

STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 17, 2023

5. CENTRAL VALLEY SPORT FISHING (ANNUAL)**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Adopt proposed amendments to Central Valley sport fishing regulations and consider taking final action under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • WRC vetting | Sep 15, 2022; WRC |
| • Notice hearing | Feb 8-9, 2023 |
| • Discussion hearing | Apr 19-20, 2023 |
| • Today's adoption hearing | May 17, 2023 |

Background

The Commission generally adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations on an annual basis, informed by Department recommendations intended to align state regulations with federal fishery management objectives set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). In February 2023, the Commission authorized publication of a notice of proposed changes to bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) in the American, Feather, Mokelumne and Sacramento rivers to reflect PFMC management objectives for SRFC stocks. The scope of options in the initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 1) was intentionally broad to allow flexibility in developing Central Valley salmon limits to target in-river harvest projections identified by PFMC.

In April 2023, PFMC adopted its recommendation for the upcoming ocean salmon seasons: a full closure of commercial and recreational ocean salmon fishing. At the Commission's April 2023 meeting, the Department recommended specific regulation changes (based in part on PFMC's final ocean salmon recommendations), namely:

- full closure of the 2023 SRFC recreational fishery in the Sacramento, Feather, American and Mokelumne rivers;
- full closure of the late-fall-run Chinook fishery in the Sacramento River (SRLFC); and
- adopting permanent boundary and split season changes.

At today's meeting, the Commission may adopt one or more of the following options, independently or in combination, which would apply in anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne and/or Sacramento rivers:

- Option 1 – Allows take of any size Chinook salmon up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].
- Option 2 – Allows take of a specified number of adult Chinook salmon, with grilse Chinook salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].
- Option 3 – Allows take of only grilse Chinook salmon up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12]. Take of adult Chinook salmon would not be allowed.

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- Option 4 – Closed to take and possession of Chinook salmon. Prohibits all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option will allow take of other species.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Department drafted an initial study and negative declaration as a proposed mechanism for complying with CEQA and provided the draft to the Commission at the April meeting. Commission staff has reviewed and analyzed the negative declaration and determined that it reflects the independent judgment of the Commission. The Commission submitted the draft negative declaration for public comment (State Clearinghouse Number 2023040263, available at ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2023040263); no public comments were received.

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

Commission staff: Adopt the negative declaration prepared pursuant to CEQA in Exhibit 4 and adopt Option 4 as provided in Exhibit 2.

Department: Adopt the regulatory changes as proposed.

Exhibits

1. [Central Valley sport fishing initial statement of reasons, dated January 18, 2023](#)
2. [Proposed regulatory language, dated March 2023](#)
3. [Department memo transmitting draft initial study and negative declaration, received March 30, 2023](#)
4. [Initial study and draft negative declaration, dated March 2023](#)
5. [Notice of completion and document transmittal form and summary form](#)
6. [PFMC report: Pre-Season Report I – Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2023 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations, dated March 2023](#)
7. [Department presentation made at April 19-20, 2023 Commission meeting](#)
8. [Department e-mail in lieu of pre-adoption statement of reasons](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the negative declaration prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, approves the proposed project, and adopts proposed changes to subsections 7.40(b)(4), (43), (66) and (80) related to Central Valley sport fishing regulations for the 2023 season, as discussed today.

State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action
Amend Subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66),
and (b)(80) of Section 7.40
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: January 18, 2023

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 8, 2023

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 19, 2023

Location: Fresno/Bakersfield Area

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: May 17, 2023

Location: Webinar/Teleconference

III. Description of Regulatory Action

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulatory Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 2022 seasons and daily bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively. Collectively, these four rivers constitute the “Central Valley fishery” for SRFC for purposes of this document (Figure 1). Each year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends new Chinook Salmon daily bag and possession limits for consideration by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to align with up-to-date management goals, as set forth below.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

