

Memorandum

Date: April 22, 2020

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Emergency Fishing Delays in Sierra County**

On April 15, 2020 the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopted emergency regulations (*i.e.*, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 8.02) providing the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) the ability to delay, suspend, or restrict sport or recreational fishing for particular species or areas to ensure that anglers, local communities, and government employees are protected from increased risk of transmission of COVID-19. This ability is conditioned on coordination with local government and Tribes, and consultation with the President of the Commission.

The Department has received letters from Sierra County officials requesting that the Department delay and suspend trout fishing for certain waters in their county for the protection of public health and safety. As requested, the Department has also had discussions with county leadership. As a result of those conversations and in response to Sierra County's letter dated April 21, 2020, the Department is acting to delay and suspend trout fishing on the Downie River and select sections of the North Fork Yuba River in Sierra County. As described below, these changes will expire by May 31, 2020, if not sooner.

In response to Sierra County's request, I have consulted with Commission President Eric Sklar and per the authority granted in Section 8.02, the Department is acting to temporarily delay the trout fishing opener on the Downie River and suspend fishing on the North Fork Yuba River from Yuba Pass downstream to the confluence with Goodyears Creek in Sierra County effective tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, 2020. These restrictions will remain in effect until May 31, 2020, unless the Department ends these restrictions earlier as authorized in Section 8.02. Attached to this memorandum is a comprehensive summary of the changes to the regulations (Attachment 1) and the comprehensive formal regulation changes (Attachment 1) resulting from these restrictions and others requested by Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Roger Bloom, Acting Chief, Fisheries Branch at Roger.Bloom@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachments:

1. Comprehensive Summary of Changes to Sportfishing Regulations to Implement Season Delays and Suspensions in Response to Requests to Protect Public Health and Safety
2. Comprehensive List of Modifications to Fishing Regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, In Response to Requests to Protect Public Health and Safety

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