition #2016-006; received by the Commission at its Jun 2016 meeting; at Aug 2016 meeting Commission granted petition for consideration in the 2017 rulemaking for the 2018-19 season.

The petitioner requests that the Department make the freshwater spearfishing regulations the same as the freshwater bow and arrow fishing regulations.

Department Response

The Department does not support this proposal because of the safety issues associated with spearfishing as well as potential conflicts with other more common angling and recreational activities. In addition, extensive evaluations would need to be conducted to determine impacts to lakes and streams due to year-round spearfishing. Furthermore, with the current spearfishing regulations, there are already rules and regulations in place at lakes and rivers that are under the jurisdiction of federal, local,

and state agencies, and private organizations that do not permit the use of weapons upon those lands. Allowing the proposal would certainly convolute the new regulation (as it already has) and will not be consistent with what is already established by these organizations.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would leave existing regulations in place.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The Department assessed the potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action, and made the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action is not anticipated to have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the expected impact of the proposed regulations on the amount of fishing activity is anticipated to be minimal relative to recreational angling effort statewide.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the

State's Environment:

The expected impact of the proposed regulations on the amount of fishing activity is anticipated to be minimal relative to recreational angling effort statewide. Therefore, the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing business or the expansion of businesses in California.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a salmon and trout sport fishery encourages consumption of a nutritious food.

The Commission does not anticipate any non-monetary benefits to worker safety.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's sport fishing resources.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment:

The proposed regulations will revise and update inland sport fishing regulations starting in 2018. Currently, the seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits for sport fishing are periodically reviewed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the California Fish and Game Commission. This set of amendments will reduce foul-hooking of salmon, protect Shasta crayfish, protect salmon released above Shasta Dam, clarify regulations for artificial lures and bait, increase protection for Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, increasing bow fishing opportunities, update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections.

Inland sport fishing regulation's affected parties include recreational anglers, commercial passenger fishing vessels and a variety of businesses that support anglers. The economic impact of regulatory changes for sport fisheries are estimated by tracking resulting changes in fishing effort, angler trips and length of stay in the fishery areas. Distance traveled affects gas and other travel expenditures. Day trips and overnight trips involve different levels of spending for gas, food and accommodations at area businesses as well as different levels of sales tax impacts. Direct expenditures ripple through the economy, as receiving businesses buy intermediate goods from suppliers that then spend that revenue again. Business spending on wages is received by workers who then spend that income, some of which goes to local businesses. Recreational fisheries spending thus multiplies throughout the economy with the indirect and induced effects of the initial direct expenditure.

The adoption of scientifically-based regulations provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of inland sport fish to ensure their continued existence and future sport fishing opportunities that in turn support businesses related to the fishery economy.

The most recent 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation in California reports about 1.35 million resident and nonresident inland sport fish anglers contributed about \$1.2 billion in trip and equipment expenditures to the State's economy. With the addition of the indirect and induced effects of this \$1.2 billion direct revenue contribution, the total economic benefit to California's economy is estimated to be about \$2.03 billion. This corresponds with about \$960 million in total wages to Californians and about 16,000 jobs in the State annually.

This regulatory action may impact businesses that provide services to sport fishermen but these effects are anticipated to range from none to small positive

impacts, depending on the regulations ultimately adopted by the Commission. Sport fishing business owners, boat owners, tackle store owners, boat manufacturers, vendors of food, bait, fuel and lodging, and others that provide goods or services to those that sport fish in California may be positively affected to some degree from increases to business that may result under the range of proposed regulations. These anticipated impacts may vary by geographic location. Additionally, economic impacts to these same businesses may result from a number of factors unrelated to the proposed changes to inland sport fishing regulations, including weather, fuel prices, and success rates in other recreational fisheries that compete for angler trips.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are estimated to be neutral to job elimination and potentially positive to job creation in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral to business elimination and have potentially positive impacts to the creation of businesses in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State:

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral to positive to the expansion of businesses currently doing business in California. No significant changes in fishing effort and inland sport fishing expenditures to businesses are expected as a direct result of the proposed regulation changes.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents:

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Trout and salmon are a nutritious food source and increasing inland sport fishery opportunities encourages consumption of this nutritious food. Sport fishing also contributes to increased mental

health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to impact worker safety conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

It is the policy of the state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all its citizens and to promote the development of local California fisheries. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual sport fishery bag limits in the quantity that is sufficient to provide a satisfying sport. Adoption of scientifically-based inland trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal combines Department and public requests for changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the 2017 Sport Fishing Regulations Review Cycle. This proposal will reduce foul-hooking of salmon, protect Shasta crayfish, protect salmon released above Shasta Dam, clarify regulations for artificial lures and bait, increase protection for Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, increasing bow fishing opportunities, update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

ROCK CREEK (SHASTA COUNTY) CLOSURE TO PROTECT SHASTA CRAYFISH

Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) is listed as an Endangered Species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.)(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5(B)) and the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)(53 Fed.Reg. 38460-38465 (1988)). The current distribution for Shasta crayfish includes small and isolated spring fed areas in the Fall and Pit River drainages (Shasta County). Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, was historically occupied by Shasta crayfish and was recently restored to provide refuge for and aid in the survival of the species. The Department is proposing to close Rock Creek to all fishing all year from Rock Creek spring downstream to Baum Lake. The proposed closure will protect Shasta crayfish and its habitat.

Proposal: Add subsection (b)(151.5) to Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Add Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, to the Special Fishing Regulations with an all year fishing closure to protect Shasta crayfish.

CLARIFICATION OF NO TAKE OF SALMON IN THE SACRAMENTO AND MCCLOUD RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE SHASTA LAKE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are conducting feasibility studies for the reintroduction of winter and spring-run Chinook Salmon into the McCloud and Sacramento rivers. As part of a Fish Passage Pilot Project, federal agencies will be introducing an experimental release of Chinook Salmon into the Sacramento and McCloud drainages starting in 2017 or 2018 and continuing indefinitely. It is imperative that these rivers and their tributaries above Shasta Lake are closed to salmon fishing to reduce salmon loss and increase the success of the Fish Passage Project.

Proposal: Add new language to Subsection (b) of Section 7.00, District General Regulations, and to subsection (b)(115), McCloud River, in Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations.

Amend the Sierra District Regulations to clarify that all rivers and associated tributaries above Shasta Lake are closed to the take of salmon, and amend subsection (b)(115) of Section 7.50 to direct readers to the District General Regulations. These changes will protect Chinook Salmon when they are reintroduced into the upper Sacramento and McCloud rivers above the Shasta Lake.

AMERICAN RIVER (NIMBUS BASIN) FISHING CLOSURE

Under current regulations, the American River (in Sacramento County) from Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers is open to fishing all year (Section 7.50 (b)(5)(A)), and from the Hazel Avenue bridge piers to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish weir is open to fishing January 1 through August 15 (Section 7.50(b)(5)(B)). The current request for closure is designed to protect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout, which will utilize this section of the river for both in-river spawning and rearing along with essential hatchery operations.

The BOR and the Department have completed a joint EIS/EIR for the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage Project (Project). The primary goal of the Project is to maintain a fully functional system of collecting adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout sufficient to meet the hatchery's mitigation goals. Phase 1 of the Project extends the Nimbus Hatchery fish ladder 1500 feet (.30 miles) upstream into the Nimbus Basin. With the completion of the new fish ladder, Phase 2 of the Project will permanently remove the existing Nimbus Hatchery fish weir, and spawning gravel injections will be completed within the section of river associated with section 7.50(b)(5)(B). A gravel restoration and side channel creation project to create spawning and rearing habitat in the Nimbus Basin was completed in 2014.

However, the Project has the potential to affect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout holding, spawning, and rearing in this section of the lower American River. Additionally, under current hatchery operations, large numbers of adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout hold below the existing fish weir located below the Hazel Avenue bridge before being routed to the fish ladder located at the south end of weir. Fish that enter the hatchery that are not ripe for spawning are released back into the river through the outfall, located approximately 100 feet below the existing fish ladder. As a result, current hatchery operations utilize a small portion of the river below the weir to cycle fish in and out of the hatchery. However, once the existing fish ladder is moved upstream into the Nimbus Basin, the length of river utilized for hatchery operations will increase by approximately 1,500 feet. With completion of the Project, holding, spawning, and rearing Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout will distribute throughout the hatchery operations area. As a result, the entire section of river should be close to fishing all year to ensure successful hatchery operations.

Consequently, if the regulations are not changed by the Fall of 2018, anglers will continue fishing in the Nimbus Basin downstream to the USGS gauging station and

target holding and spawning Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout. Although Section 2.35 states that fishing shall not take place within 250 feet of a fish ladder, this would have little effect in protecting salmon and steelhead under the new configuration. The new ladder entrance would be greater than 250 feet from where salmon are expected to hold until the ladder is opened to allow salmon and steelhead into the Nimbus Hatchery. The regulation change would also provide the American River Trout Hatchery and Nimbus Hatchery with greater protection from contamination by the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS), which have been documented adjacent to the hatchery in Section 7.50(b)(5)(B).

Proposal: Amend subsections (b)(5)(A) and (b)(5)(B) of Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Combine subsections 7.50(b)(5)(A) and 7.50(b)(5)(B) and close this section of river to fishing all year.

ARTIFICIAL LURE AND BAIT DEFINITION CHANGES

The purpose of the regulation change is to clarify that no scents or flavors shall be used on lures on waters where only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. After consulting with wildlife officers on this subject, it has become clear there is some subjectivity in interpreting the current regulation which has resulted in inconsistency and confusion. By clarifying this definition, enforcement will have a lesser problem enforcing this rule and the public will have a clearer description of this rule.

The definition of a lure (Section 1.60) would be removed from the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations and only “artificial lure” would be used. With this change, three substitutions in the current regulations would need to be made: (1) Section 1.05 Angling; (2) Section 1.61, Non-buoyant Lure; and (3) Section 2.10(3), Hook and Weight Restrictions. In all three sections lure would be changed to artificial lure. In addition, the definition of artificial lure would be amended to clarify that only non-scented and non-flavored lures may be used. Lastly, there is currently no definition of bait in Title 14. A definition of bait is needed to help clarify when scents and flavors can be used.

Proposal: Repeal Section 1.60, Amend Section 1.11, Artificial Lure, and add Section 1.18, Bait

Amend the current definition of artificial lure and add a definition of bait.

ALLOW BOW AND ARROW FISHING FOR CATFISH

The bow and arrow fishing community has requested the opportunity to fish for catfish in certain waters in the state. Bowfishers have expressed that they often encounter catfish in their pursuit for carp and would like to be able to take catfish as well. This request was considered by CDFW law enforcement and regional biologists who determined that bowfishing for bullhead and catfish could be allowed on waters with large carp populations and that are popular for bowfishing. These waters include the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta, Lake Isabella in Kern County and Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino

County. Allowing bowfishing for catfish on these waters will increase fishing opportunities for bowfishers.

Proposal: Amend Section 2.25, Bow and Arrow Fishing

Amend Section 2.25 to allow bowfishing for bullhead and catfish in the Delta, Big Bear Lake, and Lake Isabel.

