EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director





State of California – Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE Fisheries Branch P.O. Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 www.wildlife.ca.gov

## PUBLIC NOTICE: COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION for PROPOSED SIMPLIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS TO STATEWIDE INLAND SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is providing Public Notice of the completion of an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for a proposed project to modify existing sport fishing regulations for inland trout waters throughout California in furtherance of the Department's public trust responsibility to protect and conserve California's natural resources.

## Project Location: Statewide.

**Project Description:** The Fish and Game Commission proposes to amend sections 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 5.41, 5.85, 7.00, 7.50, and 8.10 in Title 14, California Code of Regulations and add sections 5.84, 5.89, and 7.40 to Title 14, CCR, related to inland sport fishing regulations. The proposed changes aim to simplify and streamline the sport fishing regulations for inland trout waters and align the inland trout regulations with the Department's current fisheries management goals and objectives. Inland trout waters include lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, creeks, and other water bodies that are fishable under state regulation, and may be regulated by stretch or reach as defined by physical landmarks (e.g., the stretch of Putah Creek downstream of the Highway 113 bridge to Mace Boulevard).

Most of the proposed changes involve re-organization of existing regulatory requirements, and others are restrictions placed on the take of trout, including total or partial closures, reduced bag limits, size limits of various kinds, and limitations on the methods of take. The purpose of these restrictions is to eliminate or reduce the sport fish harvest, to protect populations of threatened trout, or to enhance the trophy element of the catch.

This project will:

- Separate regulations for inland trout (i.e., non-anadromous waters) from those for steelhead and salmon (i.e., anadromous waters), a process that facilitates the production of separate regulations booklets to help provide clarity to anglers;
- Replace the District Regulations (Section 7.00) with statewide regulations separated for trout; and

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

• Standardize and consolidate the Special Fishing Regulations (Section 7.50).

**On-line copies:** The IS/ND is available for review online at: <u>http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=182916</u>

**Comment Period:** Comments on the IS/ND may be provided through **October 8, 2020 at 5:00 pm**. Please mail comments to the address listed above; made attention to Ms. Karen Mitchell. Comments must be postmarked by **October 8, 2020**. For additional information, please contact Karen Mitchell at (916) 205-0250 or at Karen.Mitchell@wildlife.ca.gov.