



Tracking Number: (2023-10)

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

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

SECTION I: Required Information.

1. Person or organization requesting the change

Name of primary contact person: Todd Bluechel

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. Rulemaking Authority

Sections 200, 205, 265, 713, 5510, 7121, 7701 and 7708, Fish and Game Code

3. Overview - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:

On 8/25/23 I received a call from Jason Kraus (Captain, Marine Enforcement District – California Department of Fish and Wildlife). Jason informed me that it was suggested by several “above him”, within his department, that I petition to change/amend CCR T14 231(b). Jason shared with me section CCR T14 231(b) currently states: “*Any legally taken species of sport-caught fish may be possessed for filleting, smoking, or canning if the same fish is returned to the angler or if the fish is exchanged pound for pound ...*”

Please accept the following information in support of my official petition to change/amend section CCR T14 231(b) to allow sport fishermen to donate his/her sport-caught fish to a nonprofit(s). I am proposing verbiage within section CCR T14 231(b) be amended to, or analogous to, the following: “*Any legally taken species of sport-caught fish may be possessed for filleting, smoking, or canning if the same fish is returned to the angler, or if the fish is exchanged pound for pound or if the fish is donated by the angler to a nonprofit(s) instead of being returned to the angler.*”

4. Rationale - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:

Currently, the “problem” is that section CCR T14 231(b) does not allow sport fishermen to donate the fish they legally catch to a nonprofit. Amending CCR T14 231(b) to allow sport fishermen to donate their catch to nonprofits has zero disadvantages and boundless benefits.



I don't know if those reading and ruling on this petition have ever been homeless, if they were ever a military veteran in need, if they ever lost everything for any one of numerous reasons and were just in need of a hot meal, but I can tell you the type of food most nonprofits can afford to serve is not what most would consider delicious or nutritious. While I am by no means suggesting nonprofits that feed those in need are serving food that is subpar, I don't think anyone would disagree that a fresh piece of tuna (Yellowfin / Yellowtail / Bluefin) would be a most welcome delicious and nutritious treat!

The times I've personally served F3G fish at nonprofits was incredibly fulfilling and it reminded me why I put "Feel Good" in the name of the charity. Sport fishermen "Fish," the nonprofits cook the fish and turn it into delicious and nutritious "Food," and all those involved get to "Feel Good" knowing we've helped our fellow Americans in need.

Amending section CCR T14 231(b) to allow sport fishermen to donate fish to nonprofits is the right thing to do. Allowing nonprofits to receive and serve the type of protein they have never been able to afford is what many have deemed a godsend.

Please amend section CCR T14 231(b) to allow sportfishermen to donate fish to nonprofits so you too can "Feel Good."

If you have any questions, or if I was not clear about anything, please call my cell or email me the questions you'd like clarified.

SECTION II: Optional Information

Date of Petition: 8/28/23

5. **Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

6. **The proposal is to:**

Amend - CCR T14 231(b)

7. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**

Not applicable.

8. **Effective date:**

9/1/23 or ASAP

9. **Supporting documentation:**

In 2010, I created and have governed since the 501c3 nonprofit: "Fish. Food. Feel Good." (F3G). I am very proud to say F3G has collected tens of thousands of pounds of sport caught pelagic fish from sport fishermen. F3G has donated these fish to numerous San Diego (SD) charities for over 13 years!



Summary of the F3G process: F3G collects sport caught pelagic fish for FREE, F3G distributes these fish to nonprofits for FREE, there is absolutely ZERO exchange of any money between the sport fishermen, F3G, and the nonprofits, there is no "purchasing" of fish from F3G.

Numerous politicians have shown, and continue to voice, their support for F3G including the previous Mayor Kevin Faulkner, the current Mayor Todd Gloria, numerous SD City Council Members and Congressmen. See attached pictures. Even famous people whom are notoriously silent as it pertains to "not" voicing their personal views have shown support including Robert Redford.

