

California Department of Fish & Wildlife California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS) User Guide



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background.....	1
2	Definitions	2
3	Getting Started.....	3
3.1	System Requirements.....	3
3.2	Accessing the Application	4
4	CIRAS Application	5
4.1	Home Screen (Landing Page).....	5
4.1.1	Home Page Components.....	6
5	CIRAS - Angler Survey	17
5.1	Overview.....	17
5.2	Where did you fish	17
5.2.1	Selecting a Water Body	17
5.2.2	Can't Find Your Water?	19
5.2.3	Dropping a Pin	21
5.3	When did you fish?	22
5.3.1	Date.....	22
5.3.2	Start of Fishing Day	22
5.3.3	# of Hours Fished	23
5.4	What did you fish for?	23
5.4.1	Were you fishing for a specific species?	23
5.4.2	Fish Species	24
5.5	What did you catch?	25
5.5.1	Did you catch fish?	25
5.6	What did you use?	26
5.6.1	Gear Used	26
5.6.2	Where did you fish from?	26
5.7	How satisfied are you?.....	27
5.7.1	Satisfaction Table	27
5.7.2	Additional Comments about this fishing trip	28
5.8	About you	28
5.8.1	Home Zip Code.....	28
5.9	ReCAPTCHA and Submit	28

5.10	Survey Submitted.....	30
5.10.1	About you - Optional Demographic Data.....	31
5.10.2	Additional Questions.....	32
6	Ready to Fish? - CIRAS Dashboard.....	34
6.1	Overview.....	34
6.2	Ready to Fish – Language Option.....	36
6.3	By Fish Species.....	37
6.3.1	Initial Page.....	37
6.3.2	Dashboard.....	38
6.4	By Waterbody.....	40
6.4.1	Initial page.....	40
6.4.2	Dashboard.....	41
6.5	By Area.....	42
6.5.1	Initial Page.....	42
6.5.2	Dashboard.....	44
7	Troubleshooting and Support.....	46
7.1	Common Issues.....	46
7.2	Help and Support.....	46
8	Conclusion.....	47

1 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS) application! This user guide will help you navigate the features of the platform and assist you in participating in the survey to provide valuable insights into recreational angling in California.

CIRAS is designed to collect data on recreational fishing activities in California's inland water bodies. Your feedback helps us understand fishing patterns, preferences, and the impact on local ecosystems.

1.1 BACKGROUND

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is dedicated to managing California's rich array of fish, wildlife, and plant resources, along with the essential habitats that support them. This mission encompasses both the ecological value of these resources and their enjoyment by the public. As part of this commitment, CDFW's Fisheries Branch operates an inland fisheries monitoring program that relies on Angler Survey Boxes (ASBs) to gather critical data from recreational fishing activities. These metal-framed boxes, placed at select water bodies across the state, contain paper forms where anglers record essential information such as fishing date, hours spent fishing, species caught, species length, along with a set of angler satisfaction questions.

Currently, data collection from ASBs is a labor-intensive process. Paper forms are manually collected and entered into digital files, requiring significant time for data entry and verification—typically between 16 to 40 hours per water body per year. This manual process can lead to errors and misinterpretation, especially when handwriting is difficult to read. Moreover, data is stored separately across various locations, such as Microsoft Access databases and Excel spreadsheets, hindering statewide data analysis, reporting, and synthesis.

Given that ASBs are only present at around 200 of California's numerous inland water bodies, many locations remain unmonitored. To address these limitations, CDFW has created the CIRAS platform to modernize the survey process by transitioning to an electronic system that centralizes data collection. This modernization aims to increase data volume and reliability, extend coverage to all fishable inland water bodies, and reduce the time and effort required for data management.