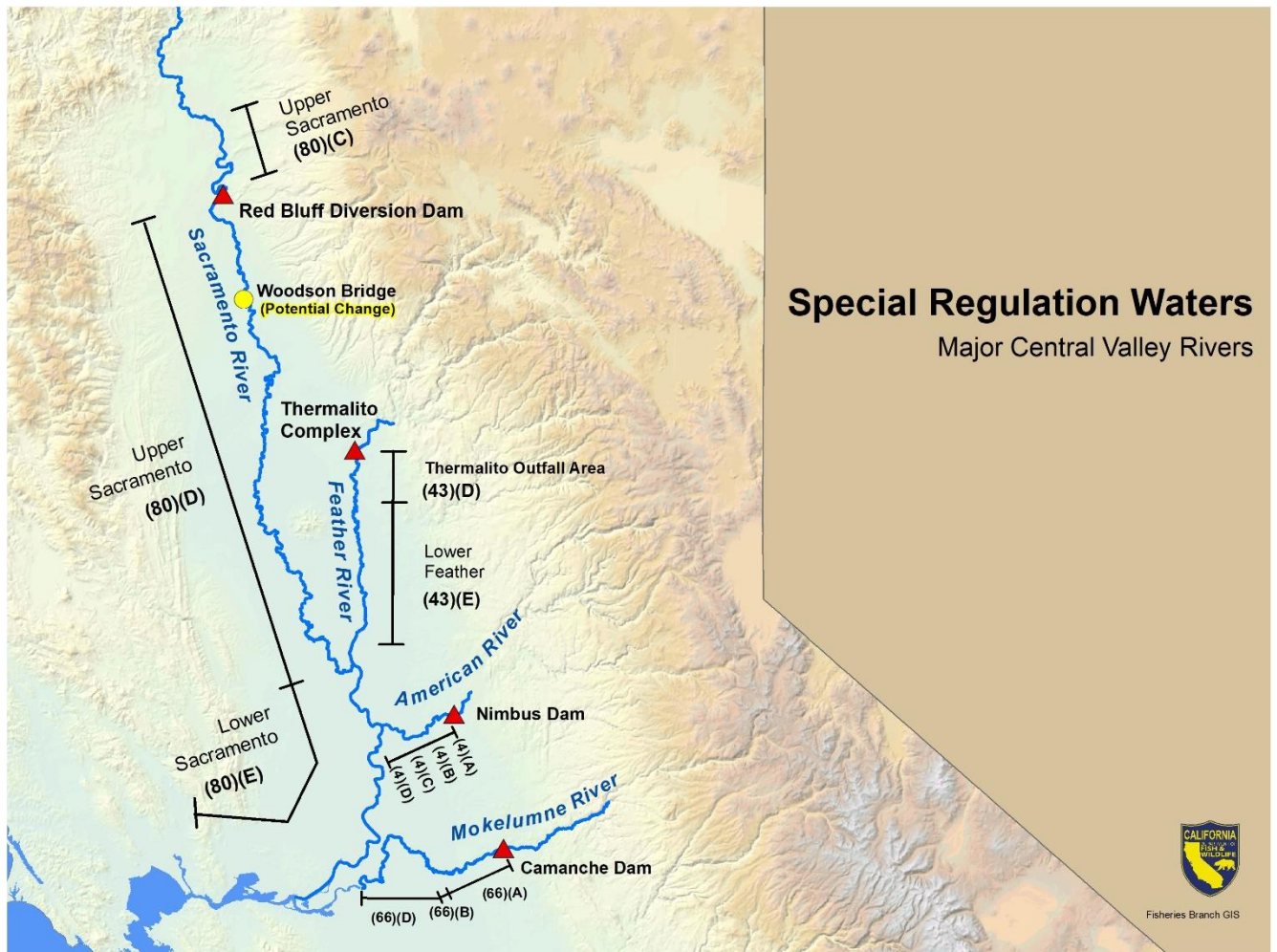


Figure 1. Map of the 2023 “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

The PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2023 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2023 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2023 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limit regulations for the Central Valley fishery to the Commission at its April 19, 2023 meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 17, 2023 meeting.

(b) Proposed Regulations

SACRAMENTO RIVER FISHING BOUNDARY REVISION

On the Sacramento River between the Deschutes Road Bridge and the Highway 113 bridge (i.e., subsections 7.40(b)(80)(C) and (D)), the Department is proposing to move the geographic fishing boundary from Red Bluff Diversion Dam (river mile 244) to **Woodson Bridge** (river mile 220). All of the SRFC spawning tributaries and the vast majority of the mainstem SRFC spawning habitat is located upstream of Woodson Bridge. Moving the fishing boundary to Woodson Bridge is necessary to allow adults escaping the fishery to stage unmolested below

their natal tributaries, reducing overall harvest rates but still providing recreational opportunity within productive historic fishing grounds below Woodson Bridge.

SACRAMENTO RIVER LATE-FALL RUN FISHERY OPPORTUNITY

On the Sacramento River between Deschutes Road Bridge and Woodson Bridge, as proposed, (i.e., amended subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C), the Department is proposing to split the current fishing season of August 1 through December 31 into two separate seasons from August 1 through October 31 and November 1 through December 31. . This split season will allow for better management options for SRFC and Sacramento River late-fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRLFC) populations. Fall-run spawner escapement surveys conducted by the Department indicate that SRFC spawn in the Sacramento River, and its tributaries, above Woodson Bridge at least through November. Spawning by SRLFC follows shortly thereafter. This change is necessary to provide protection to SRFC that are holding, migrating, and spawning in the Sacramento River above Woodson Bridge in years of low SRFC stock abundance, while providing anglers access to SRLFC during November and December.

CHINOOK SALMON BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2023 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2023 Central Valley fishery management to target 2023 in-river fisheries harvest projections. The Commission may adopt these options for each river section independently, or in combination to meet PFMC SRFC management objectives and maximize recreational salmon fishing opportunities in the Central Valley.

- Option 1 is the most liberal of the options, and allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 2 allows for take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 3 is a more conservative option, and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.
- Option 4 is the most conservative option, and prohibits the take and possession of Chinook Salmon in all anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes:

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, a range shown in [brackets] in the text below of bag and possession limits is indicated where it is desirable to continue Chinook Salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

The following options are provided for Commission consideration:

Option 1 – Any Size Chinook Salmon Fishery

This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon of any size per day and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. This option is the Department's preferred option if the 2023 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to avoid the need to constrain in-

river SRFC harvest.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

- (B) From the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31, with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

(E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2 – Limited Adult and Grilse Salmon Fishery

This option would allow the take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits. This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon per day, with no more than [0-4] of those salmon over 27 inches total length, and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PFMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts, but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults, and contribute significantly less to the spawning population, and so they would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be limited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018 (refer to Section III(g) below). A 27-inch total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of females available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

(B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31, with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Option 3 – Grilse-only Salmon Fishery

This option would allow for a grilse-only salmon fishery. This option would allow anglers to take [0-4] Chinook Salmon with a maximum size of 27 inches total length and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, with a maximum size of 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PFMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts, but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults, and contribute significantly less to the spawning population, and so they would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be prohibited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018 (refer to Section III(g) below). A 27-inch total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of female salmon available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including lake Lodi.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31, with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Option 4 – No Salmon Fishing in all Central Valley Rivers, Streams, and Tributaries

This option would close salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and/or Sacramento rivers, and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) to provide protection to SRFC should a reduction in the stock be indicated by PFMC abundance projections. In any year, should the PFMC recommend a complete or near complete closure to ocean recreational salmon fishing, this option will give the Department flexibility to respond to and support any federal action in the ocean. This option prohibits all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option would still allow take of other species in specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) (See Section VII below).

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

- (B) From the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon

(c) Necessity of the Proposed Regulation Changes

The proposed regulations are necessary to adjust Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits, size limits, and open seasons for the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers for consistency with PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season.

(d) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

As stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700, Conservation of Aquatic Resources: It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant water fisheries based in California in harmony with international law, respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence, and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use.

Adoption of scientifically-based SRFC bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of Chinook Salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of the SRFC fishery, general health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport fishing in the Central Valley.

(e) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation

Authority: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315, 316.5, 399 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 316.5 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.

(f) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change

None.

(g) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change

Fish and Game Commission, 2018. *Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action. Amendments to Section 7.50, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Central Valley Salmon Sport Fishing*. November 2018. Available from:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=164433&inline>

Pahlke, K, 1988. *Length Conversion Equations for Sockeye, Chinook, and Coho salmon in southeast Alaska. Regional Information Report No. Ij88-03*. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries, Southeast Region. Available from:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=164436&inline>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016 *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, available from
<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2018/demo/fhw16-nat.pdf>

(h) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication

The Department presented the proposed amendments to the SRFC bag and possession limits at the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee meeting on September 15, 2022.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No alternatives were identified by or brought to the attention of Commission staff that would have the same desired regulatory effect.