REVISION OF MENDOCINO, SONOMA, AND MARIN COUNTIES LOW FLOW CLOSURE TIME PERIOD TO ALING WITH THE ADULT STEELHEAD SEASON

Section 8.00(b) established a season for special low flow conditions for Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams; however, the current end date extends the length of the low flow season past the adult steelhead fishing season on most coastal stream (except Russian River) which provides an unnecessary protection and may potentially confuse anglers. The current sport fishing regulations provides fishing in coastal streams of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties from the fourth Saturday in May through March 31, except for the Russian River which is open all year. Gear restrictions change from November 1 through March 31, to accommodate fishing for adult steelhead on all Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams. There is no need for the season of special low flow conditions to extend beyond March 31, as most streams (except Russian River) are closed to any fishing from April 1 until the fourth Saturday in May, which is prior to the end of the current low flow season. The Russian River is the exception because it is open year round due to other sport fisheries such as American shad and smallmouth bass. For consistency, the Russian River should be included in this change, but it would result in the potential reduction of protected days under a low flow closure between April 1 and the fourth Saturday in May (52-57 days depending upon the calendar year). The loss of this additional protection on the Russian River is not likely to be significant as the bulk of the steelhead will have spawned and angler effort targeting steelhead will be low in the months of April and May. The steelhead population on the Russian River is also unlike other coastal streams because it is supplemented with hatchery steelhead. Additionally, the Russian River is a flow regulated stream and flows are likely to be higher in April and May than other coastal streams and less likely to be subject to a low flow closure due to water releases. Conforming the low flow closure season with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams helps simplify regulations and reduces confusion between the fishing season and low flow closure season and it would not significantly impact the Russian River steelhead population in the event of low flow conditions in the months of April and May.

Proposal: Amend Subsection (b) of Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions

Revise Section 8.00 (b) to redefine the season of the Special Low Flow Conditions to coincide with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on March 31.

CRAYFISH

In alignment with the proposal to close Rock Creek to fishing to protect Shasta crayfish, Section 5.35 would need to be amended to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where

take of crayfish is prohibited. Rock Creek is in the Hat Creek Drainage in Shasta County.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.35, Crayfish

Amend Section 5.35 to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where fishing for crayfish is prohibited.

STEELHEAD REPORT AND RESTORATION CARD REQUIREMENTS

Department staff reassessed the fisheries management objectives of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card and determined that the data being collected, location codes, and reporting instructions and requirements can be simplified. In order to accomplish this, verbiage within Section 5.88 must be changed.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.88, Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements

Remove reference to “wild” steelhead because it is not legal to retain a wild steelhead, and remove the requirement to report the number of hours that were fished for steelhead.

SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

CCR Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until for 90 days after the reporting deadline.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a duplicate, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a duplicate report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a duplicate report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a duplicate report card.

Proposal: Amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements

Amend Section 1.74 to update procedures for reporting online and for lost report cards.

RESTRICT LEADER LENGTH TO LESS THAN SIX FEET TO REDUCE POTENTIAL FOUL-HOOKING (SNAGGING) OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD

The Department and the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) have struggled for years to eliminate and/or regulate snagging salmon. This has proven difficult given some of the spawning aggregations, habitat, and creative snagging techniques that have evolved over time. Water operations, changes in angling ethics, and population growth likely have also contributed to this ongoing problem. After struggling with these issues statewide, the Commission directed the Department to find a solution.

In 2014, the Department formulated a snagging working group to help evaluate the issue through a structured decision making process. Department staff and angling stakeholders participated in multiple meetings. One action resulting from this effort was a directed study to assess the efficacy of a reduced leader length in relation to the “flossing” fishing techniques based angling/snagging rig. Although this technique/rig is not the only gear that can be used to purposefully foul-hook salmon, it is currently legal and very effective when used in the right habitat (Feather, American, Sacramento, Yuba, and Klamath rivers) with high densities of spawning/migrating salmon. The results of the study showed a significant correlation with foul-hooking (82-94%) regardless of the leader length and a reduction in landing rates for the shortest leader.

Proposal: Add Section 2.05 to Title 14, Leader Length Restriction

Add the leader length restriction to Title 14, Chapter 2, Article 1, to reduce foul-hooking of salmon and steelhead in anadromous waters.

Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California’s trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

Regulatory Language

Section 1.05, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 1.05. Angling.

Angling means take of fish by hook and line with the line held in the hand, or with the line attached to a pole or rod held in the hand or closely attended in such manner that the fish voluntarily takes the bait or artificial lure inside its mouth.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~240~~, 219 and ~~220~~265, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 2, 15, 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~206~~, ~~215~~265 and ~~220~~270, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.11, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§1.11. Artificial Lure

~~An artificial lure is a man-made lure or fly designed to attract fish. This definition does not include scented or flavored artificial baits.~~

Any manufactured or man-made non-scented/flavored (regardless if scent is added in the manufacturing process or added afterwards) device complete with hooks, intended to attract fish. Artificial lures include, but are not limited to; spoons, spinners, artificial flies, and plugs, made of metal, plastic, wood, or other non-edible materials.

Note:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, ~~240~~, ~~249~~ and 219, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 203.1 and 5516, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.18 is added to Title 14, CCR, as follows:

§1.18. Bait.

Any natural or manufactured product or device which is used to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell, including any product or device to which scents or flavored attractants have been added or externally applied. Bait includes, but is not limited to; scented and flavored paste, scented manufactured fish eggs, and traditional organic baits such as worms, grubs, crickets, leeches, stink baits, insects, crayfish, human food, fish, fish parts, and fish eggs.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219 and Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 203.1 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.60 is repealed from Title 14, CCR, as follows:

~~§ 1.60. Lure.~~

~~A manufactured article or object equipped with one or more hooks designed to attract or catch fish.~~

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 210 and 220, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 209, 210, 215 and 220, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.61, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 1.61. Non-Buoyant Artificial Lure.

Any artificial lure that sinks in freshwater.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 210 and 220, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 209, 210, 215 and 220270, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.74, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§1.74. Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements.

(a) Purpose. These regulations are designed to improve recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fisheries operate. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

(b) Report card requirements apply to any person fishing for or taking the following species regardless of whether a sport fishing license is required:

(1) Salmon, in the anadromous waters of the Klamath, Trinity, and Smith river basins. Anadromous waters are defined in Section 1.04 of these regulations.

(2) Steelhead trout.

(3) White sturgeon.

(4) Red abalone.

(5) California spiny lobster.

(c) General Report Card Requirements.

(1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the species identified in this Section shall have in his immediate possession a valid non-transferable report card issued by the department for the particular species. See special exemption regarding possession of report cards for lobster divers in Section 29.91 of these regulations.

(2) All entries made on any report card or tag shall be legible and in indelible ink.

(3) A report card holder fishing with a one, two, or ten-day sport fishing license, may replace the expired fishing license without purchasing a new report card so long as the report card is still valid.

(4) Report cards are not transferable and shall not be transferred to another person. No person shall possess any report card other than his own.

(5) A person may only obtain one abalone report card and one sturgeon report card per report card period.

(6) Any report card holder who fills in all available lines on his steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return or report the card to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) prior to purchasing a second card.

(7) Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. See specific regulations in sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 that apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

(d) Report Card Return and Reporting Requirements

(1) Report card holders shall return or report their salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report his salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or abalone report card to the department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a subsequent license year or may be subject to an additional fee for the issuance of the same card in a subsequent license year.

(2) Report card holders shall return or report their lobster report cards pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by April 30 following the close of the lobster season for which the card was issued.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report his or her lobster report card by April 30 following the close of the lobster season specified on the card shall be subject to a nonrefundable non-return fee specified in Section 701, in addition to the annual report card fee, for the issuance of a lobster report card in the subsequent fishing season.

(e) Report Card Return and Reporting Mechanisms:

(1) By mail or in person at the address specified on the card. A report card returned by mail shall be postmarked by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), or 1.74(d)(2).

(2) Online through the department's license sales service website by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2).

Report card holders reporting online will be provided a confirmation number upon successful submission. The report card holder must record the provided confirmation number in the space provided on the report card and retain the report card for 90 days after the reporting deadline. Report cards submitted online must be surrendered to the department upon demand.

(3) If a report card is submitted by mail and not received by the department, it is considered not returned unless the report card holder reports his or her report card as lost pursuant to subsection 1.74(f).

~~(f) Lost report cards.~~

~~(1) Any report card holder who loses his report card shall submit an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, in person to a department license sales office containing all of the following information:~~

~~(A) A statement containing the report card holder's full name confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.~~

~~(B) A statement containing the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost.~~

~~(C) A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card.~~

~~(2) An affidavit for a lost report card shall be presented at a department license sales office, by the date applicable to that card specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2) to be considered returned.~~

~~(3) Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his report card during the period for which it is valid may replace the lost report card by submitting an affidavit as described in subsection 1.74(f)(1) and payment of the report card fee and replacement processing fee specified in Section 701.~~

~~(A) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit for abalone and sturgeon report cards, the department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.~~

(f) Lost report cards.

(1) Any report card holder who loses his report card shall submit an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to a department license sales office containing all of the following information:

(A) The report card holder's full name and a statement confirming that the originally issued report card is lost and cannot be recovered.

(B) A statement containing the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch that were entered on the report card that was lost.

(C) A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the report card.

(2) No Duplicate Requested or Available. Any report card holder who lost his or her report card and is not obtaining a duplicate report card shall ensure that the steps are completed:

(A) The report card holder shall submit an affidavit as described in subsection 1.74(f)(1). If the report card holder previously submitted the harvest report card data online, the report card holder must include the confirmation number for the harvest report on the affidavit.

(B) If the report card holder has not reported the data from the lost report card via the online site, department staff shall enter the harvest information from the affidavit.

(C) An affidavit for a lost report card shall be submitted to a department license sales office, by the harvest report submission deadline date applicable to that report card specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1) or 1.74(d)(2) to be considered returned.

(3) Duplicate Report Card Requested. Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses his or her report card during the period for which it is valid may replace the lost original report card by completion of the following:

(A) Submitting an affidavit as described in subsection 1.74(f)(1).

(B) Submitting payment of the report card fee and the nonrefundable replacement processing fee specified in Section 701.

(C) Department staff shall enter the harvest information from the affidavit to the duplicate report card. Note: the original report card should not be reported. Instead, the data from the original will be reported on the duplicate report card.

(D) Based on the information provided on the affidavit for abalone and sturgeon report cards, department staff shall remove tags reported as used and issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the lost original report card.

(E) Report card holders shall verify that the harvest information has been accurately transferred from the affidavit to his or her duplicate report card.

(F) The duplicate report card shall be reported pursuant to the requirements for the original report card as specified in subsection 1.74(d).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7380, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, ~~206~~, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

Subsection 2.05 is added to Section 2.00, Title 14, CCR, as follows:

§2.05. Leader Length Restriction

It shall be unlawful to use any configuration of fishing tackle in anadromous waters unless the distance between the terminal hook or terminal lure and any weight attached to the line or leader, whether fixed or sliding, is less than six feet. For purposes of this section, "weight" includes any product used to submerge the line or leader, including non-buoyant artificial flies or artificial lures, but does not include integrated or sinking fly fishing lines, lead core lines used while trolling from a boat, dropper weights used while trolling from a boat, or clipped weights used with downrigger systems.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, and 219, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 203.1 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.10, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 2.10. Hook and Weight Restrictions.