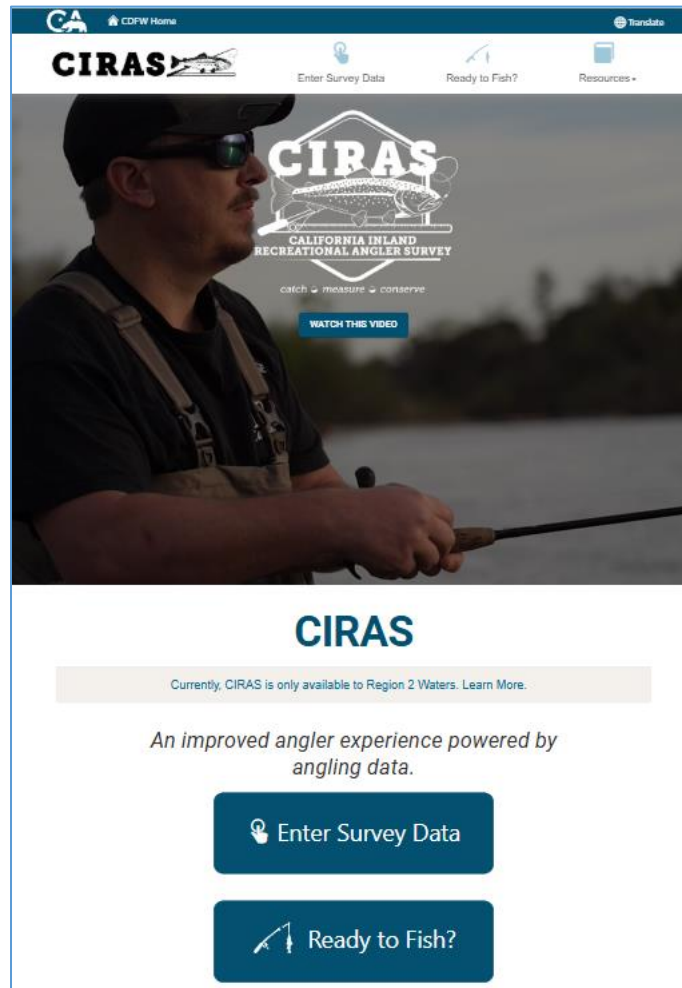
One of the goals of the CIRAS application is to improve public access to survey results, allowing anglers to benefit from the data and enhance their fishing experiences. By making fishing reports accessible and demonstrating the value of their contributions, CDFW hopes to foster continued public engagement and support for the CIRAS application.

2 DEFINITIONS

- CIRAS – California Inland Recreational Angler Survey
- Gear – The equipment and/or tackle used to fish. (E.g. Bait, Fly, Lure, etc.)
- Inland Waters – Inland waters are all the fresh, brackish, and inland saline waters of the state, including lagoons, and tidewaters upstream from the mouths of coastal rivers and streams. Inland waters exclude open or enclosed bays contiguous to the ocean including the waters of San Francisco Bay and the waters of Elkhorn Slough, west of Elkhorn Road between Castroville and Watsonville.
- GO ID – A GO ID is a unique number generated and assigned to an individual customer's record by the Automated License Data System (ALDS), which customers access through CDFW's Online License Sales and Services website. This number will appear on all documents purchased through the website and is one of several identification types that may be used to access a customer's record.
- Pin (Location) – A digital marker or pin that is placed on a map interface to denote a specific location.
- Species – Common name for the fish (e.g. Rainbow Trout)
- Species Targeted – Common name for the type of fish that an angler is attempting to catch.

3 GETTING STARTED

3.1 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS



- Browser: The application works best on modern browsers such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari.
- Internet Connection: A stable internet connection is required for smooth operation.
 - **NOTE:** If you do not have access to the internet at the location of your fishing trip, it might be helpful to [write down your data](#) (on paper or as a note in your phone) and then enter it within the CIRAS application once you have a reliable internet connection.
- The CIRAS application is built with responsive web design (RWD), meaning that CIRAS will work on multiple devices including desktops, mobile devices, or tablets.

