



Tracking Number: (2021-009)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission’s authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

**SECTION I: Required Information.**

*Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages*

**1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)**

Name of primary contact person: Thomas A. Kesig

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:** California Fish and Game Commission.

**3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:** California DFW has instituted changes to the regulations regarding the East Walker River. Regulations that are extremely damaging to the fish and its habitat.

**Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:** As an angler and one who has fished many fisheries throughout the Eastern Sierra’s for the past 50 years, and specifically the East Walker River, I want to ensure that you and your fellow Commissioners are aware of the negative impacts the latest DFW regulations will have on the East Walker, its fish population, and the local economy. It is extremely unfortunate that the new regulations ignore the historic management of the East Walker as a trophy Brown trout fishery. To most, if not all, experienced and educated outdoorsman these new regulations are unconscionable. The regulations not only double the legal daily take, they also permit the use of barbed hooks. How can this be good for the fisheries? For good reason, California has not allowed barbed hooks on a water with special regulations. Undersized trout hooked and then released from barbed hooks have a high mortality rate. That, coupled with the doubling of the daily take, will not improve the health of the East Walker fishery as populations of both large and small fish will be negatively impacted. Since 2006 the river has been open to winter fishing and no adverse effects from this year-round access have been documented. In addition, winter fishing allows increased angler opportunity and local businesses to enjoy welcomed income during the long “off” season. The East Walker flows into Nevada which has managed the river as a year-round, artificial, single



barbless, catch and release water. Nevada has seen no harmful impacts from these regulations. The East Walker fish in California should enjoy the same protections as their Nevada cousins. There are very few rivers in our state that have the potential to grow 30-inch Brown trout. The East Walker is one of them. I encourage the Commission to review these regulation changes and return this river to its former status as a year-round angling destination with regulations that protect - rather than harm - the fish.

## SECTION II: Optional Information

4. **Date of Petition:** [June 7, 2021.]
5. **Category of Proposed Change**
  - x Sport Fishing
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Hunting
  - Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.]
6. **The proposal is to:** (To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)
  - Amend Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.]
  - Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.]
  - Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.]
7. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.]  
Or  Not applicable.
8. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.  
If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: [Immediately! The reason is that you are killing fish everyday that you allow the recent regulations to stay in place.]
9. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Common sense for anyone with a brain!]
10. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: [Click here to enter text.]
11. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:  
[Click here to enter text.]

## SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [Click here to enter text.]



FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: \_\_\_\_\_ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: \_\_\_\_\_ |

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition \_\_\_\_\_ |
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number