(a) Definition of Gap: For the purposes of this section, "gap" means the distance measured from the point of a hook to the shank.

(b) Maximum Gaps and Gear Rigging for Rivers and Streams unless otherwise provided (does not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (see Section 1.71 for definition of the Delta), and the Colorado River.

1. No person shall use any single hook with a gap greater than 1 inch or any multiple hook with a gap greater than 3/4 inch.

2. It is unlawful to use any hook which is directly or indirectly attached closer than 18 inches to any weight exceeding 1/2 ounce.

3. It is unlawful to use any multiple hook or more than one single hook on non-buoyant artificial lures exceeding one ounce.

4. It is unlawful to use any weight directly attached below a hook.

(c) Maximum Gaps for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (see Section 1.71 for definition of the Delta).

1. No person shall use any single hook with a gap greater than 1 inch or any multiple hook with a gap greater than 3/4 inch.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205 and ~~220~~219, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, ~~202~~, and 205 and 220, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.25, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§2.25. Bow and Arrow Fishing.

(a) Bow and arrow fishing is permitted only for the taking of carp, goldfish, western sucker, Sacramento blackfish, hardhead, Sacramento pike minnow and lamprey, all year, except in:

~~(a)(1)~~ Designated salmon spawning areas (See Fish and Game Code Section 1505).
~~(b)(2)~~ The Colorado River District where only carp, tilapia, goldfish and mullet may be taken.

~~(c)(3)~~ See bullfrogs (~~s~~Section 5.05).

~~(d)(4)~~ The East Fork of the Walker River between Bridgeport Dam and the Nevada State line where only carp may be taken.

(b) Bow and arrow fishing is permitted for bullheads and catfish in the following waters:

(1) Within the boundaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (See Section 1.71).

(2) Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County.

(3) Lake Isabella in Kern County.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~210~~, ~~219~~, ~~265~~ and ~~220~~275, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, ~~202~~, ~~203.1~~, ~~206~~, ~~207~~, ~~210~~, ~~217.5~~, ~~217.6~~, ~~219~~ and ~~220~~219, 255, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.35, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§5.35. Crayfish.

(a) Open season: All year, except for closures listed in subsection (d) of this Section.

(b) Limit: No limit.

(c) Methods of take: Crayfish may be taken only by hand, hook and line, dip net or with traps not over three feet in greatest dimension. Any other species taken shall be returned to the water immediately. Traps need not be closely attended.

(d) Closures for Protection of Shasta Crayfish: Rock Creek (in the Hat Creek Drainage in Shasta County), Fall River upstream of Spring Creek Bridge, Lava Creek, Tule River and all connected waters upstream of Little Tule River, Sucker Springs Creek, Crystal Lake, Rising River and Rising River Lake are closed to take and possession of crayfish. (See Section 4.30 for prohibition against crayfish use for bait in sections of the Pit River).

(e) The season closures in Chapter 3 (District Trout and Salmon Special Regulations) do not apply to crayfish fishing with methods other than hook and line (see sections 7.00 and 7.50(a)(~~23~~)).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~215~~265, ~~270~~ and 8491, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~206~~265, 8490 and 8491, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.41, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 5.41. Landlocked Salmon.

(a) Open season: All year

(b) Daily bag limit: Five

(c) Possession limit: Ten

(d) Size limit: None

(e) See exceptions in Section 7.50(b) for Bucks Lake, Lake Pardee, New Bullards Bar Reservoir, upper Scotts Flat Reservoir, and Trinity Reservoir.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202, 205, 240, 219, and 220~~, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, ~~202, 205, 240, 215, and 220~~, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.88, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 5.88. Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters (FG 682, See Section 701).

(a) Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Required. All anglers must have a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead in anadromous waters, as defined in Section 1.04. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74. For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length found in anadromous waters.

(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, and location code on the first available line on the report card.

(c) When a hatchery steelhead is retained, the cardholder must immediately ~~fill in a circle indicating whether the fish is a wild fish or a hatchery fish~~ mark the appropriate field.

(d) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery ~~fish~~ steelhead that were released from that location—.

(e) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card ~~may~~ must be purchased to continue to fish for steelhead. See Section 1.74.

(f) The annual fee for the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card is specified in Section 7380 of the Fish and Game Code.

Note: Authority cited: Section 7380, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 7380 and 7381, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.00, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§7.00. District General Regulations.

Unless otherwise provided, waters shown as open to trout fishing in subsections (a) through (g) below, are open to fishing for other species. Gear restrictions listed in this section apply to the take of all species of fish unless otherwise noted. Every body of water listed in subsections (a) through (g) of Section 7.00 (below) is closed to all fishing, except during the open season as shown. Unless otherwise provided, waters closed to trout fishing are closed to fishing for all other species, except that these closures do not apply to fishing for amphibians (see Section 5.05), freshwater clams (see Section 5.20), crayfish (see Section 5.35), and lamprey (see Section 5.40), using legal fishing methods other than hook-and-line fishing, and saltwater clams, crabs, ghost shrimp, and blue mud shrimp (see Ocean Regulations Booklet Sections 29.20 to 29.87). Crabs may only

be taken using hoop nets or by hand, and Dungeness crab may only be taken within the North Coast District and Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

Daily bag and possession limits, unless otherwise provided, mean the total number of trout. Unless otherwise provided, no more than one daily bag limit may be possessed.

Coho (silver) salmon may not be taken in any of the waters of the State, except in Lake Oroville and Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay) and the Feather River from the Diversion Pool Dam to the Fish Barrier Dam. Incidentally hooked Coho (silver) salmon, except those in Lake Oroville and Oroville-Thermalito Complex (Diversion Pool, Forebay, and Afterbay) and the Feather River from the Diversion Pool Dam to the Fish Barrier Dam, must be immediately released unharmed to the waters where they are hooked. In waters where the bag limit for trout is zero, fish for which the bag limit is zero must be released unharmed, and should not be removed from the water.

These waters may also be subject to restrictions on fishing methods and gear (sections 2.00 through 2.45), fishing hours (section 3.00), and the use of bait (sections 4.00 through 4.30).

...[No changes to subsection (a)]

(b) Sierra District		
(1) <u>All rivers and associated tributaries above Lake Shasta.</u>	Closed to the take of salmon.	
(42) Anadromous waters of Tehama and Shasta counties not listed in the Special Regulations. (Section 7.50). (See subsections (b)(156) and (b)(156.5) of Section 7.50, regarding the Sacramento River.)	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures and barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead*. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead* in possession. Closed to the take of salmon.
(23) All lakes and reservoirs except those in the Fall River Valley, those in Inyo and Mono counties and those listed by name in the Special Regulations.	All year.	5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.
(34) All streams, lakes and reservoirs in Inyo and Mono counties, except those listed by name in the Special Regulations.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.

(45) All streams, lakes and reservoirs in the Fall River Valley above the Pit No. 1 PG&E Diversion Dam on Fall River in Shasta County, except those listed by name in the Special Regulations.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15.	2 trout
(56) All streams in Lassen and Modoc counties east of Highway 395 and north of Clarks Valley Road. Clarks Valley Road is defined as those portions of county routes 510, 512 and 506 running easterly from the town of Madeline to the Nevada border.	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.
(67) All other streams except those listed by name in the Special Regulations.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15.	5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.
(78) Mono County waters, when closed to trout fishing, are closed to all fishing, except for the unrestricted portions of Fish Slough which are open to fishing all year. Also, see Mono County waters listed in sections 5.00 and 7.50.		
<p>(89) SPECIAL BROOK TROUT BONUS BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:</p> <p>(A) IN SIERRA DISTRICT WATERS OF SISKIYOU, SHASTA AND TEHAMA COUNTIES, UP TO 10 BROOK TROUT PER DAY LESS THAN 8 INCHES TOTAL LENGTH MAY BE TAKEN AND POSSESSED IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS SPECIFIED FOR THE SIERRA DISTRICT.</p> <p>(B) IN THE SIERRA DISTRICT SOUTH OF INTERSTATE 80, UP TO 10 BROOK TROUT PER DAY LESS THAN 10 INCHES TOTAL LENGTH MAY BE TAKEN AND POSSESSED IN ADDITION TO THE OTHER DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS SPECIFIED FOR THE SIERRA DISTRICT. THIS ALLOWANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE RED LAKE IN ALPINE COUNTY OR KIRMAN, LANE OR ROOSEVELT LAKES IN MONO COUNTY.</p>		

...[No changes to subsection (c) through (g)]

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~220~~265 and ~~240~~399, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205 and 206, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§7.50. Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

. . . [No changes to subsections (a) through (b)(4)]

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Regulations	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(5) American River (Sacramento Co.)		
(A) From Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers. <u>U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site.</u>	Jan. 1 through July 15. <u>Closed to all fishing all year.</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	July 16 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook salmon. 4 Chinook salmon in possession.
	Jan. 1 through July 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	July 16 through Aug. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

Hatchery fish rack site.		2 Chinook salmon. 4 Chinook salmon in possession.
	Jan. 1 through July 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	July 16 through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.
	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	July 16 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.
	Jan. 1 through July 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	July 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

		2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(6) through (b)(14)]		
(15) Bear Creek and tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Cos.) between Pondosa <u>Ponderosa</u> Way bridge and confluence with Fall River.	Saturday preceding Memorial Day through Nov. 15	5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.
. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(17) through (b)(22)]		
(23) Big Sur River (Monterey Co.).		
(A) Big Sur river and tributaries above the upstream end of the gorge pool at the boundary of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park with <u>within</u> the Ventana Wilderness Area.	Fourth Saturday in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
(B) Big Sur river within Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, east of the Highway 1 bridge, to its boundary with <u>within</u> the Ventana Wilderness Area.	Closed to fishing all year.	

... [No changes to subsections (b)(23.5) through (b)(26)]		
(26.5) Bridgeport Reservoir T ributaries (Mono Co.).		
All Bridgeport Reservoir tributaries except Swauger Creek, from Bridgeport Reservoir upstream to Highway 395, and Swauger Creek, from Bridgeport Reservoir upstream to the private property fence line above the Forest Service campground.	Last Saturday in April through the Friday preceding Memorial Day and Oct. 1 through Nov. 15. Minimum size limit: 18 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	1 trout.
(27) Brush Creek (Mendocino Co.). <u>Main stem below the Lawson bridge.</u> Also see Section 8.00(c).	<u>Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Saturday in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
Main stem below the Lawson bridge.	Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Saturday in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
... [No changes to subsections (b)(28) through (b)(36)]		

(37) Carmel River below Los Padres Dam- (Monterey Co.).		
(A) Carmel River tributaries below Los Padres Dam and main stem from Los Padres Dam to the bridge at Robles Del Rio/Esquiline roads (Rosie's Bridge).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) Carmel River main stem below the bridge at Robles Del Rio/Esquiline roads (Rosie's Bridge). Also, <u>Also</u> see Section 8.00(c).	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., and opening and closing days. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
... [No changes to subsections (b)(38) through (b)(46)]		
(47) Cottoneva Creek (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b). Main stem below the confluence of South Fork Cottoneva Creek. <u>Also see Section 8.00(b).</u>	Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Saturday in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
... [No changes to subsections (b)(48) through (b)(51)]		
(52) Crooked Creek (Mono Co.).		
(A) Crooked Creek below the City of Los Angeles gauging station.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

(B) Crooked Creek and tributaries above the <u>City of Los Angeles</u> gauging station.	Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
. . . [No changes to subsection (b)(114)]		
(115) McCloud River and tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou cos.).	<u>Also see Sierra District General Regulations (Section 7.00(b)).</u>	
(A) Moosehead Creek and all tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) McKay Creek and all tributaries including Sheepheaven Spring.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(C) Edson Creek and all tributaries, excluding Dry Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(D) Swamp Creek and all tributaries.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
(E) McCloud River from McCloud Dam downstream to confluence of Ladybug Creek.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 trout.