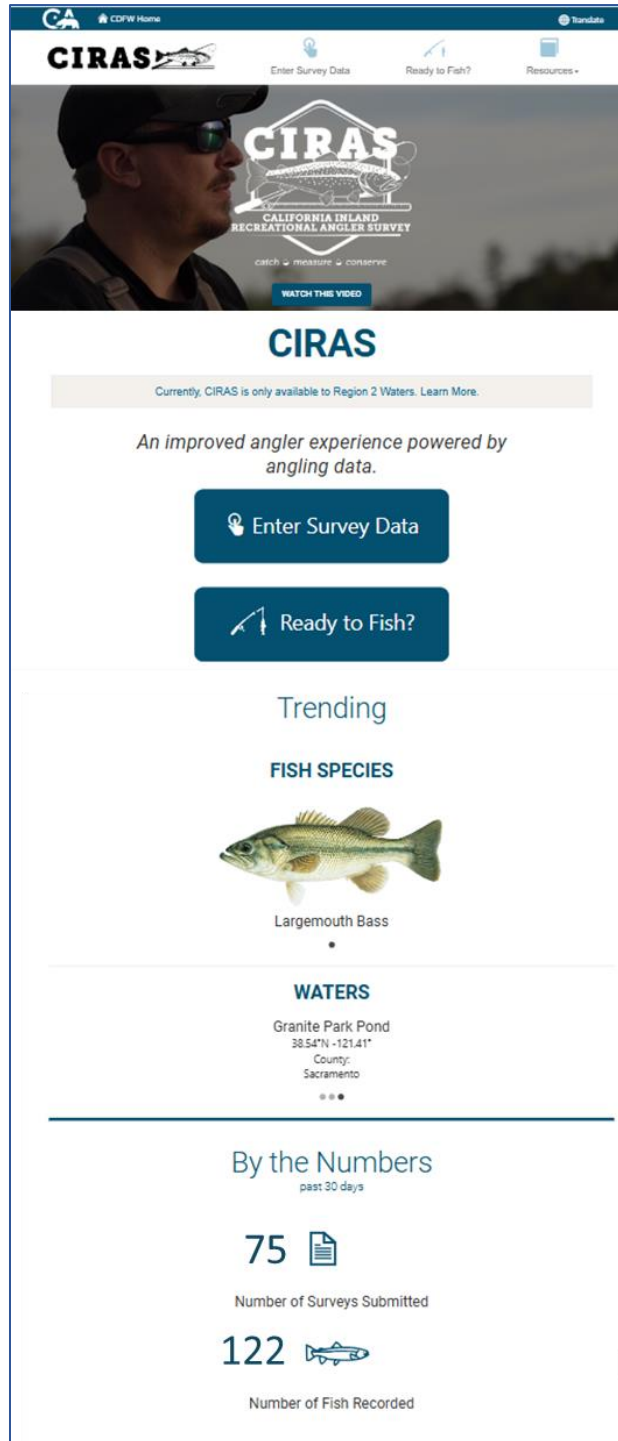
3.2 ACCESSING THE APPLICATION

- Open your web browser.
- Navigate to the CIRAS application URL: [California Inland Recreational Angler Survey](#)
- The home screen will load, presenting you with the main interface of the CIRAS application.

4 CIRAS APPLICATION

4.1 HOME SCREEN (LANDING PAGE)

The Home Screen of the CIRAS application is shown in the screen shot below. In the next section of the user guide, we will go into further detail about the components that you will see on the screen.