(b) No Change Alternative

SRFC Adult Stocks

The no change alternative would leave existing 2022 regulations in place. The no change alternative would not allow for appropriate harvest rates, while the proposed regulations will allow the state to harmonize its bag and possession limits with NMFS' regulations.

Other Changes for Clarity

Additionally, the No Change Alternative would cause the language within subsections (b)(43), and (b)(80) of 7.40 to be continue to be inconsistent with the rest of Section 7.40.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed changes are necessary for the continued preservation of the resource, while providing inland sport fishing opportunities and thus, the prevention of adverse economic impacts.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment

The Commission does not anticipate significant adverse economic impacts but acknowledges the potential for short-term negative impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state. The Commission anticipates no adverse impacts on the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. The management of an ongoing Chinook Salmon sport fishery with annual variations in the bag

and possession limits and/or the implementation of a size limit is not anticipated to significantly impact the volume of business activity.

The loss of up to 22 jobs with Option 2, 43 jobs for Option 3, and 108 jobs for Option 4 is not expected to eliminate businesses because projected reduction in fishing days is expected to be partially offset by opportunities to fish for grilse Chinook Salmon and other species for Option 2 and 3 and continued opportunities for other non-salmonid species for Option 4.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a Chinook Salmon sport fishery encourages consumption of a nutritious food. The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of Chinook Salmon resources in the Central Valley.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety.

Other benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with federal fishery management goals and promotion of businesses that rely on Central Valley sport fishing.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment

This action is expected to sustain fishery activity within the range of historically typical seasons. Lower PFMC harvest forecasts can result in a smaller bag and possession limit, (more conservative), whereas larger PFMC harvest forecasts can result in a higher bag and possession limit (more liberal), both of which can skew the average fishing activity over seasons. The potential difference in total economic impact between a typical season and the options under consideration range from \$0 to -\$13.2 M as shown in Table 1 below. However, the anticipated total economic impacts may vary a bit more or less than the estimates of any one single option, as the proposed options may be adopted as a combination of bag and possession limits by body of water so as to minimize adverse impacts to fishing opportunity and economic activity.

A five-year average over the 2017-2021 seasons for the Central Valley fishery experiences about 174,192 sport salmon angler days in which anglers spend an average of \$108 per day contributing a total of \$18.8 M (2022\$) in direct expenditures to California businesses. This expenditure is received by area businesses that spend a share on inputs and payroll. As employees receive income, their household spending again circulates in the local economy

and statewide. These multiplier effects have historically resulted in an estimated total economic impact of \$26.4 M (2022\$), that supports up to 216 jobs throughout the state.

The regional and statewide economic impacts factor into the effort to balance the maintenance of the recreational fishery with resource preservation, while complying with PFMC allocations. The potential economic impacts that may result from each in-river harvest projection as specified in Option 1, Option 2, Option 3, and Option 4 are evaluated in terms of each scenario's probable impact on the number of Chinook Salmon and other species' angler days, and thus angler expenditures that circulate within the area and throughout the state.

Table 1. Central Valley Fishery Projected Economic Impacts 2023

Regulation	Angler Days	Angler Expenditures	Total Econ Impact	Jobs
Option 1	174,192 ¹	\$ 18,812,736	\$ 26,453,598	216
Option 2	156,773	\$ 16,931,462	\$ 23,808,238	194
Option 3	139,354	\$ 15,050,189	\$ 21,162,878	173
Option 4	87,096	\$ 9,406,368	\$ 13,226,799	108

Difference	Angler Day Loss	Expenditure Loss	Total Impact Loss	Job Loss
Option 1	0	\$ -	\$ -	0
Option 2	-17,419	- \$1,881,274	- \$ 2,645,360	(22)
Option 3	-34,838	- \$3,762,547	- \$ 5,290,720	(43)
Option 4	-87,096 ²	-\$9,406,368	-\$13,226,799	(108)

¹The base year for angler days is the five-year average of 2017–2021 derived from Department creel survey data. ²Projected angler days with a salmon closure assumes that 50% of effort will persist as anglers shift or continue to pursue opportunities for other fish species. Sources: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Branch economic analysis; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation; expenditure figures are in (2022\$), adjusted for inflation with Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption Expenditures, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Historical correlations between catch limits and fishery participation levels suggest that Option 1 could enable a historically typical (5-year average) number of angler days for the 2023 Chinook Salmon season on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Option 2 may result in declines in angler days of 17,419 below a typical year. Option 3 may result in larger declines, or an estimated 34,838 fewer angler days. Option 4 may result in an estimated 50 percent reduction or 87,096 fewer angler days throughout the Central Valley fishery.

A share (approximately 50% for Option 4) of anglers are assumed to continue to pursue other in-river sport fish aside from Chinook Salmon, such as steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*), Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and catfish (*Ictalurus spp.*), that may mitigate any adverse impacts from any reductions in salmon fishing. In sum, the options presented to the Commission were conceived with the goal of enabling levels of recreational SRFC fishing in the range of historical averages, and thus should not be a source of significant adverse economic impacts.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that any of the proposed options would induce substantial impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs. For Option 1, no change in job creation or

elimination is anticipated. Option 2, Option 3, and Option 4 have the potential to result in fewer angler visits, and absent substitution toward other sportfish and/or activities in the affected areas, the reduction in angler spending could reduce the support for 0-108 jobs statewide.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that any of the proposed options would induce substantial impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses, because the proposed economic impacts of the regulations are unlikely to be substantial enough to stimulate the creation of new businesses or cause the elimination of existing businesses.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that any of the proposed options would induce substantial impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The proposed regulations are not anticipated to increase demand for services or products from the existing businesses that serve inland sport fishermen. The number of fishing trips and angler economic contributions are expected to remain within the range of historical averages.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Chinook Salmon is a nutritious food source and providing inland sport fishery opportunities encourages consumption of this nutritious food. Sport fishing also contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners, as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety from the proposed regulations because inland sport fishing does not impact working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

Under all options the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of SRFC. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant water fisheries based in California in harmony with international law, respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence, and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use.

