

Sport Fishing Regulation Excerpts for Mollusks and Crustaceans (Shellfish) for 2018-2019



Effective March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019

- Anyone 16 years and older must have a fishing license to take any kind of fish (defined as wild fish, mollusks, crustaceans or other invertebrates, including any part, spawn, or ova thereof) in California, except for persons fishing from a public pier in ocean or bay waters.
- Sport-caught fish (including shellfish) may not be bought, sold, bartered or traded.
- Every person, while engaged in taking any fish, shall have on their person or in their immediate possession their valid sport fishing license, except when diving as provided in Section 7145 of the Fish and Game Code.
- No more than one daily bag limit of each kind of fish may be taken or possessed by any one person unless otherwise authorized, regardless of whether the fish are fresh, frozen or otherwise preserved.
- No invertebrates or fish, except as specified by Fish and Game Code and regulations, may be taken within marine life refuges from the high tide mark to 1,000 feet beyond the low tide mark.
- Divers may take crustaceans by use of hands only.
- Every person while taking invertebrates that have a size limit shall carry a device that is capable of accurately measuring the minimum legal size of the species taken.

Lobster

- All individuals (including children under 16, people fishing from a public pier and people fishing on Free Fishing Days) must have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their immediate possession while fishing for or taking lobster, except when diving (CCRT-14, Section 29.91)
- Lobster may only be taken by hand or by hoop net. Hoop nets must be checked at least every 2 hours.
- All lobster must be measured immediately and any undersized lobster must be released immediately into the water.

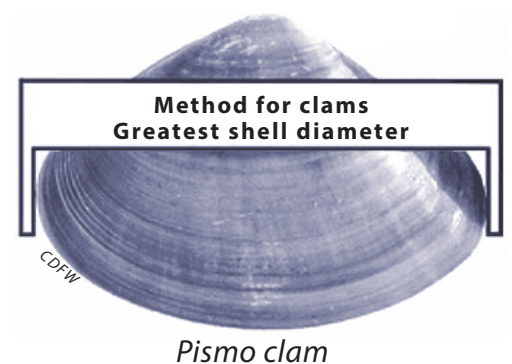
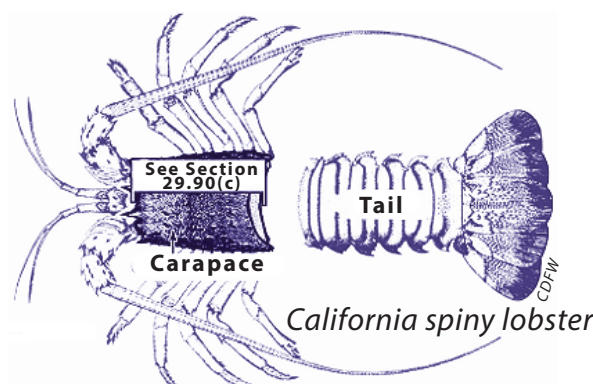
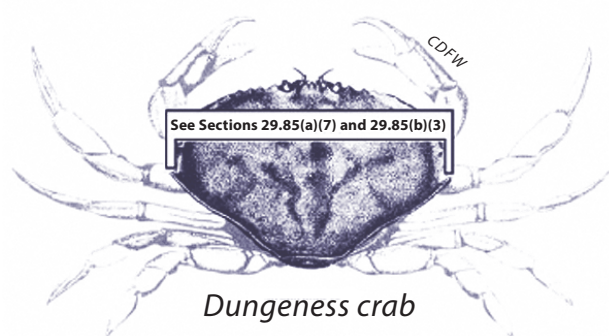
Abalone

Red Abalone Season Is Closed for 2018

- South of Pt. Arguello (Santa Barbara Co.), hoop net buoys must be marked with the owner or user's GO ID number, except when fishing from piers, jetties, or shore.
- Spiny Lobster Report Cards/report card data must be submitted to the Department by the date specified on the card.
- Clams that have a size limit and are not retained shall be immediately reburied in the area where they were dug.
- Speckled (Bay) scallop may not be taken or possessed.
- Dungeness crab may not be taken in San Francisco or San Pablo bays or tidal waters thereof.
- South of Point Arguello (Santa Barbara Co.), when taking spiny lobster or crab, not more than 5 hoop nets may be possessed per person (except only 2 may be used per person to take lobster and crab on a public pier), not to exceed a total of 10 hoop nets per vessel.
- Moon snails may not be taken north of the Golden Gate.

Seasons, Daily Bag and Size Limits

Species	Open Season	Bag Limit	Minimum Size Limit
Rock Scallop	All year	10	None
Red, Rock, Slender, and Yellow Crabs	All year	35	4 in. widest shell diameter (see Size Measurement, below); no minimum size limit in Humboldt Bay
Dungeness Crab - Call (831) 649-2883 for emergency closure information	Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties: Nov. 5, 2016 - July 30, 2017 All other counties: Nov. 5, 2016 - June 30, 2017	10	5¾ in. widest shell diameter (see Size Measurement, below) directly in front of and excluding the points (lateral spines)
Ghost Shrimp and Sand Crab	All year	50	None
Spiny Lobster	Sept. 30, 2017 (6:00 a.m.) - Mar. 21, 2018	7 (possession limit)	3¼ in. carapace length (see below)
Red Abalone	Red Abalone Season CLOSED for 2018		
Geoduck Clam	All year	first 3 taken	None
Pismo Clam	Santa Cruz and Monterey counties: Sept. - Apr. All other counties: All year	10	5 in. from Monterey Co. north; 4½ in. from San Luis Obispo Co. south
Mussels (Calif. sea/bay)	All year (call 1-800-553-4133 for seasonal quarantine)	10 lb. combined	None



Size Measurement

- Each person taking mollusks or crustaceans having a size limit must carry a suitable measuring device (see current regulations).
- Lobster is measured by the straight line distance from between the two horns (above the eyes) to the end of the carapace.
- Clams, scallops and abalone are measured by the straight line distance of the greatest shell diameter.
- Crabs are measured by the shortest distance through the body from edge of shell to edge of shell directly in front of and excluding the points (lateral spines).
- It is unlawful to possess on any boat or to bring ashore any fish, mollusk, or crustacean upon which a size or weight limit is prescribed in such a condition that its weight or size cannot be determined.

Consult the current Saltwater Sport Fishing Regulations booklet or the CDFW website (wildlife.ca.gov/ocean-sport-regs) for more information.