(F) McCloud River from confluence of Ladybug Creek downstream to lower boundary of the U.S. Forest Service loop (southern boundary of section 36, T38N, R3W).	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
(G) McCloud River from the lower boundary of the U.S. Forest Service loop (southern boundary of section 36, T38N, R3W) downstream to the upper boundary of the McCloud River Club (southern boundary of section 14, T37N, R3W).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
... [No changes to subsections (b)(115.2) through (b)(151)]		
<u>(151.5) Rock Creek in the Hat Creek Drainage (Shasta Co.) from Rock Creek spring (origin) downstream to Baum Lake.</u>	<u>Closed to all fishing all year.</u>	
... [No changes to subsections (b)(152) through (b)(169)]		
(170) San Luis Obispo Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.) from mouth to the	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

first and most southwestern highway 1/101 bridge (the first bridge upstream from the lagoon).		
. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(170.1) through (b)(212)]		

* Wild Chinook Salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.

** Hatchery trout or steelhead in anadromous waters are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315, 316.5 and 399, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.

Subsection b of Section 8.00, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

§ 8.00. Low-Flow Restrictions.

(b) Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams: Stream Closures: Special Low Flow Conditions. From October 1 through ~~April 30~~March 31 as follows:

Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (1) through (4) below shall be closed to all angling on Tuesday and Wednesday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Monday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (1) through (4).

Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (1) through (4) below shall be closed to all angling on Thursday and Friday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Wednesday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (1) though (4).

Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (1) through (4) below shall be closed to all angling from Saturday through Monday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Friday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (1) through (4).

Notwithstanding this provision, the department may close or keep a stream reach closed to fishing when the minimum flow is exceeded on the scheduled flow determination day if the department is reasonably assured that the stream flow is likely to decrease below the minimum flow as specified in the corresponding subsections (b)(1) through (4) before or on the next flow-determination date.

In addition, the department may reopen a stream at any time during a closed period if the minimum flow as specified in the corresponding subsections (b)(1) through (4) is

exceeded and the department is reasonably assured that it will remain above the minimum flow until the next scheduled Monday, Wednesday, or Friday flow determination.

The department shall make information available to the public by a telephone recorded message updated, as necessary, no later than 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as to whether any stream will be open or closed to fishing. It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the telephone number designated in the sport fishing regulations booklet to obtain information on the status of any stream.

THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR INFORMATION IS (707) 822-3164 for Mendocino County and (707) 944-5533 for Sonoma, Marin, and Napa counties.

(1) All streams tributary to the Pacific Ocean (and its bays) in Mendocino County, except for the Russian and Gualala rivers.

Minimum Flow: 200 cfs at the USGS gauging station on the main stem Navarro River near Navarro, CA.

(2) All streams tributary to the Pacific Ocean (and its bays) in Sonoma and Marin counties, except for the Russian River.

Minimum Flow: 150 cfs at the gauging station on the South Fork Gualala River near Sea Ranch (Sonoma County).

(3) Russian River main stem below the confluence of the East Branch Russian River (Mendocino and Sonoma counties), Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Santa Rosa Creek.

Minimum Flow: 300 cfs at the gauging station located on the main stem Russian River near Guerneville (Sonoma County).

(4) The Napa River (Napa County) between Trancas Avenue in Napa and Oakville Cross Bridge near Yountville. Minimum Flow: 15 cfs at the gauging station at the Oak Knoll Bridge on the main stem Napa River.

(c) South Central Coast Streams - Special Low Flow Closures: During December 1 through March 7 the following streams (subsections (1) through (7)) will be closed to fishing when the department determines that stream flows are inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon. Closed streams will be reopened when the department determines flows are adequate for fish passage.

(1) Upper Penitencia Ck. (Santa Clara Co.) and Lower Coyote Ck. below its confluence with Upper Penitencia Ck. (U. S. G. S. gauging station on lower Coyote Ck. above St. Highway 237 in Milpitas).

(2) Pescadero Creek and all anadromous reaches of San Mateo Co. coastal streams normally open for fishing, from Elliot Ck. through Milagro Ck., shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Pescadero Ck. flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station is on Pescadero Ck.)

(3) The San Lorenzo River and all its tributaries, as well as all anadromous reaches of coastal streams normally open for fishing in Santa Cruz Co. from the San Lorenzo R. on North through Wadell Ck., shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the San Lorenzo flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station in Henry Cowell Redwood State Park).

(4) Aptos and Soquel Creeks (Santa Cruz Co.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Soquel Ck. flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station on Soquel Ck.).

(5) The Pajaro River and Uvas, Llagas, and Corralitos Creeks, (Santa Cruz, Monterey, & Santa Clara Co.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Pajaro R. flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station on the lower Pajaro River).

(6) The main stem of the Salinas River (Monterey Co.), below its confluence with the Arroyo Seco River shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flows are impeding fish passage (U. S. G. S. Spreckels gauging station on the Salinas R.).

(7) The Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flows are impeding fish passage. (Flows to be evaluated at U. S. G. S. Spreckels gauging station on the Salinas R. and the U. S. G. S. gauging station near Geenfield on the Arroyo Seco R.).

(8) The Carmel River main stem, and the adjacent waters of San Jose, Gibson, Malpaso, Soberanes Creeks that are West of Highway 1 (Monterey Co.), shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flow at the U. S. G. S. gauging station near Carmel is less than 80 cfs.

(9) The Big Sur River main stem west of the Highway 1 bridge, all of Limekiln Ck and its tributaries, and the anadromous portions of all other Big Sur Coast streams West of Highway 1 in Monterey Co., from Granite Ck. south to Salmon Ck., shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flow at the U. S. G. S. gauging station on the Big Sur River is less than 40 cfs.

The stream flow gauges referred to above in subsections (8) and (9) will be checked on Tuesday and Friday of each week. The decision as to whether these rivers will be open or closed to fishing will take place only on Tuesday and Friday of each week. In the event that river flow differs later in the week, the fishing status for each specific river will not change until the day following the next scheduled reading. It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the telephone number designated in the sport fishing regulations booklet to obtain information on the status of any of the rivers or creeks listed above in subsections (1) through (9). THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR INFORMATION IS (831) 649-2886.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~215~~ and ~~220~~ 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, ~~202~~, 205, ~~206~~ and ~~220~~ and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Memorandum

2017 NOV 20 PM 12:06

Date: November 20, 2017

To: Valerie Termini
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: **Submission of Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons to Amend Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations**

The Commission has received seven public comments on the Department's proposal to amend sections/subsections 1.11, 1.18, 1.74, 2.25, 5.35, 5.41, 5.88, 7.00(b), 7.50(b)(5), 7.50(b)(115), 8.00(b); add sections 205 and 7.50(b)(151.5); and repeal Section 1.60 in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The attached Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons addresses those comments. In addition, the proposal to amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements is recommended to be dropped as a no change alternative. No other changes have been made to the originally proposed regulatory language.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Scott Barrow, Acting Program Manager for the Regulations Unit, at (916) 653-4674 or Scott.Barrow@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

ec: **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons)

Amend Sections 1.11, 1.18, 1.74, 2.25, 5.35, 5.41, 5.88,
Subsection (b) of Section 7.00, Subsection (b) of Section 7.50,
and Subsection (b) of Section 8.00; Repeal Section 1.60;
and Add Section 2.05,
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: June 2, 2017
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: November 1, 2017
- III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 16, 2017
Location: Sacramento
 - (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: October 11, 2017
Location: Atascadero
 - (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 6, 2017
Location: San Diego
- IV. Description of Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

The proposal to amend Title 14, Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements, is now being recommended as a no change alternative.
- V. Reasons for the Reconsideration of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

The proposed changes to Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements, would affect all sport fishing report card holders, including marine sport card holders. These constituents were not notified of the proposed regulatory action and, thus, were not given the opportunity to provide comments. As a result, this proposal is being postponed pending public notice to all interest parties potentially affected by the proposed regulatory action.

No other changes have been made in the originally proposed regulatory language.
- VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support:

Comment by Wayne Kyoto, received at the October 11, 2017 Commission meeting: Mr. Kyoto was surprised to see that this "inland" package addresses the Lobster Report Card. When requesting a "duplicate" lobster report card you assume the card is the same but it is a new card; and, the process for getting the duplicate card is cumbersome. People don't understand that you have to report on both cards – the lost card and the new card. You need to help the public understand the process so they don't get fined.

Comment by Christopher M Loomis, e-mail received September 20, 2017: Is against the exclusion of added weights to flies and the proposal to restrict leader length. Fly fishers use longer leaders, typically greater than 9 feet to avoid disturbing the fish. Leaders must be long enough to allow wet flies to sink to desired depths. If leaders are shortened, fish will be spooked and not reached. Recommends restricting leader length to specific regions where snagging is prolific, such as the Klamath spit or Nimbus Basin. Limiting the methods employed by fly fishers will have only marginal effects to the fishery while having devastating effects to the fishers.

Comment by Ken Leiterman, e-mail received September 18, 2017: Supports reducing the leader length, but adding weight to your flies and sent to your artificial floors is completely different and should be allowed.

Comment by Vince O'Malley, email received September 20, 2017: Against limiting leader length to 3-5 ft. and eliminating the use of weighted flies and split shot.

Comment by Russ Gans, e-mail received September 18, 2017: Against shortening the leader length and prohibiting the use of weighted flies. Fall River and Hat Creek are crystal clear fisheries (which dedicated, conservation minded Fly Fishers hold dear), require long leaders and bead headed nymphs to catch fish (99% of whom practice catch and release, by the way).

Response: The proposed regulation that would amend Section 2.00, Subsection 2.05, Title 14, CCR does not exclude, or make unlawful, the addition of weight to artificial flies, but rather clarifies and defines non-buoyant artificial flies as weight for the purpose of this regulation. The proposed regulation further exempts integrated and sinking fly lines from being considered as weight. Given these proposed changes, fly anglers can use both weighted flies and long leaders, however if the distance from any weight (as defined) is longer than 6 feet that would be unlawful.

Comment by Bob Hoppy, e-mail received September 26, 2017: Is unhappy about the proposed closure of the nimbus basin. The nimbus basin is many anglers favorite fishing spot. Have a public vote instead of a few people deciding for everyone. I have talked to many anglers about this and we are interested in protesting if necessary.

