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## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

September 12, 2018

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to amending Sections 1.53, 1.74 and 5.00, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to sport fishing annual regulations for 2019, which is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on September 14, 2018.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/>.

**Kevin Shaffer**, Chief, Fisheries Division, Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 327-8841, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,



Jon D. Shellstrom  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

## **TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7380 and 8491 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 110, 200, 205, 255, 265, 270, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382 of said Code, proposes to Amend Sections 1.53, 1.74 and 5.00, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Freshwater Sport Fishing Amendments and Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements – Sport Fishing.

### **Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview** - Sections 1.53 & 5.00, Title 14, CCR

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 Annual Sport Fishing Regulations review cycle. This proposal will clarify that inland waters do not include bays, increase fishing opportunities for black bass in Perris Lake, and make needed corrections to existing regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

#### **Inland Waters Definition**

The current definition of inland waters can be confusing to anglers who want to fish two rods in a bay but are not sure if a second rod validation is required. A second-rod validation is only required in inland waters. However, the current definition of Inland Waters (Title 14, Section 1.53) is not clear if inland waters include or exclude bays. The definition reads, "Inland waters exclude the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough..." The definition only excludes San Francisco Bay. Title 14, Section 27.00, Definition of the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District reads, "The ocean is...the waters of open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean." This definition clearly states that all bays are considered waters of the ocean. To be consistent and clear, the definition of inland waters should state that all bays are excluded, not just San Francisco Bay. Amending the definition will clarify that inland waters do not include bays and, therefore, a second rod validation is not required in a bay.

#### **Lake Perris Largemouth Bass Size and Bag Limit**

The current regulations were changed in 2009 to protect the fishery when the lake was drawn down by 43% to repair the dam. DFW placed 1,484 brush habitat structures into the remnant lake from 2008-2016 and built 109 rock reefs with approximately 109,000 square feet of gravel/cobble rock areas. The dam repair has been completed and the water is restored to an 80% pool. DFW proposes to re-establish the bass regulations to the statewide standard of 5 fish at 12 inches.

#### **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 effective date procedures from Section 215 to Section 270 of the Fish and Game Code, moving the Commission's effective period procedures from Section 220 to Section 275 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, 215, and 220 are removed from, and sections 265, 270, and 275 are added to, the authority and reference citations for this rulemaking.

### Goals and Benefits of the above 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 provide 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.

### **Informative Digest/Policy Statement** - Section 1.74, Title 14, CCR

This proposal will 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.

### 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 90 days after the reporting deadline.

When a report card is lost, a licensee may wish to obtain a replacement report card 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 replacement report card. This proposal updates procedures regarding lost report cards to provide guidelines for obtaining a replacement report card, and for reporting harvest from a lost report card without obtaining a replacement report card.

#### Goals and Benefits of this 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 provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of this proposed regulation 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.

#### Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. The Commission has searched the California Code of Regulations and finds no other State agency regulations pertaining to fresh and marine sport fisheries as well as the establishment of guidelines for reporting harvest.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Radisson Fresno Conference Center, 1055 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno, California, on Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in QLN Conference Center, 1938 Avenida del Oro, Oceanside, California, on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on November 29, 2018, at the address given below, or by email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov). Written comments mailed (to Fish and Game Commission, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090), or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on December 7, 2018. All

comments must be received no later than December 13, 2018, at the hearing in Oceana, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on November 29, 2018, at the address given below, or by email to [FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov). Written comments mailed (to Fish and Game Commission, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090), or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on December 7, 2018. All comments must be received no later than December 13, 2018, at the hearing in Fresno, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

#### Availability of Documents

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout format can be accessed through the Commission website at [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov). The regulations as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Kevin Shaffer, Chief, Fisheries Division, (916) 327-8841**, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed sport fishing regulations. Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

#### Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

#### Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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. Sport fishing 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.

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 Commission 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.

### Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

### Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: September 4, 2018

Valerie Termini  
Executive Director