In accordance with this policy, adoption of scientifically-based inland Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence and thus continued economic stimulus.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

Other benefits of the regulation include consistency with federal fishery management goals, and support for businesses that rely on Central Valley sport fishing.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 2022 seasons and daily bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively. Collectively, these four rivers constitute the “Central Valley fishery” for SRFC for purposes of this document. Each year, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends new Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits for consideration by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to align the fishing limits with up-to-date management goals, as set forth below.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2023 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2023 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2023 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limit regulations to the Commission at its April 19, 2023 meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 17, 2023 meeting.

Proposed Regulations

Sacramento River Fishing Boundary Revision

On the Sacramento River between the Dechutes Road Bridge and the Highway 113 bridge (i.e., subsections 7.40(b)(80)(C) and (D)), the Department is proposing to move the geographic fishing boundary from Red Bluff Diversion Dam (river mile 244) to Woodson Bridge (river mile 220). All of the SRFC spawning tributaries and the vast majority of the mainstem SRFC spawning habitat is located upstream of Woodson Bridge. Moving the fishing boundary to Woodson Bridge is necessary to allow adults escaping the fishery to stage unmolested below their natal tributaries, reducing overall harvest rates but still providing recreational opportunity within productive historic fishing grounds below Woodson Bridge.

Sacramento River Late-Fall Run Fishery Opportunity

On the Sacramento River between Dechutes Road Bridge and Woodson Bridge (i.e., subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C)), the Department is proposing to split the current fishing season of August 1 through December 31 into two separate seasons from August 1 through October 31 and November 1 through December 31. The majority of SRFC spawning occurs above Woodson Bridge from August through October. This split season will allow for better management options for SRFC and Sacramento River late-fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRLFC) populations. Fall-run spawner escapement surveys conducted by the Department indicate that SRFC spawn in the Sacramento River, and its tributaries, above Woodson Bridge at least through November. Spawning by late-fall-run Chinook Salmon follows shortly

thereafter.

Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2023 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2023 Central Valley fishery management to target 2023 in-river fisheries harvest projections. The Commission may adopt these options for each river section independently, or in combination to meet PFMC SRFC management objectives and maximize recreational salmon fishing opportunities in the Central Valley

- Option 1 is the most liberal of the options, and allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 2 allows for take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.
- Option 3 is the more conservative option, and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.
- Option 4 is the most conservative option, and prohibits the take and possession of Chinook Salmon in all anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

All options would be applicable to the following river segments and time periods:

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4):

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park, July 16 through October 31
- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge, July 16 through December 31
- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth, July 16 through December 16

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43):

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp, July 16 through October 31
- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth, July 16 through December 16

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66):

- (A) From Comanche Dam to Elliott Road, July 16 through October 15
- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake, July 16 through December 31
- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth, July 16 through December 16

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge, August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31.
- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge, July 16 through December 16.
- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge, July 16 through December 16.

The following options are provided for Commission consideration:

Option 1 – Any Size Chinook Salmon Fishery

This option is the Department’s preferred option if the 2023 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to avoid the need to constrain in-river SRFC harvest.

Bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2 – Limited Adult and Grilse Salmon Fishery

Bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0–12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Option 3 – Grilse Salmon Fishery Only

Bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Option 4– No Salmon Fishing in all Central Valley Rivers, Streams, and Tributaries

No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

All Options

Under all options, non-substantive edits are proposed for consistency with other subsections of Section 7.40.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Central Valley Chinook Salmon resources. Other benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal fishery management goals, health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on Central Valley Chinook Salmon sport fishing.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

Article IV, Section 20 of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to regulate sport fishing in waters of the state (Fish and Game Code sections 200, 205, 315 and 316.5). The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the California Code of Regulations and finds no other state agency regulations pertaining to Chinook Salmon sport fishing seasons, bag, and possession limits for Central Valley sport fishing.

Proposed Regulatory Language – Options 1 through 4

Section 7.40, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 7.40. Alphabetical List of Hatchery Trout, Hatchery Steelhead, and Salmon Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

. . . [No changes to subsections (a) through (b)(3)] . . . [options shown as noted in **bolded**, highlighted header in grey]

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(4) American River (Sacramento Co.).		
(A) From Nimbus Dam to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(B) From the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site to the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 31.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(5) through (b)(42)] . . .

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(43) Feather River below Fish Barrier Dam (Butte, Sutter and Yuba cos.).		
(A) From Fish Barrier Dam to Table Mountain bicycle bridge in Oroville.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) From Table Mountain bicycle bridge to Highway 70 bridge.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) From Highway 70 bridge to the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall.	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marine boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(44) through (b)(65)] . . .

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(66) Mokelumne River (San Joaquin Co.).		
(A) From Camanche Dam to Elliot Road.	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Fourth Sat. in May through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 15.	<p>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>2 Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than</u> <u>[0-4] salmon over 27 inches total</u> <u>length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession</u> <u>of which no more than [0-12] salmon</u> <u>may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size</u> <u>27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> <u>Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of</u> <u>Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam including Lodi Lake.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 31.	<p>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>2 Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
(C) Between the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and the Lower Sacramento Road bridge.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, this river segment is defined as Mokelumne River and its tributary sloughs downstream of the Lower Sacramento Road bridge and east of Highway 160 and north of Highway 12.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16.	<p>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>2 Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(67) through (b)(79)] . . .

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(80) Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam (Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, and Yolo cos.).		
(A) Sacramento River from Keswick Dam to 650 feet below Keswick Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) Sacramento River from 650 feet below Keswick Dam to the Highway 44 bridge.		
1. Sacramento River from 650 feet below Keswick Dam to the Highway 44 bridge.	Closed to all fishing from Apr. 1 through Jul. 31.	
	Jan 1. through Mar. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Aug 1. through Dec. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
2. Sacramento River from the Highway 44 bridge to the Deschutes Road bridge.	All year. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to the Red Bluff Diversion Dam <u>Woodson Bridge</u> .	Jan. 1 through Jul. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Aug. 1 through Dec. 31 <u>October 31</u> .	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<u>November 1 through December 31.</u>	<p><u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than</u> <u>[0-4] salmon over 27 inches total</u> <u>length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession</u> <u>of which no more than [0-12] salmon</u> <u>may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size</u> <u>27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> <u>Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of</u> <u>Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(D) Sacramento River from the Red Bluff Diversion Dam <u>Woodson Bridge</u> to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Chinook Salmon. 4 Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(81) through (b)(123)] . . .

* Wild Chinook Salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.