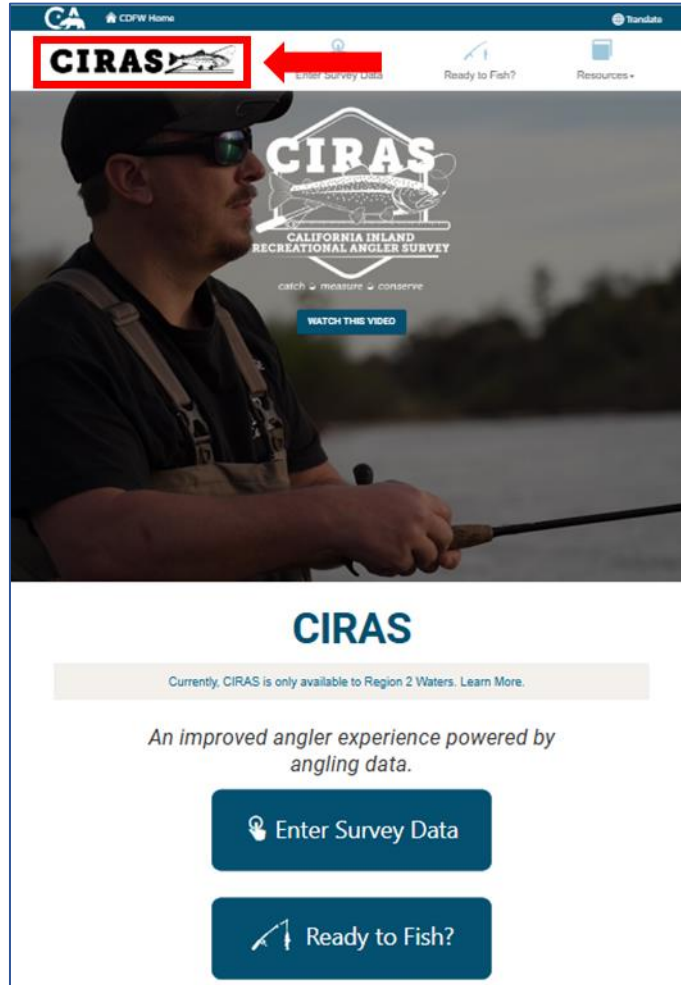


4.1.1 Home Page Components

The following subsections will help you navigate the CIRAS Landing Page.

4.1.1.1 CDFW Home Link

Screenshot of the upper left-hand corner of the CIRAS Landing Page with a red arrow pointing towards the CDFW website link, outlined in a red box.

