

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 24-25, 2020

**8. DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

<b>Today's Item</b>	<b>Information</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Action</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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This is a standing agenda item to receive and discuss informational updates from DFW.

- (A) Director's report
  - I. Update on actions taken after May 14, 2020 pursuant to the emergency sport and recreational fishing regulations in Section 8.02
- (B) Marine Region
  - I. Update on the Drift Gill Net Transition Program
  - II. Update on CARES Act fisheries assistance funding
- (C) Law Enforcement Division

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

Verbal reports are expected at the meeting for items (A) through (C). A DFW news release of interest related to ocean salmon and Pacific halibut is provided as Exhibit B1.

Under Item (B), the Marine Region report will include:

- I. An update on the voluntary DFW Drift Gill Net Transition Program, which incentivizes drift gill net permittees to transition out of the drift gill net shark and swordfish fishery, reduces bycatch, and provides for a sustainable swordfish fishery. The program was established through legislation in 2018 and regulations establishing the program were adopted by DFW in late 2019. Since the regulations were adopted, significant progress has been made to establish the necessary agreements to begin implementing the program.
- II. An update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from which \$300 million was appropriated to support states, tribes, and territories with coastal and marine fishery participants who have experienced negative economic impacts from COVID-19. Of the total amount, \$18.3 million is designated for California fisheries.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

- B.1 [DFW news release: CDFW Announces Publication of Rules for Ocean Salmon and Pacific Halibut](#), dated May 8, 2020

**Motion/Direction (N/A)**

# CDFW Announces Publication of Rules for Ocean Salmon and Pacific Halibut

May 8, 2020

New annual federal regulations for ocean salmon and Pacific halibut fisheries for waters off California have taken effect. Federal regulations for Pacific halibut were published in [85 Federal Register 25317](#) on May 1, 2020 and were effective April 30, 2020, and ocean salmon regulations were published in [85 Federal Register 27317](#) on May 8, 2020 and were effective as of May 6, 2020.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, section 1.95, ocean salmon and Pacific halibut sport fishing regulations in state waters automatically conform to these new federal regulations.

Both the ocean salmon fishery and the Pacific halibut fishery opened on May 1. Anglers are reminded to abide by all state and local health guidelines regarding non-essential travel and physical distancing. Anglers are also advised to check with local authorities on the status of harbor and access points as site closures and access restrictions may change daily.

The 2020 recreational ocean salmon season dates for the California coast are as follows:

- In the Klamath Management Zone, which is the area between the Oregon/California state line and Horse Mountain (40°05'00" N. latitude), the season will open June 6 and will continue through Aug. 9.
- The Fort Bragg and San Francisco areas, which extend from Horse Mountain to Point Arena (38°57'30" N. latitude) and Point Arena to Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. latitude), respectively, opened May 1 and will continue through Nov. 8.
- The Monterey area between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border opened on May 1 and will continue through Oct. 4.

The minimum size limit is 20 inches total length in all areas north of Pigeon Point. In the Monterey area the minimum size limit is 24 inches total length. The daily bag limit is two Chinook salmon per day. No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit. Retention of coho salmon (also known as silver salmon) is prohibited in all ocean fisheries off California.

Next year's April recreational ocean salmon season has also been determined at this time. In 2021, the recreational ocean salmon season will open April 3 south of Horse Mountain. The minimum size limit is 20 inches total length in the Fort Bragg management area and 24 inches

total length south of Point Arena. The daily bag limit is two Chinook salmon per day. The remainder of the 2021 ocean salmon season will be decided in April of next year.

The 2020 Pacific halibut season is scheduled to be open statewide seven days per week from May 1 through Oct. 31, or until the quota has been met, whichever is earlier. There is no minimum size limit for this species. The daily bag and possession limit is one fish. Again this year, the public can follow the progress of catch through the season on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) [Pacific halibut web page](#); however, updates to catch information may be offered less frequently than in prior years.

Public notification of any in-season change is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Ocean Salmon and Pacific Halibut Hotlines. Before engaging in any fishing activity for these species, please check one of the following resources for the most up-to-date information:

Ocean Salmon Resources:

- CDFW website, [wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon](http://wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon)
- NMFS Ocean Salmon Hotline, (800) 662-9825
- CDFW Ocean Salmon Hotline, (707) 576-3429

Pacific Halibut Resources:

- CDFW Pacific Halibut web page, [wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/pacific-halibut](http://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/pacific-halibut)
- NMFS Halibut Hotline, (800) 662-9825
- CDFW Recreational Groundfish and Pacific Halibut Regulations Hotline, (831) 649-2801

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