**Hatchery trout or steelhead in anadromous waters are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately

released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315, 316.5, 399 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 316.5 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: March 23, 2023

Original on file,
received March 30, 2023

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has prepared the enclosed *Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to the 2023-2024 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)*. The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40, Title 14, CCR: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80) based on federal fisheries management goals and to make additional changes for clarity. Based on the initial study, the Department does not think that the proposed amendments to the Central Valley sport fishing regulations will have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. The Department recommends the Commission adopt the proposed negative declaration.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents, please contact Karen Mitchell, Senior Environmental Scientist, at [REDACTED].

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
2023-2024 CENTRAL VALLEY SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

MARCH 2023

This report has been prepared pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Central Valley sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The current 2022 sport fishing regulations in Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, allow for salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to amend the existing Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits to align with management goals. Any proposed changes to the salmon fishing regulations are presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment and therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment. The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Basis of the Findings

Based on the initial study, implementing the proposed project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment. Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION
FOR
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO
CENTRAL VALLEY SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS
TITLE 14, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS**

Annually, the Department recommends Central Valley sport fishing salmon regulations to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the Central Valley sport fishing salmon regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700; this section includes three objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2023 meeting and develop the final regulatory recommendations at its April 2023 meeting for adoption by NMFS. Based on the regulations adopted by NMFS, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limits to the Commission in April 2023. The Commission will consider the proposed regulations for adoption during a teleconference meeting scheduled for May 17, 2023.

Project Location

Central Valley sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers in northern and

central California in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Colusa, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin.

Project Description

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 2022 seasons and daily bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively. Collectively, these four rivers constitute the “Central Valley fishery” for SRFC for purposes of this document (Figure 1). Each year, the Department recommends new Chinook Salmon bag and possession limits for consideration by the Commission to align the fishing limits with up-to-date management goals, as set forth below.

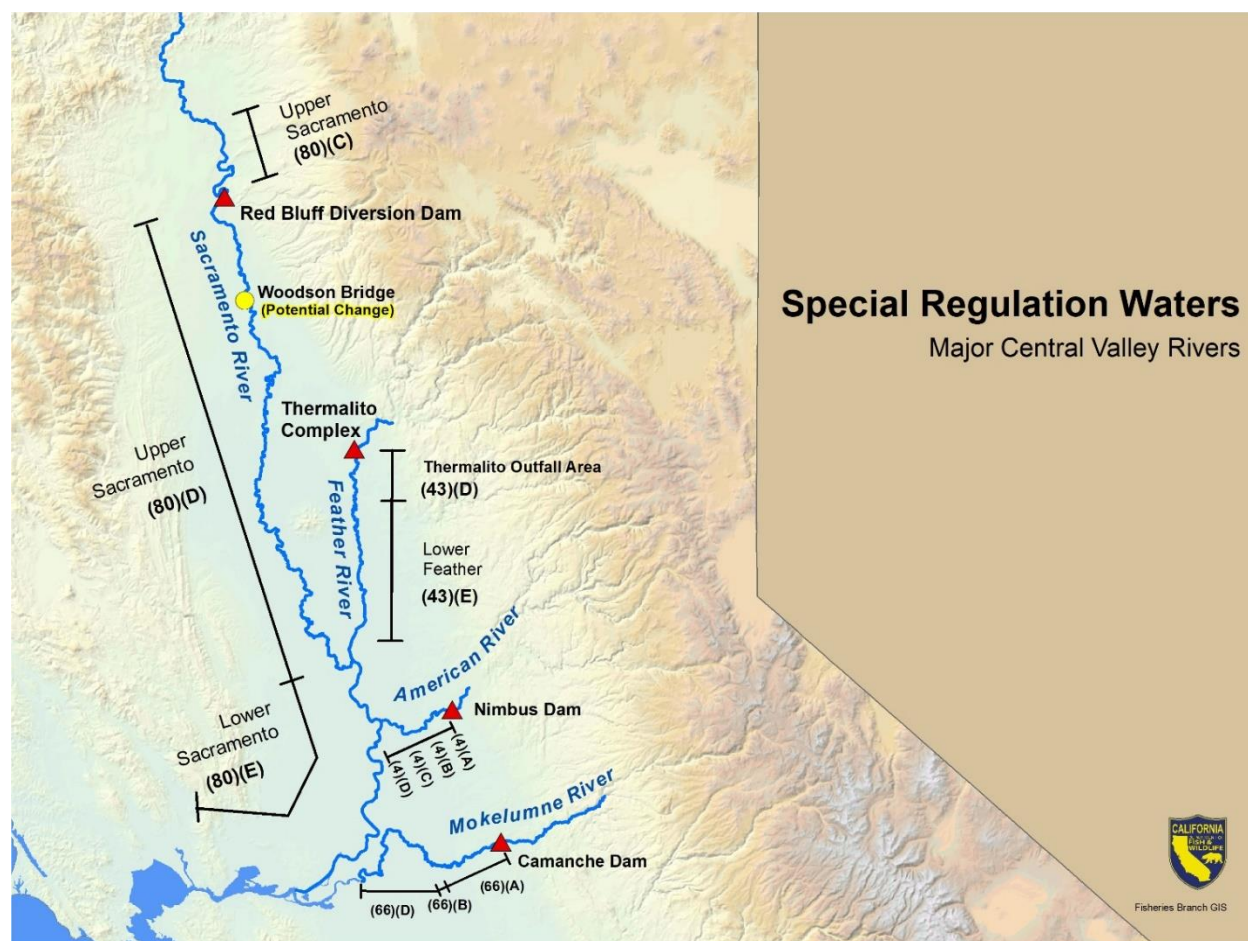


Figure 1. Map of the “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments described below will become effective on or around July 15, 2023.

Proposed Regulations

SACRAMENTO RIVER FISHING BOUNDARY REVISION

On the Sacramento River between the Deschutes Road Bridge and the Highway 113 bridge (i.e., subsections 7.40(b)(80)(C) and (D)), the Department is proposing to move the geographic fishing boundary from Red Bluff Diversion Dam (river mile 244) to **Woodson Bridge** (river mile 220). All of the SRFC spawning tributaries and the vast majority of the mainstem SRFC spawning habitat is located upstream of Woodson Bridge. Moving the fishing boundary to Woodson Bridge is necessary to allow adults escaping the fishery to stage unmolested below their natal tributaries, reducing overall harvest rates but still providing recreational opportunity within productive historic fishing grounds below Woodson Bridge.