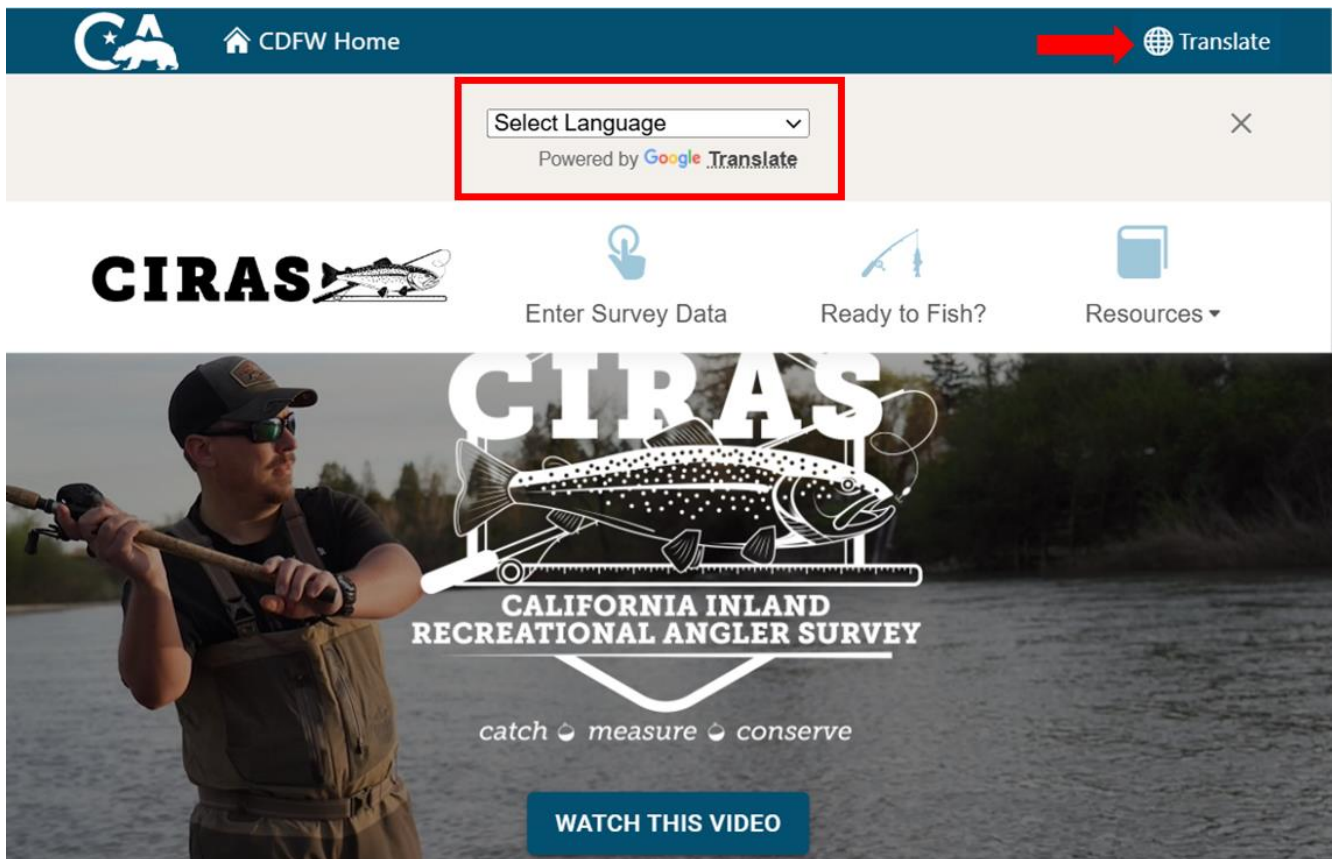


box.

In the upper left corner of the Landing Page, you can see a home icon with the text “CDFW Home”. If you click on this link, you will be taken to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife public internet site. You can view information regarding the department, fishing, hunting, licensing, conservation, and department offered learning resources.

4.1.1.2 Google Translate

In the upper right corner of the Landing Page, you can see a globe icon. If you click on this icon, you will see the Google Translate drop-down list appear. If you click on this drop-down list, you will see a list of different languages that you can select from. Once you select one of the languages, the survey will reload and display in the selected language. After a language is selected, a Google Translate ribbon at the top of the page will show what the page has been translated to and a button with the option to revert to show the original language.



Google Translated to: [Spanish](#) Show original Options

[Página de inicio de CDFW](#) Traducir

Spanish ×

Powered by Google Translate

CIRAS

Introducir datos de la encuesta ¿Listo para pescar? Recursos

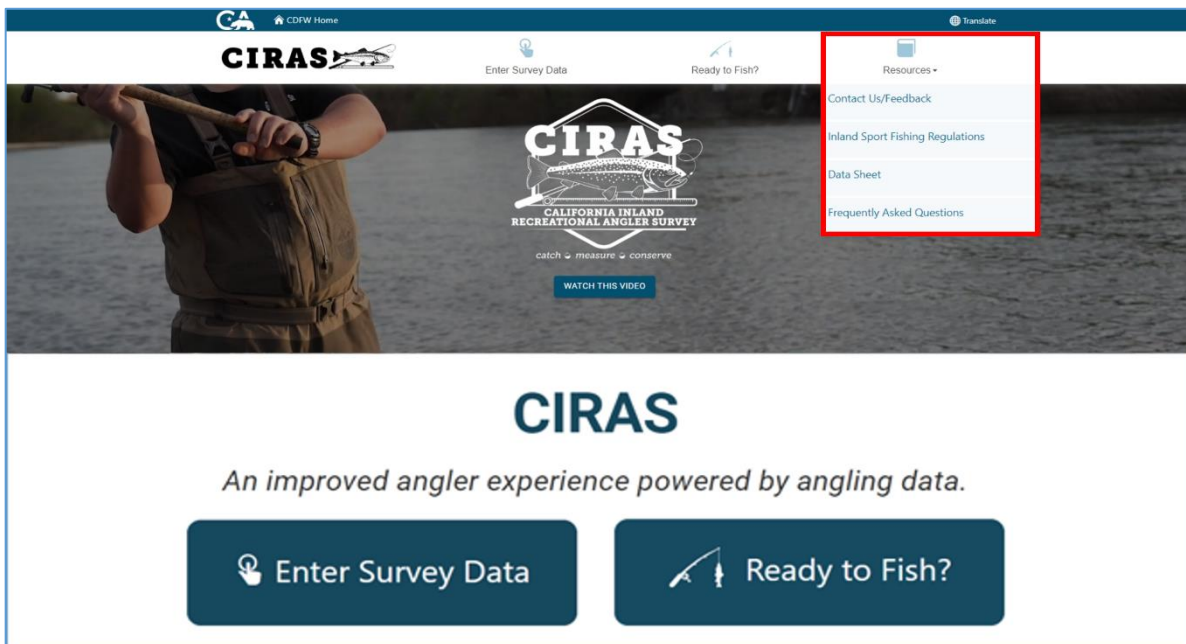
CIRAS
CALIFORNIA INLAND RECREATIONAL ANGLER SURVEY
catch measure conserve