Response: The closure of the Nimbus basin is necessary to protect Chinook salmon and steelhead runs for the future.

With the placement of the fish ladder being moved to the south side base of Nimbus Dam it is critical that fish are protected and provided the opportunity to enter the hatchery or spawn in the recently replaced gravel habitat. The closure will allow for increased natural production and stabilize hatchery production that will provide for better fishing and population viability in the Lower American River in the future.

Comment by John McHatton, e-mail received September 24, 2017: Does not support banning scent in artificial lures only waters. Asks where the data is that suggest scent is a problem.

Response: The definition of an artificial lure applies only to those waters that are designated in various Sections of Title 14, CCR as artificial lure only waters. Scent can be used on artificial lures in all other waterbodies in the state. Artificial lure regulations are primarily used for salmonid fisheries where the risk of injury and effects from hooking mortality are of concern. The difference in hooking mortality between traditional non-scented artificial lures and bait is significant and well known. Additionally, when scents and flavors are applied to artificial lures the risk of deep hooking will significantly increase. Studies have found there is a significant difference (3.9% vs. 32.1%) in hooking mortality between non-scented artificial lures and scented artificial baits. All of these differences have been the primary justification for establishment of artificial lure regulations for many of our trout/steelhead/salmon fisheries across California. Given the recent improvements with natural and artificial scents/flavors and their associated application to artificial lures/flyes, the Department believes there are substantial risks for allowing these scents and flavors to be used in special regulated waters.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

This California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposal combines Department and public requests for changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), for the 2017 Sport Fishing Regulations Review Cycle. This proposal will reduce foul-hooking of salmon, protect Shasta crayfish, protect salmon released above Shasta Dam, clarify regulations for artificial lures and bait, increase protection for Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, increasing bow fishing opportunities, update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing the following changes to current regulations:

ROCK CREEK (SHASTA COUNTY) CLOSURE TO PROTECT SHASTA CRAYFISH

Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) is listed as an Endangered Species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.)(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5(B)) and the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)(53 Fed.Reg. 38460-38465 (1988)). The current distribution for Shasta crayfish includes small and isolated spring fed areas in the Fall and Pit River drainages (Shasta County). Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, was historically occupied by Shasta crayfish and was recently restored to provide refuge for and aid in the survival of the species. The Department is proposing to close Rock Creek to all fishing all year from Rock Creek spring downstream to Baum Lake. The proposed closure will protect Shasta crayfish and its habitat.

Proposal: Add subsection (b)(151.5) to Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Add Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, to the Special Fishing Regulations with an all year fishing closure to protect Shasta crayfish.

CLARIFICATION OF NO TAKE OF SALMON IN THE SACRAMENTO AND MCCLOUD RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE SHASTA LAKE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are conducting feasibility studies for the reintroduction of winter and spring-run Chinook Salmon into the McCloud and Sacramento rivers. As part of a Fish Passage Pilot Project, federal agencies will be introducing an experimental release of Chinook Salmon into the Sacramento and McCloud drainages starting in 2017 or 2018 and continuing indefinitely. It is imperative that these rivers and their tributaries above Shasta Lake are closed to salmon fishing to reduce salmon loss and increase the success of the Fish Passage Project.

Proposal: Add new language to Subsection (b) of Section 7.00, District General Regulations, and to subsection (b)(115), McCloud River, in Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations.

Amend the Sierra District Regulations to clarify that all rivers and associated tributaries above Shasta Lake are closed to the take of salmon, and amend subsection (b)(115) of Section 7.50 to direct readers to the District General Regulations.

These changes will protect Chinook Salmon when they are reintroduced into the upper Sacramento and McCloud rivers above the Shasta Lake.

AMERICAN RIVER (NIMBUS BASIN) FISHING CLOSURE

Under current regulations, the American River (in Sacramento County) from Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers is open to fishing all year (Section 7.50(b)(5)(A)), and from the Hazel Avenue bridge piers to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish weir is open to fishing January 1 through August 15 (Section 7.50(b)(5)(B)). The current request for closure is designed to protect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout, which will utilize this section of the river for both in-river spawning and rearing along with essential hatchery operations.

The BOR and the Department have completed a joint EIS/EIR for the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage Project (Project). The primary goal of the Project is to maintain a fully functional system of collecting adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout sufficient to meet the hatchery's mitigation goals. Phase 1 of the Project extends the Nimbus Hatchery fish ladder 1500 feet (.30 miles) upstream into the Nimbus Basin. With the completion of the new fish ladder, Phase 2 of the Project will permanently remove the existing Nimbus Hatchery fish weir, and spawning gravel injections will be completed within the section of river associated with section 7.50(b)(5)(B). A gravel restoration and side channel creation project to create spawning and rearing habitat in the Nimbus Basin was completed in 2014.

However, the Project has the potential to affect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout holding, spawning, and rearing in this section of the lower American River. Additionally, under current hatchery operations, large numbers of adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout hold below the existing fish weir located below the Hazel Avenue bridge before being routed to the fish ladder located at the south end of weir. Fish that enter the hatchery that are not ripe for spawning are released back into the river through the outfall, located approximately 100 feet below the existing fish ladder. As a result, current hatchery operations utilize a small portion of the river below the weir to cycle fish in and out of the hatchery. However, once the existing fish ladder is moved upstream into the Nimbus Basin, the length of river utilized for hatchery operations will increase by approximately 1,500 feet. With completion of the Project, holding, spawning, and rearing Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout will distribute throughout the hatchery operations area. As a result, the entire section of river should be close to fishing all year to ensure successful hatchery operations.

Consequently, if the regulations are not changed by the Fall of 2018, anglers will continue fishing in the Nimbus Basin downstream to the USGS gauging station and target holding and spawning Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout. Although Section 2.35 states that fishing shall not take place within 250 feet of a fish ladder, this would have little effect in protecting salmon and steelhead under the new configuration. The new ladder entrance would be greater than 250 feet from where salmon are expected to hold until the ladder is opened to allow salmon and steelhead into the Nimbus Hatchery. The regulation change would also provide the American River Trout Hatchery and Nimbus Hatchery with greater protection from contamination by the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS), which have been documented adjacent to the hatchery in Section 7.50(b)(5)(B).

Proposal: Amend subsections (b)(5)(A) and (b)(5)(B) of Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations

Combine subsections 7.50(b)(5)(A) and 7.50(b)(5)(B) and close this section of river to fishing all year.

ARTIFICIAL LURE AND BAIT DEFINITION CHANGES

The purpose of the regulation change is to clarify that no scents or flavors shall be used on lures on waters where only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. After consulting with wildlife officers on this subject, it has become clear there is some subjectivity in interpreting the current regulation which has resulted in inconsistency and confusion. By clarifying this definition, enforcement will have a lesser problem enforcing this rule and the public will have a clearer description of this rule.

The definition of a lure (Section 1.60) would be removed from the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations and only "artificial lure" would be used. With this change, three substitutions in the current regulations would need to be made: (1) Section 1.05 Angling; (2) Section 1.61, Non-buoyant Lure; and (3) Section 2.10(3), Hook and Weight Restrictions. In all three sections lure would be changed to artificial lure. In addition, the definition of artificial lure would be amended to clarify that only non-scented and non-flavored lures may be used. Lastly, there is currently no definition of bait in Title 14. A definition of bait is needed to help clarify when scents and flavors can be used.

Proposal: Repeal Section 1.60, Amend Section 1.11, Artificial Lure, and add Section 1.18, Bait

Amend the current definition of artificial lure and add a definition of bait.

ALLOW BOW AND ARROW FISHING FOR CATFISH

The bow and arrow fishing community has requested the opportunity to fish for catfish in certain waters in the state. Bowfishers have expressed that they often encounter catfish in their pursuit for carp and would like to be able to take catfish as well. This request was considered by CDFW law enforcement and regional biologists who determined that bowfishing for bullhead and catfish could be allowed on waters with large carp populations and that are popular for bowfishing. These waters include the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta, Lake Isabella in Kern County and Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County. Allowing bowfishing for catfish on these waters will increase fishing opportunities for bowfishers.

Proposal: Amend Section 2.25, Bow and Arrow Fishing

Amend Section 2.25 to allow bowfishing for bullhead and catfish in the Delta, Big Bear Lake, and Lake Isabel.

REVISION OF MENDOCINO, SONOMA, AND MARIN COUNTIES LOW FLOW CLOSURE TIME PERIOD TO ALING WITH THE ADULT STEELHEAD SEASON

Section 8.00(b) established a season for special low flow conditions for Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams; however, the current end date extends the length of the low flow season past the adult steelhead fishing season on most coastal stream (except Russian River) which provides an unnecessary protection and may potentially confuse anglers. The current sport fishing regulations provides fishing in coastal streams of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties from the fourth Saturday in May through March 31, except for the Russian River which is open all year.

Gear restrictions change from November 1 through March 31, to accommodate fishing for adult steelhead on all Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams. There is no need for the season of special low flow conditions to extend beyond March 31, as most streams (except Russian River) are closed to any fishing from April 1 until the fourth Saturday in May, which is prior to the end of the current low flow season. The Russian River is the exception because it is open year round due to other sport fisheries such as American shad and smallmouth bass. For consistency, the Russian River should be included in this change, but it would result in the potential reduction of protected days under a low flow closure between April 1 and the fourth Saturday in May (52-57 days depending upon the calendar year). The loss of this additional protection on the Russian River is not likely to be significant as the bulk of the steelhead will have spawned and angler effort targeting steelhead will be low in the months of April and May. The steelhead population on the Russian River is also unlike other coastal streams because it is supplemented with hatchery steelhead. Additionally, the Russian River is a flow regulated stream and flows are likely to be higher in April and May than other coastal streams and less likely to be subject to a low flow closure due to water releases. Conforming the low flow closure season with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams helps simplify regulations and reduces confusion between the fishing season and low flow closure season and it would not significantly impact the Russian River steelhead population in the event of low flow conditions in the months of April and May.

Proposal: Amend Subsection (b) of Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions

Revise Section 8.00 (b) to redefine the season of the Special Low Flow Conditions to coincide with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on March 31.

CRAYFISH

In alignment with the proposal to close Rock Creek to fishing to protect Shasta crayfish, Section 5.35 would need to be amended to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where take of crayfish is prohibited. Rock Creek is in the Hat Creek Drainage in Shasta County.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.35, Crayfish

Amend Section 5.35 to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where fishing for crayfish is prohibited.

STEELHEAD REPORT AND RESTORATION CARD REQUIREMENTS

Department staff reassessed the fisheries management objectives of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card and determined that the data being collected, location codes, and reporting instructions and requirements can be simplified. In order to accomplish this, verbiage within Section 5.88 must be changed.

Proposal: Amend Section 5.88, Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements

Remove reference to "wild" steelhead because it is not legal to retain a wild steelhead, and remove the requirement to report the number of hours that were fished for steelhead.

SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

CCR Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported.

This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until for 90 days after the reporting deadline.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a duplicate, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a duplicate report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a duplicate report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a duplicate report card.