I feel it's important to briefly mention, Mayor Todd Gloria is particularly supportive of practices that promote Sustainability. About a year ago, the mayor hired Shelby Rust Buso as the new Chief Sustainability Officer. One area she is particularly interested in is local food-system programs. I will soon be introducing F3G to Ms. Buso and it is my hope I'll be able to share with her how F3G is feeding local, sustainably caught fish, to children in SD schools.

F3G enjoys a long and distinguished history. Part of that history includes excellent personal relationships with the leaders of some of California's largest and most influential nonprofits located in SD, all of whom have received fish from F3G including: Father Joes Village, SD Food Bank, SD Rescue Mission, Jewish Family Service of SD, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Project 1:1, Samoa Independent Church, PATH SD, Dreams for Change, Kitchens for Good, Urban Angels, Ronald McDonald House Charities of SD.

As evident from the press links below, F3G has never tried to hide what it does. In fact, F3G has received an unprecedented amount of vocal support from the hundreds of sport fishermen that call F3G every year. As America's only sustainable fishing charity, F3G has grown to be one of the most unique and well-loved sport fishing nonprofits in America partly because of all the grassroots support by fishing executives within the sport fishing industry as a whole.

F3G was given booths for free by the following event holders in support of F3G so that we could disseminate information, and spread the word: the SD Day at the Dock, International Yellowtail Derby, Fred Hall fishing show and ICAST. F3G's booth was often near Fish and Game booths. Numerous "officials" often stopped by and voiced support for what F3G is and for what we're doing.

Several radio talk shows, including: Rod and Reel Radio, Let's Talk Hook Up, KOGO, KPBS, ROCK 105.3, all interviewed me (Todd Bluechel) several times. A Facebook page and website were created in 2011.

Never once, after all the coverage within magazines, newspapers, TV, press, radio, conferences and internet exposure, about what F3G is, what F3G does and how F3G benefits thousands in need, has any official ever once voiced any concern about the lawfulness of F3G. F3G has received fish donations from NOAA and the CA Fish and Game Department. F3G's 501c3 status is in good standing with the CA State and Federal departments.

FOX News

- <https://rb.gy/yc2x3>

Imperial Valley Press

- <https://bit.ly/3syll7z>



KPBS

- <https://bit.ly/3NePGSb>

SD Government – press release – Mayor Kevin Faulkner

- <https://bit.ly/3SJw21H>

SD Downtown News

- <https://bit.ly/3zlhCOc>
- <https://bit.ly/3U7Uafz>

BD Outdoors:

- <https://bit.ly/3Dg3N4V>
- <https://bit.ly/3Nf0krY>

SD Union Tribune

- <https://bit.ly/3mla76K>

Rancho Santa Fe Review

- <https://bit.ly/3DfrVES>

Ranch and Coast magazine

- <https://bit.ly/3NcWX4C>

Del Mar News

- <https://bit.ly/3DBFP5B>

Pace-TV interview

- <https://bit.ly/3fd3TSR>

Sport Fishing Magazine - NOAA

- <https://bit.ly/3sDCUD0>
- <https://bit.ly/3fgCGPm>

Indian Voice

- <https://bit.ly/3DEdbAE>

10. Economic or Fiscal Impacts:

To the best of my knowledge, there would be no negative economic or fiscal impact(s) on the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. But, allowing section CCR T14 231(b) to allow sport fishermen to donate their fish to nonprofits has numerous positive financial impact(s) for the nonprofits. It's no secret nonprofits are traditionally always underfunded and unable to do as much "good" as they would like in support of their individual mission statements. Approving my petition would allow nonprofits to continue the program they've been benefiting from for over 13 years, that allows them to receive and serve a healthy and nutritious source of protein to Americans in need. Approving my petition would allow nonprofits to do more with less. Approving my petition will allow thousands of fishermen to "Feel Good!" Approving my petition could eventually allow the entire CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to "Feel Good" if one day they themselves donate seized pelagics to F3G, ergo nonprofits!

11. Forms: If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

Not applicable



SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 09/05/2023. |

FGC staff action:

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

Tracking Number

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

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____ |

FGC action:

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

Tracking Number