



November 21, 2024

RE: Notice of Revised Commercial Fishing Block Charts – starting January 1, 2025

Dear Commercial Fish Business License Holder, Commercial Vessel Owner, or Commercial Fishing License Holder:

Effective January 1, 2025, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) requires the use of a revised California Fisheries Chart, also known as Fishing Block Chart, when reporting fishing activity on CDFW required forms. A copy of this revised chart is included as an attachment to this letter and will always be available online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Commercial/MFSU>.

Since 1934, CDFW has produced charts defining areas of commercial fishing activity, commonly referred to as “fishing blocks”. These numerically coded areas are used to document fishing locations when reporting fishing activity. To improve the quality of this information, CDFW has completed minor revisions to the block chart to correct the following:

- Blocks that overlap with other blocks of a different scale
- Blocks with poor alignment with the U.S./Mexico border

Please refer to the newest chart to reference the most current and correct location/block codes for reporting your activity on CDFW paper and electronic forms. In this newest chart version, you will find these changes relative to older versions:

- The areas previously defined by blocks 1032 – 1042 are retired and no longer accepted. The offshore portions of these areas are now reflected in blocks 2032 – 2042, which are to be used only when fishing occurs in these offshore areas.
- In the area surrounding Cortez Bank, eleven new block areas are defined using codes 2021 - 2031.
- Blocks 877 – 882, which previously straddled the U.S./Mexico border, are now defined as only those portions that occur within U.S. waters.
- Most blocks in the 900 range are retired. However, blocks 901 –904, and block 916 around the Coronado Islands remain and all other Mexican waters are defined by new block 905.

Use of the most current fishing block chart is necessary on all CDFW forms where a block number is required (14CCR §190); this includes logbooks, marine aquaria landing receipts, fish tickets, dock tickets, and any other forms not listed. Updating this chart

reference is an important step in improving the quality of the data collected, which will better inform decision making in the management of the fisheries resources we all depend on. CDFW appreciates your attention to this update and your continued efforts to report fishing activities in an accurate and timely manner.



The most up to date block charts are available from
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Commercial/MFSU>;

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please email
MFSU@wildlife.ca.gov or phone the Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit at
(562) 342-7130.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Shuman".

Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

Attachment: New Commercial Fishing Block Charts

cc: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division
Eric.Kord@wildlife.ca.gov

Todd Neahr, Environmental Program Manager
Marine Region
Todd.Neahr@wildlife.ca.gov

Paulo Serpa, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Marine Region
Paulo.Serpa@wildlife.ca.gov

Ross Cooper, Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit Supervisor
Marine Region
Ross.Cooper@wildlife.ca.gov