Proposal: Amend Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements

Amend Section 1.74 to update procedures for reporting online and for lost report cards.

RESTRICT LEADER LENGTH TO LESS THAN SIX FEET TO REDUCE POTENTIAL FOUL-HOOKING (SNAGGING) OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD

The Department and the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) have struggled for years to eliminate and/or regulate snagging salmon. This has proven difficult given some of the spawning aggregations, habitat, and creative snagging techniques that have evolved over time. Water operations, changes in angling ethics, and population growth likely have also contributed to this ongoing problem. After struggling with these issues statewide, the Commission directed the Department to find a solution.

In 2014, the Department formulated a snagging working group to help evaluate the issue through a structured decision making process. Department staff and angling stakeholders participated in multiple meetings. One action resulting from this effort was a directed study to assess the efficacy of a reduced leader length in relation to the "flossing" fishing techniques based angling/snagging rig. Although this technique/rig is not the only gear that can be used to purposefully foul-hook salmon, it is currently legal and very effective when used in the right habitat (Feather, American, Sacramento, Yuba, and Klamath rivers) with high densities of spawning/migrating salmon. The results of the study showed a significant correlation with foul-hooking (82-94%) regardless of the leader length and a reduction in landing rates for the shortest leader.

Proposal: Add Section 205 to Title 14, Leader Length Restriction

Add the leader length restriction to Title 14, Chapter 2, Article 1, to reduce foul-hooking of salmon and steelhead in anadromous waters.

Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the policy of this state to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State.

The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

Update

The proposed recommendation to amend Title 14, Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements, is being removed from this rulemaking. The proposed changes to Section 1.74, Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements, would affect all sport fish report card holders, including marine sport card holders. These constituents were not notified of the proposed regulation changes and, thus, were not given the opportunity to provide comments. As a result, the department is recommending a no change alternative, and this proposal is being postponed pending public notice to all interest parties potentially affected by the proposed regulatory action.



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

November 16, 2017

Valerie Temini
California Department of Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations
SCH#: 2017102048

Dear Valerie Temini:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on November 15, 2017, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

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COMMISSION
2017 NOV 20 PM 12:06

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2017102048
Project Title Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations
Lead Agency Fish & Game Commission

Type **Neg** Negative Declaration
Description CA Fish & Game Commission adoption of Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for CA.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Valerie Temini
Agency California Department of Fish and Game Commission
Phone 916-653-4899 **Fax**
email
Address PO Box 944209
City Sacramento **State** CA **Zip** 94244-2090

Project Location

County
City
Region
Lat / Long
Cross Streets
Parcel No.

Township	Range	Section	Base
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Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools
Land Use

Project Issues Other Issues

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Colorado River Board; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, Division of Transportation Planning; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Delta Protection Commission; Delta Stewardship Council; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 10/17/2017 **Start of Review** 10/17/2017 **End of Review** 11/15/2017

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing RegulationsLead Agency: Fish and Game CommissionContact Person: Valerie TerminiMailing Address: P.O. Box 944209Phone: 916-653-4899City: SacramentoZip: 94244-2090County: Sacramento**Project Location:** County: State of California

City/Nearest Community: _____

Cross Streets: _____

Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____° _____' _____" N / _____° _____' _____" W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR NEPA: ☐ NOI Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☒ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☐ Other: _____

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ ☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Power: Type _____ MW
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD
☐ Educational: _____ ☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Recreational: _____ ☒ Other: Sport Fishing Regulations
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☐ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☐ Recreation/Parks ☐ Vegetation
☐ Agricultural Land ☐ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☐ Water Quality
☐ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☐ Water Supply/Groundwater
☐ Archeological/Historical ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☐ Biological Resources ☐ Minerals ☐ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☐ Noise ☐ Solid Waste ☐ Land Use
☐ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☐ Toxic/Hazardous ☐ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: Sport Fishing

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

California Fish and Game Commission adoption of Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations for California.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 10/20/17 Ending Date 11/20/17

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: <u>Fish and Game Commission</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320</u>
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: <u>Sacramento, CA 95814</u>
Contact: _____	Phone: <u>(916) 653-4899</u>
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 10/14/17

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970
State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Fish and Game Commission

State Clearinghouse #

**INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

The Project

The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend a variety of freshwater sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. As compared to existing regulations, this proposal will reduce foul-hooking of salmon, protect Shasta crayfish, protect salmon released above Shasta Dam, clarify regulations for artificial lures and bait, increase protection for Chinook Salmon and steelhead in the lower American River, increase bow fishing opportunities, update the sport fishing report card requirements, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Findings

The project will have a less than significant impact on biological resources, greenhouse gases, recreation, and transportation/traffic. The project will have no impact to aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems.

Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, the Commission finds that implementing the proposed project will have a less than significant to no impact on the environment. Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080 (c)(2).

This proposed negative declaration consists of the following:

- Introduction – Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Response to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

Introduction

Annually, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends sport fishing regulations to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented, and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish in the sport fishing context.

Project goals and objectives

The goal of this project is to amend selected sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources. (Fish and Game Code, Section 1700). Fish and Game Code Section 1700 sets out this policy, which includes the following objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Manage using best available science and public input.

Background

Annually, the Commission considers amendments to sport fishing regulations. Recommendations for changes come from Department staff, the public, Commission staff, Fish and Game Advisory Commissions, and local governments. Recommendations are evaluated within the appropriate Department Region and by the statewide Fisheries Management Committee. If the proposed regulation change passes evaluation, the Department prepares a regulation change recommendation for the Commission to consider. Through a series of Commission meetings, the public has the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulation change. At the end of this public process, the Commission may add, amend, or repeal regulations related to the proposed regulation change. The Commission most recently adopted amendments to the sport fishing regulations in December 2015.

Project Location

Freshwater sport fishing regulation changes proposed by this project and analyzed in this proposed negative declaration occur in the inland waters of California. The inland waters of California are divided into seven sport fishing districts, the North Coast, North Central, South Central, Southern, Valley, Sierra, and Colorado River districts. These districts are shown in the map below.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING DISTRICTS



Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will go into effect March 1, 2018.

Project Description

The proposed project includes both Department and public recommendations for amendments to sport fishing regulations set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The proposed amendments would modify existing sport fishing regulations as follows:

ROCK CREEK (SHASTA COUNTY) CLOSURE TO PROTECT SHASTA CRAYFISH

Shasta crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*) is listed as an Endangered Species pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.)(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.5(B)) and the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.)(53 Fed.Reg.38460-38465 (1988)). The current distribution for Shasta crayfish includes small and isolated spring fed areas in the Fall and Pit River drainages (Shasta County). Rock Creek, in the Hat Creek Drainage, was historically occupied by Shasta crayfish and was recently restored to provide refuge for and aid in the survival of the species. The Department is proposing to close Rock Creek to all fishing all year from Rock Creek spring downstream to Baum Lake. This proposal will aid in the protection of Shasta crayfish and its habitat.

CLARIFICATION OF NO TAKE OF SALMON IN THE SACRAMENTO AND MCLOUD RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE SHASTA LAKE

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are conducting feasibility studies for the reintroduction of winter-run and spring-run Chinook Salmon into the McCloud and Sacramento rivers. As part of a Fish Passage Pilot Project, federal agencies will be introducing an experimental release of Chinook Salmon into the Sacramento and McCloud drainages starting in 2017 or 2018 and continuing indefinitely. It is imperative that these rivers and their tributaries above Shasta Lake be closed to salmon fishing to reduce salmon loss and increase the success of the Fish Passage Project.

AMERICAN RIVER (NIMBUS BASIN) FISHING CLOSURE

Under current regulations, the American River (in Sacramento County) from Nimbus Dam to the Hazel Avenue bridge piers is open to fishing all year (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 7.50(b)(5)(A)), and from the Hazel Avenue bridge piers to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish weir is open to fishing January 1 through August 15 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 7.50(b)(5)(B)). The current request for closure is designed to protect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout, which will utilize this section of the river for both in-river spawning and rearing along with essential hatchery operations.

The BOR and the Department have completed a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage Project (Project). The primary goal of the Project is to maintain a fully

functional system of collecting adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout sufficient to meet the hatchery's mitigation goals. Phase 1 of the Project extends the Nimbus Hatchery fish ladder 1500 feet (.30 miles) upstream into the Nimbus Basin (effectively from Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 7.50(b)(5)(B) to § 7.50(b)(5)(A)). With the completion of the new fish ladder, Phase 2 of the Project will permanently remove the existing Nimbus Hatchery fish weir, and spawning gravel injections will be completed within the section of river associated with CCR Section 7.50 (b)(5)(B). A gravel restoration and side channel creation project to create spawning and rearing habitat in the Nimbus Basin was completed in 2014.

However, the Project has the potential to affect Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout holding, spawning, and rearing in this section of the lower American River. Under current hatchery operations, large numbers of adult Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout hold below the existing fish weir located below the Hazel Avenue bridge before being routed to the fish ladder located at the south end of weir. Fish that enter the hatchery that are not ripe for spawning are released back into the river through the outfall, located approximately 100 feet below the existing fish ladder. As a result, current hatchery operations utilize a small portion of the river below the weir to cycle fish in and out of the hatchery. However, once the existing fish ladder is moved upstream into the Nimbus Basin, the length of river utilized for hatchery operations will increase by approximately 1,500 feet. Upon completion of the Project, holding, spawning, and rearing Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout will distribute throughout the hatchery operations area. As a result, the entire section of river should be closed to fishing all year to ensure successful hatchery operations.

Consequently, if the area is not closed to fishing by the Fall of 2018, anglers will continue fishing in the Nimbus Basin downstream to the USGS gauging station and target holding and spawning Chinook Salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout. Although CCR Section 2.35 states that fishing shall not take place within 250 feet of a fish ladder, this would have little effect in protecting salmon and steelhead under the new configuration. The new ladder entrance would be greater than 250 feet from where salmon are expected to hold until the ladder is opened to allow salmon and steelhead into the Nimbus Hatchery. The proposed closure would also provide the American River Trout Hatchery and Nimbus Hatchery with greater protection from contamination by the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS), which have been documented adjacent to the hatchery in CCR Section 7.50(b)(5)(B).

ARTIFICIAL LURE AND BAIT DEFINITION CHANGES

The purpose of the regulation change is to clarify that no scents or flavors shall be used on lures on waters where only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. After consulting with wildlife officers on this subject, it has become clear there is some subjectivity in interpreting the current regulation which has resulted in inconsistency and confusion. By clarifying this definition, law enforcement will have increased success enforcing this rule and the public will have a clearer description of this rule.

The definition of a lure (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 1.60) would be removed from the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations and only "artificial lure" would be used. With this change, three substitutions in the current regulations would need to be made: (1) Section 1.05, Angling; (2) Section 1.61, Non-bouyant Lure; and (3) Section 2.10(b)(3), Hook and Weight Restrictions. In all three sections lure would be changed to artificial lure. In addition, the definition of artificial lure would be amended to clarify that only non-scented and non-flavored lures may be used. Lastly, there is currently no definition of bait in Title 14. A definition of bait is needed to help clarify when scents and flavors can be used.

