

Angling Regulations Excerpts for 2018-2019



Effective March 2018 through February 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 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.
- It is unlawful to possess on any boat or to bring ashore any fish, mollusk, crustacean or other invertebrate upon which a size or weight limit is prescribed in such a condition that its weight or size cannot be determined.
- A boat limit is equal to the number of authorized anglers multiplied by the individual daily bag limit for a species or species group. CPFV operators and crewmembers are not included in the boat limit calculation and may not contribute to the boat limit, but may catch and possess individual bag limits separate from the boat limit. Upon completion of the fishing trip, individual daily bag and possession limits will apply to each angler.
- Gaffs or hooks may not be used to land finfish shorter than the minimum size limit.
- An 18 in. diameter (or larger) landing net must be available and in immediate possession for landing undersized fish onto ocean floating devices.
- No more than two hooks and one line may be used when fishing for or in possession of rockfish, lingcod, cabezon or greenlings.
- Consult ocean sport fishing regulations for seasonal and depth restrictions for federal groundfish as defined in Section 1.91.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits

20 fish of all species combined but not more than 10 fish of any one species

Within the overall bag limit of 20 fish, the following special limits apply:

- Rockfish, Cabezon and Greenling (RCG Complex) – 10 fish, of which 3 may be Black Rockfish, 2 may be Canary Rockfish, and 3 may be Cabezon
- Cowcod, Yelloweye and Bronzespotted Rockfishes, Green Sturgeon, Giant (Black) Seabass, White Shark, Garibaldi, Gulf and Broomtail Groupers – may NOT be taken or possessed
- Lingcod – 2 fish
- California Sheephead – 5 fish
- California Scorpionfish (sculpin) – 5 fish
- Broadbill Swordfish – 2 fish (may be taken by angling only)
- Kelp Bass, Sand Bass, Spotted Sand Bass – 5 in any combination of species
- White Seabass – 3 fish (1 fish between March 15 and June 15 south of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara Co.)
- Leopard Shark – 3 fish
- California Halibut – 5 fish (3 fish north of Pt. Sur, Monterey Co.)
- Blue, Thresher, and Shortfin Mako Sharks – 2 fish each
- Soupfin, Sixgill, and Sevengill Sharks – 1 fish each
- Striped Bass – 2 fish (no size limit south of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara Co.)
- Bluefin Tuna – 2 fish, not included in the 20 fish general bag limit.
- Albacore Tuna – 10 fish (25 fish north of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara Co.)
Not included in the 20 fish general bag limit.

There are no size or possession limits on the following species:

ANCHOVY	PACIFIC BUTTERFISH (POMPANO)	PACIFIC SARDINE	SKIPJACK TUNA	STARRY FLOUNDER
JACK MACKEREL	PACIFIC MACKEREL	QUEENFISH	STAGHORN SCULPIN (BULLHEAD)	TOPSMELT
JACKSMELT		SANDDABS		PETRALE SOLE

Minimum Length

Alternate Length: Base of foremost spine of dorsal fin to longest tip of tail

Fork Length: Tip of head, with mouth closed, to fork of tail

Total Length: Tip of head, with mouth closed, to longest tip of tail

Scorpionfish (Sculpin)	None less than 10 in. total length
California Halibut	None less than 22 in. total length
Lingcod	None less than 22 in. total length
Cabezon	None less than 15 in. total length
White Seabass	None less than 28 in. total length (or 20½ in. alternate length)
Bonito	Five fish less than 24 in. fork length or weighing less than 5 lb.
Barracuda	None less than 28 in. total length (or 17 in. alternate length)
Bass: Kelp, Sand, Spotted Sand	None less than 14 in. total length (or 10 in. alternate length)
Leopard Shark	None less than 36 in. total length
Yellowtail	Five fish less than 24 in. fork length
California Sheephead	None less than 12 in. total length
Greenling: Kelp, Rock	None less than 12 in. total length

Filleting Regulations Aboard Vessels

- Kelp Bass, Sand Bass, Spotted Sand Bass: fillet 7½ in. or longer, must bear intact not less than a 1 x 1 in. patch of skin.
- Barracuda: fillet 17 in. or longer, must bear intact not less than a 1 x 1 in. patch of **silver** skin.
- White Seabass: fillet 19 in. or longer, must bear intact not less than a 1 x 1 in. patch of **silver** skin.
- Lingcod: fillet 14 in. or longer, must bear intact not less than 1x1 in. patch of skin.
- Ocean Whitefish: fillet 6½ in. or longer, must bear entire skin intact.
- Tunas and California Halibut: consult saltwater sport fishing regulations.
- Rockfish: must bear entire skin intact.
- California Scorpionfish: fillet 5 in. or longer, must bear intact a 1 x 1 in. patch of skin.
- Cabezon, Kelp Greenling, Rock Greenling, Salmon, Striped Bass, White Sturgeon, and California Sheephead: may NOT be filleted on a boat or brought ashore as fillets.
- All others must bear intact not less than a 1 x 1 in. patch of skin.

Consult ocean sport fishing regulations, CDFW website (wildlife.ca.gov/ocean-sport-regs) or the groundfish regulations hotline (831-649-2801) for current information