



Tracking Number: (_2024-01_)

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

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

SECTION I: Required Information.

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

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Jon Wrynski.

Address: [Redacted]

Telephone number: [Redacted]

Email address: [Redacted]

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: **Section 200 of the California Fish and Game Code gives the State Fish and Game Commission the authority to change or modify existing regulations. Our local Commission is formally requesting the State Commission change the trout fishing regulations in Colusa County.**

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Request regulations be changed from current regulation to previous regulation for area in question.

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: Recent regulation change has changed fish limits from (previously) five fish to effectively catch and release only. Please see attached letter.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. Date of Petition: January 10, 2024.

6. Category of Proposed Change

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing



- Hunting
- Other, please specify: [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)

7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*
- Amend Title 14 Section(s): [Section 7.50\(148\)](#)
 - Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Change to allow five fish limit, using artificial or natural lures or bait, with normal hooks as had been previously allowed.](#)
 - Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Repeal current section](#)
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)
Or Not applicable.
9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: [County Commission and local officials would prefer regulation change take effect as soon as possible.](#)
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Discussions with local DFW biologist and DFW fisheries biologist indicate that no studies or data was used to change the fishing regulations on Stony Creek in Colusa County from five fish limit to catch and release only; the change was made to simplify enforcement of regulations.](#)
11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: [Revenues to local businesses has likely decreased as there are fewer people frequenting the area because of the reduced fishing opportunities.](#)
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [1/10/2024](#)

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 Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

November 21, 2022

State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Regulation Petition Branch
Sacramento, Ca

To Whom it may concern:

Recent changes to the sport fishing regulations within the State that affect fishing within Colusa County are of concern to our County Fish and Game Commission and to anglers within our County. Specifically, the trout fishing regulations on Stony Creek which runs through the northwest portion of Colusa County west of the town of Stonyford.

Discussions with State Fish and Wildlife Staff have indicated the reasoning behind the change in regulations was to "simplify" regulations within the state and thus make it easier for people interested in fishing to know what rules apply where, and to simplify enforcement of the regulations for wardens and other officials. We were informed that no studies were made on the fish population in Stony Creek.

Stony Creek is virtually the only creek within Colusa County which has a healthy trout population and has historically offered reasonably good prospects for anglers. Approximately thirty years ago a local group petitioned the State to change the regulations for Stony Creek above "Red Bridge" based on a brief biological study to only allow fish smaller than eight inches in length to be kept and to only allow the use of single barbless hooks and no natural bait. The area with that restriction is very rugged and difficult to traverse and thus did not get much fishing "pressure" to begin with and so the restriction did not greatly affect things. The remainder of Stony Creek below "Red Bridge" remained having a five fish limit and allowed anglers to keep fish larger than eight inches.

The recent changes in regulations, as we understand them, has made the entire area a catch-and-release creek.

We are not aware of any biological study or data that justifies this change, and it is our belief that the native trout population was very strong prior to the change. The opportunity for anglers to keep any fish appears to be gone. If anything is currently threatening the fish numbers in the area it is likely the increasing numbers of wild river otters which have spread through the area.

The Colusa County Fish and Game Commission strongly implores you to reconsider the recent regulation change in trout fishing regulations on Stony Creek in our County and to effectively "put them back" as they were. This would allow anglers to keep five fish without an eight inch limitation during normal trout season. The local economy in western Colusa County relies greatly on recreational opportunities such as hunting and fishing and restoring previous regulations would be helpful. Please contact this Commission if we can discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Jon S. Wrynski
Chairman