ALLOW BOW AND ARROW FISHING FOR CATFISH

The bow and arrow fishing community has requested the opportunity to fish for catfish and bullhead in certain waters in the state. Bowfishers have expressed that they often encounter catfish in their pursuit for carp and would like to be able to take catfish as well. This request was considered by Department law enforcement and regional biologists who determined that bowfishing could be allowed on waters with large carp populations and that are popular for bowfishing. These waters include the Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta, Lake Isabella in Kern County and Big Bear Lake in San Bernardino County. Allowing bowfishing for catfish on these waters will increase fishing opportunities for bowfishers.

REVISION OF MENDOCINO, SONOMA, AND MARIN COUNTIES' LOW FLOW CLOSURE TIME PERIOD TO ALIGN WITH THE ADULT STEELHEAD SEASON

CCR Section 8.00(b) establishes a season for special low flow conditions for Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams; however, the current end date extends the length of the low flow season past the adult steelhead fishing season on most coastal streams (except Russian River) which provides an unnecessary protection and may potentially confuse anglers. The current sport fishing regulations allow fishing in coastal streams of Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties from the fourth Saturday in May through March 31, except for the Russian River which is open all year. Gear restrictions change from November 1 through March 31 to accommodate fishing for adult steelhead on all Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams. There is no need for the season of special low flow conditions to extend beyond March 31, as most streams (except Russian River) are closed to any fishing from April 1 until the fourth Saturday in May, which is prior to the end of the current low flow season. The Russian River is the exception because it is open year round due to other sport fisheries such as American shad and smallmouth bass. For consistency, the Russian River should be included in this change, but it would result in the potential reduction of protected days under a low flow closure between April 1 and the fourth Saturday in May (52-57 days depending upon the calendar year). The loss of this additional protection on the Russian River is not likely to be significant as the bulk of the steelhead will have spawned and angler effort targeting steelhead will be low in the months of April and May. The steelhead population on the Russian River is also unlike other coastal streams because it is supplemented with hatchery steelhead. Additionally, the Russian River is a flow regulated stream and flows are likely to be higher in April and May than other coastal streams and less likely to be subject to a low flow closure

due to water releases. Conforming the low flow closure season with the end of the adult steelhead fishing season on Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams helps simplify regulations and reduces confusion between the fishing season and low flow closure season and it would not significantly impact the Russian River steelhead population in the event of low flow conditions in the months of April and May.

CRAYFISH

In alignment with the proposal to close Rock Creek to fishing to protect Shasta crayfish, CCR Section 5.35 will need to be amended to add Rock Creek to the list of waters where take of crayfish is prohibited. Rock Creek is a tributary to Baum Lake, which is an instream lake of Hat Creek in the Hat Creek Drainage.

STEELHEAD REPORT AND RESTORATION CARD REQUIREMENTS

Department staff reassessed the fisheries management objectives of the Steelhead Report and Restoration Card (Report Card) and determined that the data being collected, location codes, and reporting instructions and requirements can be simplified. In order to accomplish this, verbiage within CCR Section 5.88 must be changed.

SPORT FISHING REPORT CARD REQUIREMENTS

CCR Section 1.74 establishes guidelines for report card regulations including reporting harvest authorized by a report card; however, this section does not include a mechanism for confirmation that data from a report card has been reported. This proposal requires report card holders who submit data online to write the provided confirmation number on their report card and retain the report card until June 1.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a duplicate, or may simply need to fulfill the harvest reporting requirement before the reporting deadline. CCR Section 1.74 does not currently provide guidelines for licensees who have lost their report card and need to report their harvest, but do not need to obtain a duplicate report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a duplicate report card, and also for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a duplicate report card.

RESTRICT LEADER LENGTH TO LESS THAN SIX FEET TO REDUCE POTENTIAL FOUL-HOOKING OF SALMON AND STEELHEAD

The Department and the Commission have struggled for years to eliminate and or regulate snagging salmon. This has proven difficult given some of the spawning aggregations, habitat, and creative snagging techniques that have evolved over time. Water operations, changes in angling ethics, and population growth likely have also contributed to this ongoing problem. After struggling with these issues statewide, the Commission directed the Department to find a solution.

In 2014 the Department formulated a snagging working group to help evaluate the issue through a structured decision making process. Department staff and angling stakeholders participated in multiple meetings. One action resulting from this effort was a directed study to assess the efficacy of a reduced leader length in relation to the

“flossing” based angling/snagging rig. Although this technique/rig is not the only gear that can be used to purposefully foul-hook (snag) salmon, it is currently legal and very effective when used in the right habitat (Feather, American, Sacramento, Yuba, Klamath rivers) with high densities of spawning/migrating salmon. The results of the study showed a significant correlation with foul-hooking (82-94%) regardless of the leader length and a reduction in landing rates for the shortest leader.

Updates to Authority and Reference Citations Based on Recent Legislation

Senate Bill 1473 (Stats. 2016, Ch. 546) made organizational changes to the Fish and Game Code that became effective January 1, 2017. The changes included moving the Commission’s exemptions from specified Administrative Procedure Act time frames from Section 202 to Section 265 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission’s organization and meeting from Section 206 to Section 110 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission’s effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, and moving the Commission’s authority to adopt emergency regulations from Section 240 to Section 399 of the Fish and Game Code. In accordance with these changes to the Fish and Game Code, sections 202, 206, 215, and 240 are removed from, and sections 110, 265, 270, and 399 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking. Senate Bill 1473 also repealed subdivision (b) of Section 220 of the Fish and Game Code; therefore, Section 220 is removed from the list of authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

Minor Editorial Corrections for Clarity

In addition to the above proposals, minor editorial corrections are proposed to correct typographical errors and to improve regulation clarity.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title:
Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Valerie Termini, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location:
Inland waters of the State of California
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
830 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
6. General Plan designation:
N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning:
N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project:
Amend selected sport fishing regulations to maintain consistency with the state's policy to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting:
N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:
None.
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project are requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance				

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to

	applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.
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Valerie Termini, Executive Director

Date

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XI. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XV. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				
XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

EXPLANATION OF RESPONSES TO INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the work sites and their surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

III. AIR QUALITY

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable Federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- d) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- e) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The proposal to allow the take of catfish and bullheads by bow and arrow fishing in the Delta, Lake Isabella, and Big Bear Lake will not have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status because bowfishing necessitates visual identification of the targeted species prior to take, unlike other methods of fishing which could result in indiscriminate by-catch of non-targeted special status species.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the CDFW or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological

interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. There is not ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy any unique paleontological resources or sites, or unique geologic features. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect paleontological resources.
- d) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- a i) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.

- a ii) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- a iii) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- a iv) The project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.

The proposal to allow take of catfish and bullheads by bow and arrow fishing in the Delta, Lake Isabella, and Big Bear Lake is not anticipated to result in an increase in the number of bowfishers in California. However, there is the potential for the redistribution of existing bowfishers to these waters. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some emissions. Although there is the potential for bowfishers to redistribute to these waters, the number of additional fishing trips to each water would be minimal. Thus, the impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be negligible.

- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

The proposal to allow the take of catfish and bullheads by bow and arrow fishing in the Delta, Lake Isabella, and Big Bear Lake may result in the redistribution of existing bowfishers to these waters, however, the number of additional fishing trips would be minimal. Thus the project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.
- g) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- h) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.

- b) The project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the work sites, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- f) The project will not substantially degrade water quality. The project will not involve any construction or land alteration, and thus will not have any adverse impacts on water quality.
- g) The project will not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on any flood hazard delineation map. No housing will be created as part of this project.
- h) The project will not place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would significantly impede or redirect flood flows. No new structures will be associated with this project.
- i) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- j) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- b) The project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with any Habitat Conservation or Natural Community Conservation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. NOISE

- a) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of noise levels in excess of, standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, or the creation of any permanent noise sources.
- d) The project will not result in a substantial temporary, or periodic, increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

- a) The project will not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.
- c) The project will not displace any people and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XV. RECREATION

- a) The increase of the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities will be less than significant due to project implementation.

The proposal to allow take of catfish and bullheads by bow and arrow fishing in the Delta, Lake Isabella, and Big Bear Lake is not anticipated to result in an increase in the number of bowfishers in California. Although there is the potential for existing bowfishers to redistribute to these waters, the number of additional fishing trips to each water would be minimal and is not expected to result in an overall increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

- b) The project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes. There will be no construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- a) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit.

The proposal to allow take of catfish and bullheads by bow and arrow fishing in the Delta, Lake Isabella, and Big Bear Lake is not expected to generate a significant amount of traffic at any of the proposed waters. Although there is the potential for bowfishers to redistribute to these waters, the waters are dispersed throughout

central and southern California and the number of additional fishing trips to each water would be minimal. Thus, the project will not produce a significant amount of traffic.

- b) The project will not conflict, either individually or cumulatively, with any applicable congestion program established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.
- c) The project will not result in any change in air traffic patterns.
- d) The project will not alter terrestrial features or is incompatible with uses of equipment.
- e) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project does not involve construction.
- f) The project will not significantly affect parking capacity or demand for parking.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource determined by the lead agency to be significant to a California Native American tribe. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- a) The project will not produce wastewater.
- b) The project will not require, or result in the construction of, new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not produce wastewater.
- c) The project will not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities.
- d) The project will have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources.
- e) The project will not produce wastewater.

- f) The project will not generate solid waste requiring disposal in a landfill.
- g) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local statutes related to solid waste.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.

Re: Proposed regulations

From: bob hoppy

Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 4:35 PM

To: FGC

Subject: Proposed regulations

I am very unhappy about the proposed closure of the nimbus basin. I have been fishing this area for many years and have seen many fish out of it. Especially this year. The amount of fish is very high. I pay for my fishing license like everyone one else. So I don't see why I should pay if you guys are making it worse for people to fish by closing down all of our spots . The nimbus basin is many anglers favorite fishing spot. And I think that it is very unfair to close it down and is just wrong. Have a public vote instead of a few people deciding for everyone. I have talked to many anglers about this and we are interested in protesting if necessary. Please consider this in your next meeting. Thank you. from my iPhone

Proposed Rule change for 6 foot leaders Salmon/steelheading

Kevin Okawa

Fri 10/20/2017 5:21 PM

To:FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>;

Hi

I wanted to chime in on your proposal for limiting Salmon and steelhead leaders to 6 feet.

I mainly fly fish for fish steelhead on the Trinity from Lewiston on downstream past grey falls and I commonly use a leader well over 6 feet. My setup is a strike indicator/ float, with 7-10' of leader to a fly with a few split shot in between. I've never once foul hooked a Salmon or steelhead using this method in the past 5 years of fishing because the fly rides vertically underneath the float.

Many flyfisherman also use this method of fishing and I believe it's a fair but effective way to fish.

My concern is that the rule change would severely restrict flyfisherman from legally targeting steelhead and could lead to a loss of revenue for the local guides and businesses in the area.

I'm suggesting a compromise by letting flyfisherman use a leader over 6 feet as long as they are using a deaddrift method with a float attached to the leader. Its very easy for F/G wardens to distinguish a flyfisherman deaddrift float fishing vs an angler "flossing" a school of Salmon or steelhead. You cannot effectively "floss" when you have a float/strike indicator attached to the line because the flies/bait tend to ride vertically which isn't conducive to "flossing" which works better by horizontally lining the fish.