SACRAMENTO RIVER LATE-FALL RUN FISHERY OPPORTUNITY

On the Sacramento River between Deschutes Road Bridge and Woodson Bridge, as proposed, (i.e., amended subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C)), the Department is proposing to split the current fishing season of August 1 through December 31 into two separate seasons from August 1 through October 31 and November 1 through December 31. This split season will allow for better management options for SRFC and Sacramento River late-fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRLFC) populations. Fall-run spawner escapement surveys conducted by the Department indicate that SRFC spawn in the Sacramento River, and its tributaries, above Woodson Bridge at least through November. Spawning by SRLFC follows shortly thereafter. This change is necessary to provide protection to SRFC that are holding, migrating, and spawning in the Sacramento River above Woodson Bridge in years of low SRFC stock abundance, while providing anglers access to SRLFC during November and December.

CHINOOK SALMON BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2023 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2023 Central Valley fishery management to target 2023 in-river fisheries harvest projections. The Commission may adopt these options for each river section independently, or in combination to meet PPMC SRFC management objectives and maximize recreational salmon fishing opportunities in the Central Valley.

1. Option 1 is the most liberal of the options, and allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits.

2. Option 2 allows for take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon (two-year old salmon) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.
3. Option 3 is a more conservative option, and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.
4. Option 4 is the most conservative option, and prohibits the take and possession of Chinook Salmon in all anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Key to Proposed Regulatory Changes

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, a range shown in [brackets] in the text below of bag and possession limits is indicated where it is desirable to continue Chinook Salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Option 1 – Any Size Chinook Salmon Fishery

This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon of any size per day and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. This option is the Department's preferred option if the 2023 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to avoid the need to constrain in-river SRFC harvest.

American River, Subsection 7.40(b)(4)

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.
July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.
- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.
July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.
- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.
July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, Subsection 7.40(b)(43)

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, Subsection 7.40(b)(66)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, Subsection 7.40(b)(80)

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 21, and November 1 through December 31, with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2 – Limited Adult and Grilse Salmon Fishery

This option would allow the take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits. This option would allow anglers to take up to [0-4] Chinook Salmon per day, with no more than [0-4] of those salmon over 27 inches total length, and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PFMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts, but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults, and contribute significantly less to the spawning population, and so they would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be limited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018 (refer to Section III(e) of the Initial Statement of Reasons). A 27-inch total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of females available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4)

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43)

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80)

(C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31, with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

(E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over 27 inches total length may be retained.

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-12] fish may be over 27 inches total length.

Option 3 – Grilse-only Salmon Fishery

This option would allow for a grilse-only salmon fishery. This option would allow anglers to take [0-4] Chinook Salmon with a maximum size of 27 inches total length and have [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession, with a maximum size of 27 inches total length. Should a reduction in the adult component of the stock be indicated by PPMC harvest projections, the Department is recommending specifying angling opportunities on the smaller, and possibly more numerous grilse salmon to increase angling harvest opportunities. Grilse returns from the previous season are included in pre-season stock abundance forecasts, but are not included in the current season adult returns used for evaluating conservation targets for SRFC. Due to their smaller size, grilse are typically outcompeted by larger adults, and contribute significantly less to the spawning population, and so they would be available for harvest with minimal impact to juvenile recruitment for the current season. Take of adult salmon would be prohibited under regulation, and the subsequent juvenile production would help rebuild the depressed stock size at a time when there is the need to restrict harvest of adult salmon.

The Department recommends a grilse salmon size limit of less than or equal to 27 inches total length based on an analysis of grilse data conducted by Department staff in 2018 (refer to Section III(e) of the Initial Statement of Reasons). A 27-inch-total length grilse salmon cutoff is the best balance between angling harvest opportunity of possibly abundant smaller, two-year old male salmon and preserving the limited number of female salmon available to spawn.

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4)

- (B) From the USGS gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.
July 16 through October 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.
July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.
July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Feather River, subsection 7.0(b)(43)

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to the Live Oak boat ramp.
July 16 through October 31 with a daily bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.
July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.
Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.
July 16 through October 15 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including lake Lodi.

From July 16 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80)

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16 with a bag limit of [0-4] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon less than or equal to 27 inches total length.

Option 4 – No Salmon Fishing in all Central Valley Rivers, Streams, and Tributaries

This option would close salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and/or Sacramento rivers, and all associated tributaries, or specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) to provide protection to SRFC should a reduction in the stock be indicated by PFMC abundance projections. In any year,

should the PFMCM recommend a complete or near complete closure to ocean recreational salmon fishing, this option will give the Department flexibility to respond to and support any federal action in the ocean. This option prohibits all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option would still allow take of other species in specific areas/bodies of water, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b) (See Section VII below).

American River, subsection 7.40(b)(4)

- (B) From the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauging station cable crossing near Nimbus Hatchery to the SMUD power line crossing the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (C) From the SMUD power line crossing at the southwest boundary of Ancil Hoffman Park to the Jibboom Street bridge.

July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43)

- (D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

July 16 through October 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)

- (A) From Camanche Dam to Elliott Road.

July 16 through October 15. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (B) From Elliott Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and including Lodi Lake.

From July 16 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge to the mouth.

From July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80)

- (C) From Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

August 1 through October 31, and November 1 through December 31. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (D) From Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon.

- (E) From the Highway 113 bridge to the Carquinez Bridge.

July 16 through December 16. No take or possession of Chinook Salmon

Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title:
Proposed Amendments to 2023-2024 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-7229
4. Project Location: The American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
6. General Plan designation: N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning: N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project: Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits for the Central Valley Chinook Salmon sport fishery to maintain consistency with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None.
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | | |

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

Date

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned "timberland production." Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the Department, NMFS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Option 1 could result in a potential increase in bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon co-occur in these waters. Existing regulations prohibit take of these species and current sport fishing regulations, including seasonal and area closures, minimize angler contact with these species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to these species. Option 2 limits the number of adult SRFC, with younger grilse making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits; Option 3 is a more conservative option, and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery; and Option 4 is the most conservative option, and prohibits the take and possession of SRFC. The last three options would also have no significant impact to these species.

In addition, an increase in the daily bag and possession limits for SRFC would not result in a significant impact to SRFC. Daily bag and possession limits are established consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment. These limits are designed to avoid adverse effects to the target species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to SRFC.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or

by the Department or USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.

- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

- a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve

construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The project is not anticipated to result in any change of GHG emissions.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines, Title 14, CCR, Section 15064.3, subsection (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The

amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.

- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal and Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1, subsection (k). There is no ground disturbing work and no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. There is no ground disturbing work and no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. There will be no construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts that are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife



2023 Central Valley Chinook Salmon Sport Fishing Regulations



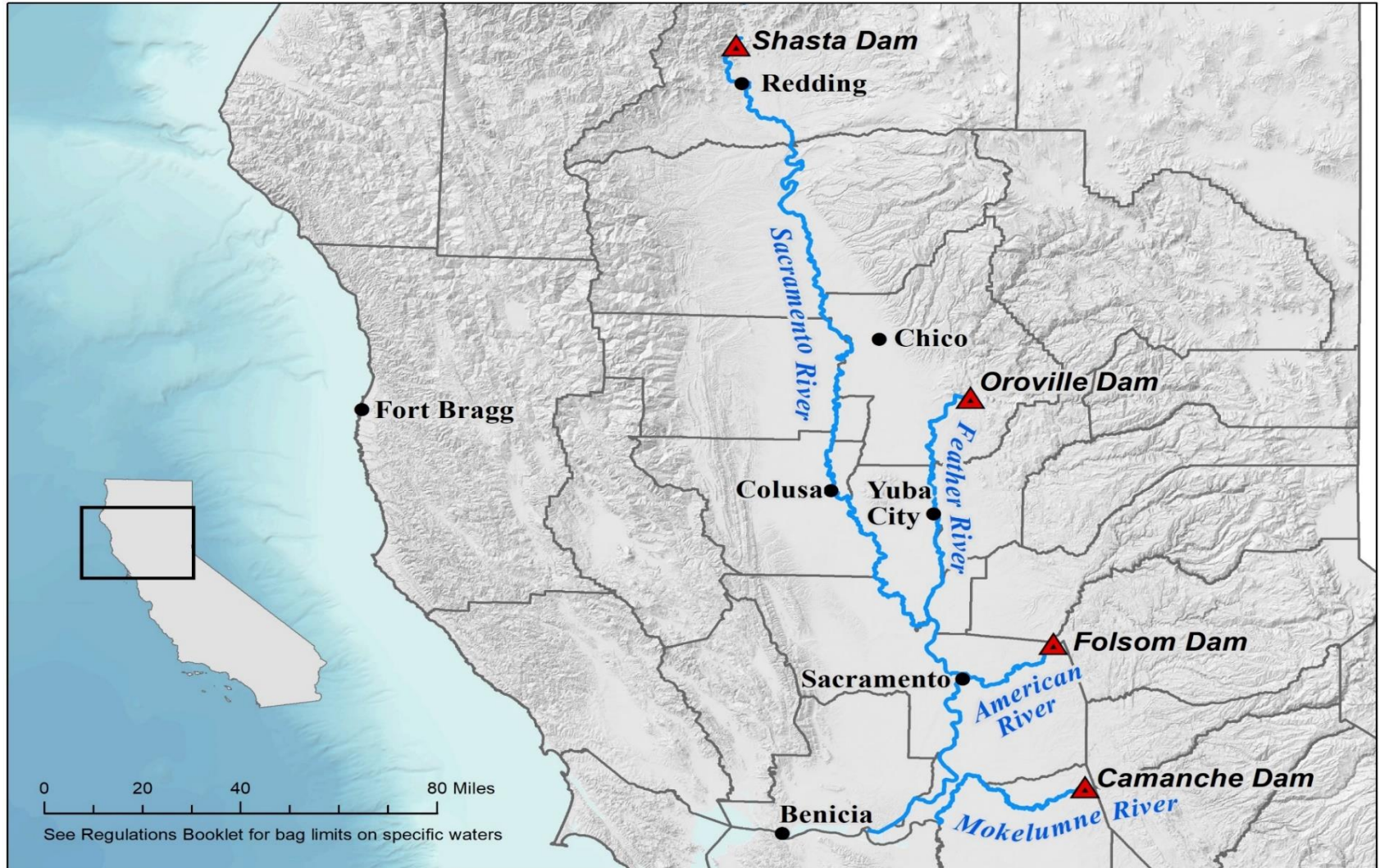
**Presentation to the Fish and Game Commission
April 19, 2023
Jonathan Nelson - Program Manager
CDFW Fisheries Branch**

