

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q: How did I get picked to take this survey?

A: You were randomly selected from a list of those who bought fishing licenses in 2019.

Q: Why is CDFW doing this survey?

A: It's been over 30 years since CDFW did a preference survey of inland (freshwater) anglers. CDFW wants to get a general, statewide overview of the experiences and preference of anglers who fish the state's inland waters. This kind of broad survey of preferences has not been done since 1988.

Q: I just did a marine survey, why is CDFW asking me to take another survey?

A: This is a preference survey of inland (freshwater) anglers.

Q: I was at my favorite lake last year and someone from CDFW came up and asked me a bunch of questions about what I caught. I filled an Angler Survey Box form on my favorite stream.

A: CDFW has never stopped doing creel census surveys of inland anglers. In those surveys, we interview anglers about what species of fish they caught, how many they caught, what size were the fish, etc. Creel census and Angler Survey Box forms are focused on your catch for that day and for an individual lake or stream. The Angler Preference Survey that you received will provide CDFW with an overall view by being statewide in scope and by looking at your experiences over the year.

Q: I am very concerned about privacy. How will you protect my private information?

A: The staff who will do data entry and analysis of your survey responses will not know your name. Because we do not want to double count people, we need to use a unique identifier. The unique identifier will not be associated with your personal information. Therefore, the person(s) entering your responses will not have access to any of your personal information and thus cannot connect the unique identifier with your name, address, or any other personal information.

Q: Due to the pandemic shut down, I haven't gone fishing at all this year, should I still fill out the survey?

A: Yes, this survey asks about your experiences and preferences for the past few years (2017, 2018, 2019). We are not asking any questions about your experiences and preferences for the current (2020) year.

Q: Why don't you ask any question related to how the COVID-19 pandemic affects fishing in California?

A: This survey was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intent of this survey was always to gauge the preferences of anglers in the recent past years (specifically the last three years - 2017, 2018, 2019). How angler's preferences, interests, and concerns are being affected by the pandemic crisis could be addressed in a later survey. Thus, future Angler Preference Surveys might ask anglers how the pandemic related restrictions have changed their experiences, interests, and preferences for fishing.

Q: What is an "inland water"?

A: Basically, it's non-marine bodies of water in the state. Specifically, the definition of inland waters, from the official fishing regulation booklet (Section 1.53), is: "Inland waters are fresh, brackish and inland saline waters of the state, including lagoons and tidewaters upstream from the mouths of coastal rivers and streams. Inland water exclude open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean including the water of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough, west of Elkhorn Road between Castroville and Watsonville. See Section 27.00 for the description of San Francisco Bay."

Q: My buddy heard about this survey and wants to take it. How can he sign up to take the survey?

A: Unfortunately, your fishing buddy cannot take the survey on his own. The people selected to take this survey were selected at random. It is very important that we do this so that we get a representative sample of California's anglers.

Q: I still have questions. Can you help me?

A: Yes. You can email this special email address if you still have questions about this survey:

anglersurvey@wildlife.ca.gov