Please reconsider the rule change or the exact verbage of the rule.

You could ask many of the local guides/ shops (Redding Fly shop, Lewiston Fly shop, Confluence Outfitters) and they would agree with my opinion and they would most definitely have a loss in revenue (guiding and flyfishing gear)

Thanks

-Kevin Okawa

Proposed Changes to the Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations



**Fish and Game Commission Meeting
December 6, 2017
Kevin Shaffer, Chief
Fisheries Branch**



Overview

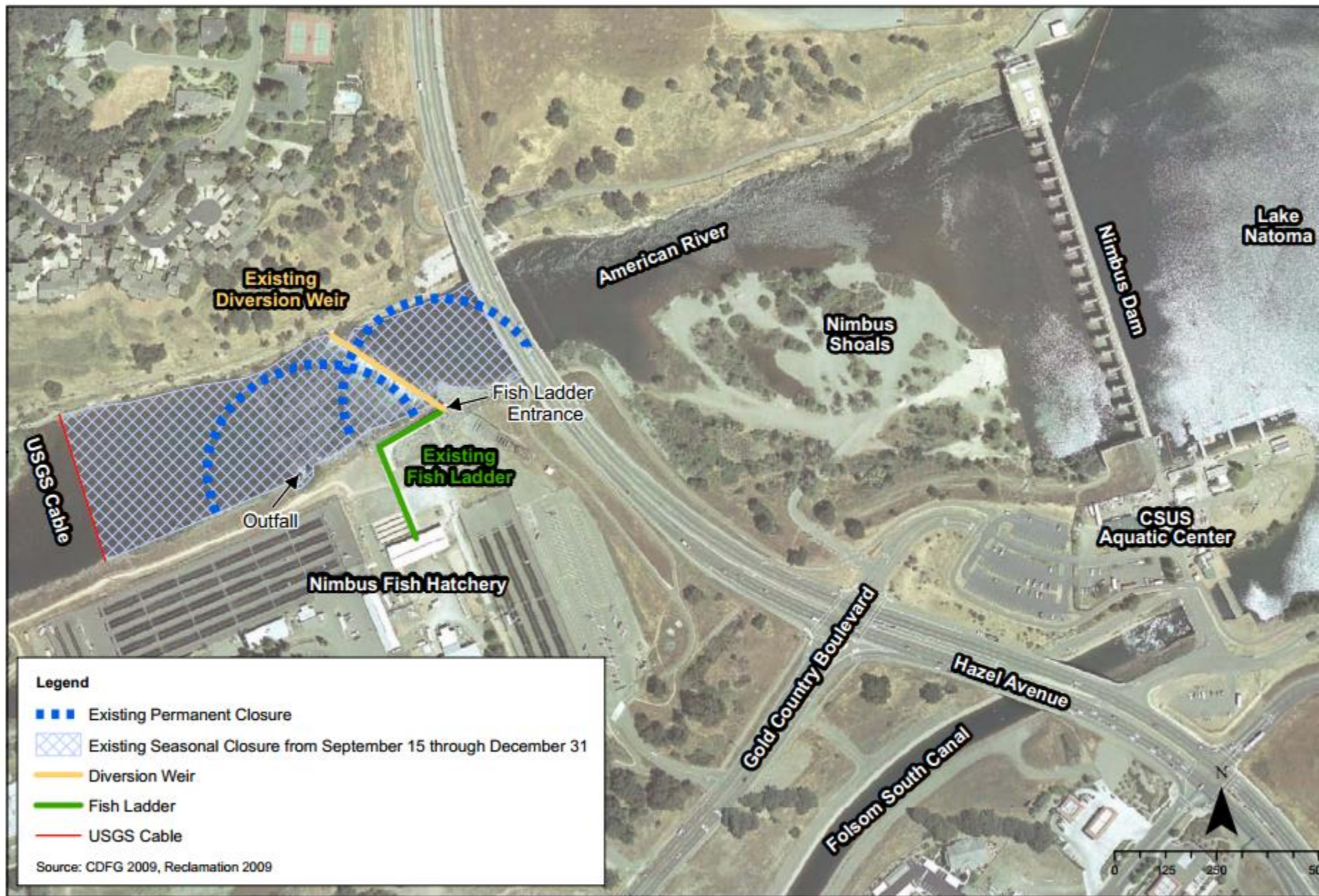
- Delay Sport Fishing Report Card changes
- Close of Nimbus Basin to fishing
- Restrict leader length to reduce foul-hooking
- Revise artificial lure definition and add bait definition
- Allow bow and arrow fishing for catfish in certain waters
- Close Rock Creek to fishing to protect Shasta crayfish
- Prohibit take of Shasta crayfish in Rock Creek
- Revise low-flow closure time period
- Clarify no take of salmon in upper Sacramento and McCloud rivers

Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements

- Proposed changes would affect all sport fishing report card holders, including marine report card holders
- Marine constituents were not notified of proposed changes
- Department recommends voting a “no change” alternative on what is currently in this regulatory package for Section 1.74
- Bring back to Commission in 2018

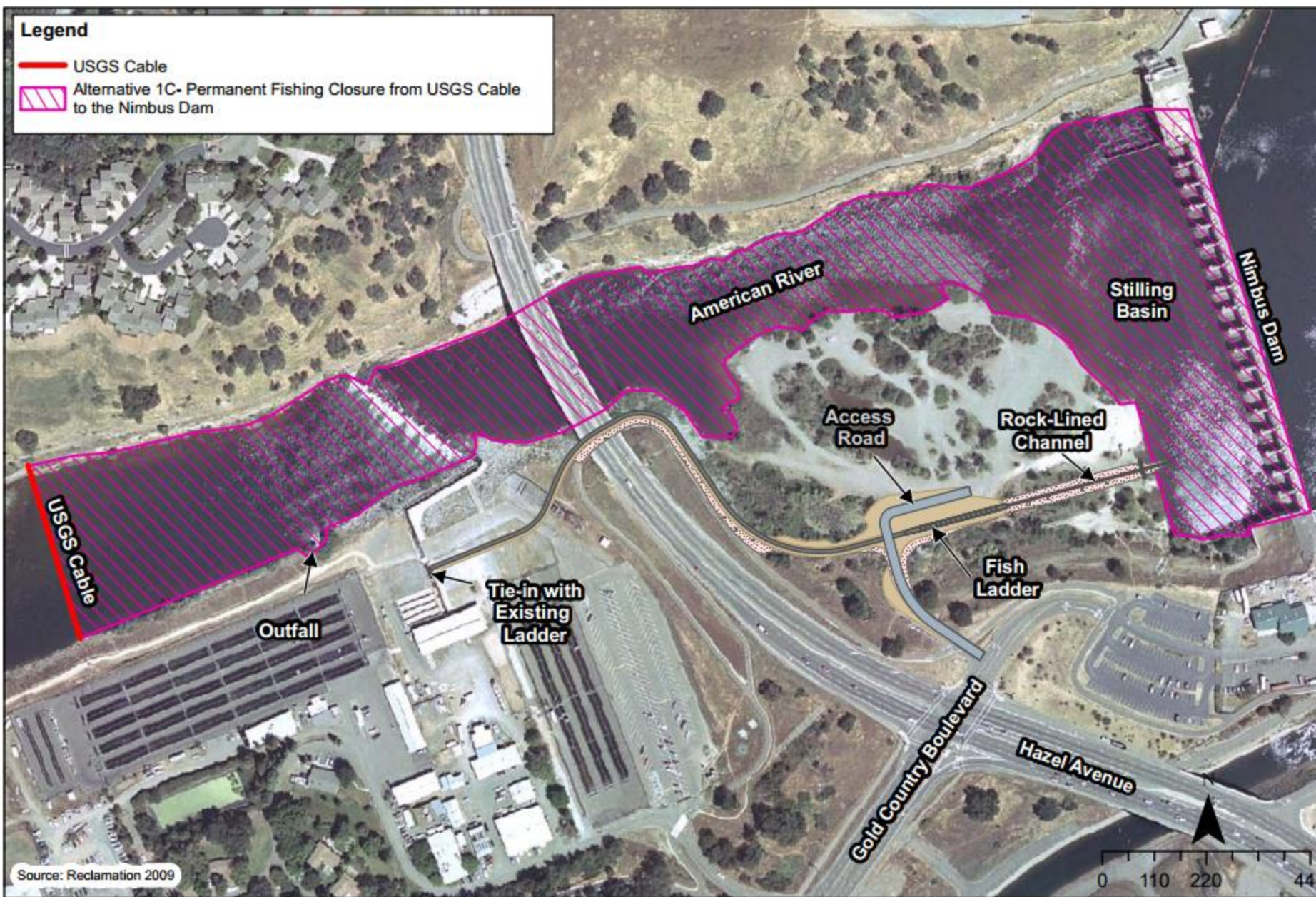
Close Nimbus Basin to Fishing

- USBR and DFW have completed a joint EIS/EIR for the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage Project
- Project will extend fish ladder into Nimbus Basin and remove existing fish weir
- Spawning and rearing salmon/steelhead will now be concentrated in the Nimbus Basin
- Propose to close LAR From Nimbus Dam to the U.S.G.S gauging station
- Need to protect Chinook Salmon and steelhead trout that hold in the area prior to spawning



Existing Fishing Closures

Nimbus Hatchery Fish Passage



Alternative 1C: Modified Fish Passageway and Fishing Closure

Nimbus Basin Closure

- Regulation would take effect March 2018
- Commission needs to take action now to be effective in 2018/2019 angling season
- Construction delayed likely until 2019
- Early 2019 is within steelhead spawning and hatchery operations period

Public Outreach to Date

- Two Northern California Radio Outdoor Talk Shows (August 19th and 26th)
- Wildlife Resources Committee Meetings (January 18th and May 24th)
- Fish and Game Commission Meetings (August 16th, October 11th, and December 6th)
- Sacramento County Fish and Game Commission Meeting (October 26th)

Definition of Artificial Lure and Bait

- To clarify that no scents or flavors shall be used on lures on waters where only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used
- Definition of “lure” would be removed and only “artificial lure” would be used
- Currently no definition of “bait” in Title 14
- Definition of bait is needed to clarify when scents and flavors can be used

Revise Definition of Artificial Lure - Justification

- Amend definition for clarity purposes
- Existing regulation states “An artificial lure is a man-made lure or fly designed to attract fish. **This definition does not include scented or flavored artificial baits.**”
- What is an artificial bait??
- Affects 100s of Special Waters and District waters that are artificial lure only

Leader Length Restriction

- Shorter leader length reduces number of foul-hooked salmon
- Intent is to reduce the number of fish that are foul-hooked
- Restrict leader length to less than six feet
- Anadromous waters only

Leader Length Restriction Clarification

- Concern: Adding weight to artificial flies won't be allowed

Clarification: Weighted flies will still be allowed

- Concern: Affects all fly anglers

Clarification: Fly anglers can use both weighted flies and long leaders, however if the distance from any weight (as defined) is longer than 6 feet that would be unlawful

Questions / Thank You