Presentation Overview

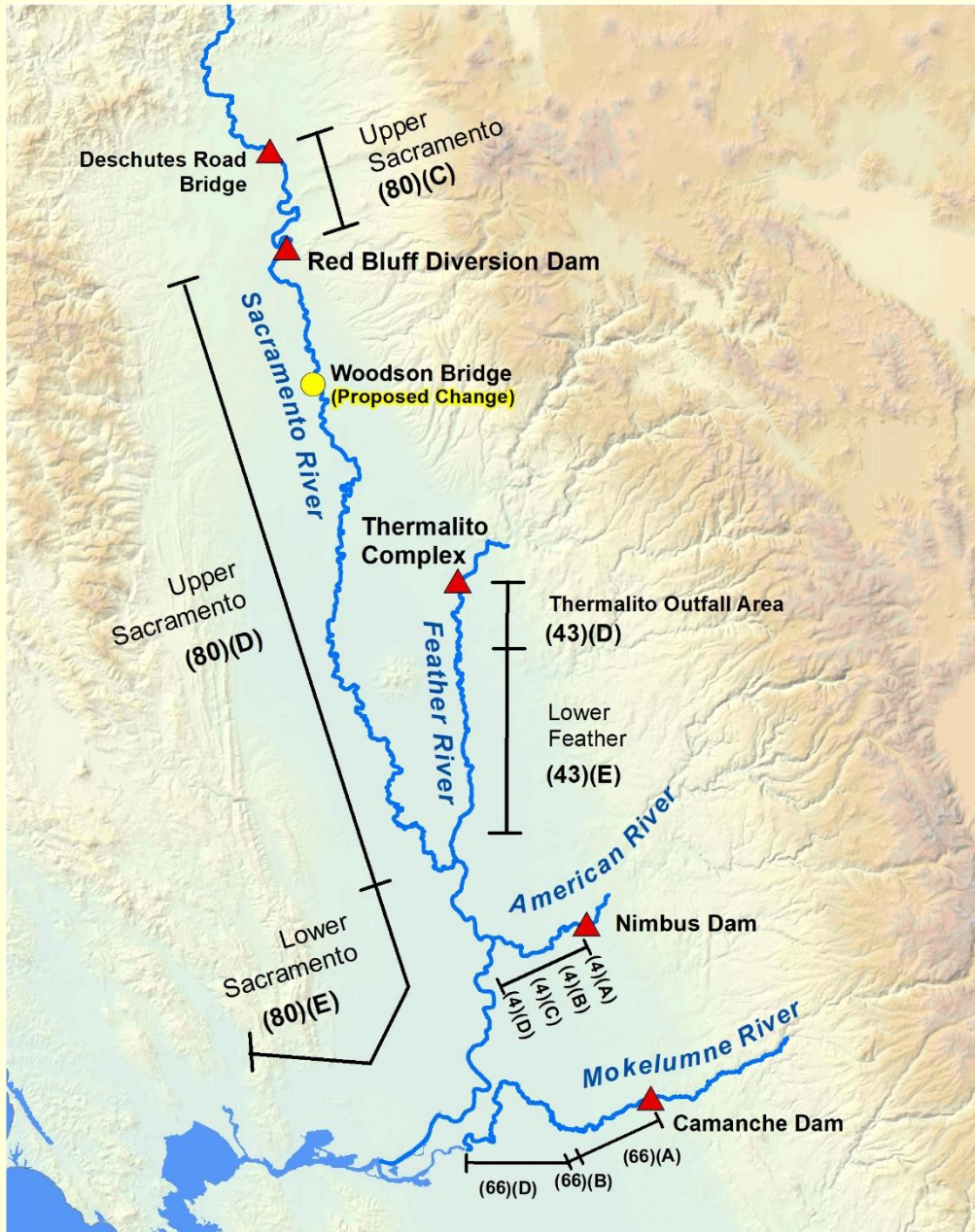
- Maps of Central Valley rivers open to Sacramento River Fall Chinook Salmon (SRFC) sport fishing
- 2022 SRFC sport fishing regulations
- 2023 SRFC regulatory options
- Proposed new regulations for Sacramento River
- Status and decline of SRFC fishery
- Federal action for 2023 ocean salmon fisheries
- DFW recommendation for 2023 SRFC season

Central Valley Waters Open to SRFC Angling

California Central Valley Waters Open to Chinook Salmon Angling, 2019



Special Regulation Waters - Central Valley Rivers



Special Regulation Waters

Major Central Valley Rivers



Fisheries Branch GIS

2022 SRFC

Sport Fishing Regulations

- Sacramento River
 - 2 fish daily bag / 4 fish possession limit
- Feather River
 - 2 fish daily bag / 4 fish possession limit
- American River
 - 2 fish daily bag / 4 fish possession limit
- Mokelumne River
 - 2 fish daily bag / 4 fish possession limit

2023 SRFC Regulatory Options

- Option 1 – Any size Chinook Salmon fishery
 - [0-4] salmon per day, [0-12] salmon in possession
- Option 2 – Adult and grilse fishery
 - limited number of adults, with grilse making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits
- Option 3 – Grilse-only fishery
- Option 4 – Closed to salmon fishing
- Options 1-4 are intended to be used independently or in combination
- Different options may be applied to the same water body, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)

Sacramento River Fishing Regulation Boundary Change

- Title 14: subsections 7.40(b)(80)(C) and (D)
- Move fishing boundary from Red Bluff Diversion Dam (river mile 244) downstream to Woodson Bridge (river mile 220)
- All SRFC spawning tributaries and most mainstem spawning habitat is upstream of Woodson Bridge
- Maximizes protection of spawning adults holding below their natal tributaries in years of low SRFC abundance
- Provides ability to be protective of spawning adults and provide recreational opportunity in non-spawning sections of the river.

Split Season for Salmon Management Objectives

- Sacramento River between Deschutes Road Bridge and (proposed) Woodson Bridge
 - Title 14: subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C)
 - Current season: August 1 – December 31
 - Proposed split seasons:
 - August 1 – October 31
 - Primary spawning season for SRFC
 - Provides ability to be protective of SRFC in years of low stock abundance
 - November 1 – December 31
 - Primary run-timing for Late-fall-run Chinook (SRLFC)
 - Provides opportunity to allow for a SRLFC fishery in years the SRFC season may be closed

Status of SRFC Fishery

- Recent escapement and pre-fishery abundance forecasts are at historically low levels
 - 2023 SRFC pre-fishery forecast of 169,800 adults is third lowest since implementation of the Sacramento River Index in 2008
 - 2022 jack escapement of 6,996 and adult escapement of 61,850 are third lowest on record
 - Forecasts of 54,600 and 122,200 adult SRFC led to historic fishery closures in 2008 and 2009, respectively

Factors for Decline of SRFC

- Over-forecasted abundance prior to fishery planning
- Under-forecasted harvest
- Failure to achieve escapement targets
- Environmental factors
 - Consecutive years of drought
 - Freshwater stressors
 - Habitat compression and impact to forage assemblages in the ocean

PFMC 2023 Recommendation

- April 6, 2023 - PFMC adopted final ocean salmon season recommendations:
 1. Complete closure of commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the California Coast
 2. Complete closure of recreational ocean salmon fisheries off the California Coast

CDFW 2023 Recommendations

- CDFW recommends full closure of the 2023 SRFC recreational fishery in the Sacramento, Feather, American, and Mokelumne rivers
- CDFW recommends full closure of the SRLFC fishery in the Sacramento River
 - Includes closure to fishing for adults *and* grilse in-river
 - Management objective is to maximize spawner escapement for the purpose of rebuilding the stocks
- CDFW recommends adopting permanent boundary and split season changes proposed for 7.40(b)(80)(C) and (D)
 - These changes will provide improved management and protection of chinook salmon stocks in years of low abundance

Questions ♦ Thank You



Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries Program Manager

CDFW Fisheries Branch

From: Mitchell, Karen@Wildlife
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Miller-Henson, Melissa@FGC
Cc: Thesell, Harold(David)@FGC; Alminas, Ona@Wildlife; Trotter, Maurene@FGC
Subject: Rulemakings - Central Valley Sport Fish Regulations Update and Klamath River Basin Sport Fish Regulations

Dear Melissa,

In regards to the Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations Update and the Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations rulemakings, there were no substantive comments received, no amendments to the regulatory text, and no additional information gathered for these two rulemakings. Therefore, a pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons is not necessary.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Karen

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