[MIRA ESTE VIDEO](#)

4.1.1.3 Resources

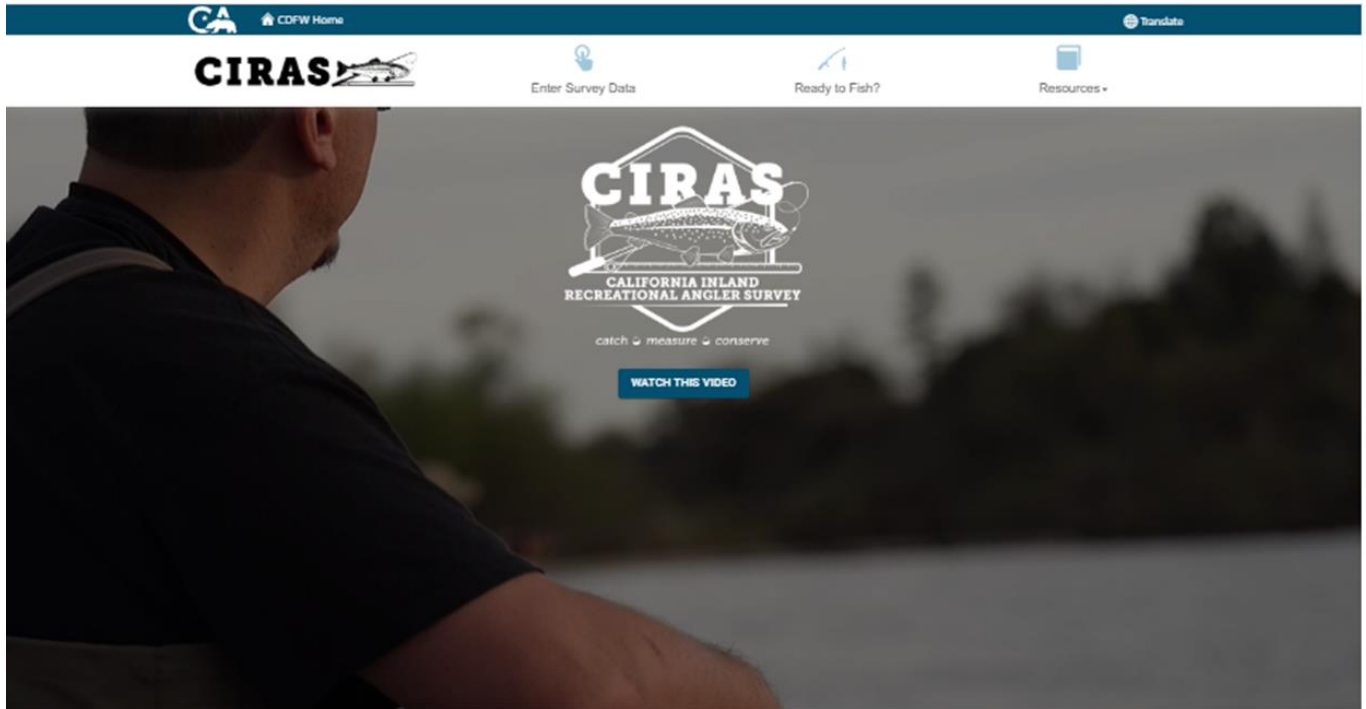
Clicking on the Resources dropdown menu in the top right corner of the CIRAS Landing Page will load a list of external links to the following documents and web pages:

- CIRAS User Guide
- CIRAS Tutorials (coming soon!)
- FAQs
- Contact Us / Feedback
- Fishing Regulations



4.1.1.4 Enter Survey Data Button

Near the middle of the CIRAS Landing Page you will find two large blue buttons. If you click on the button on the left that reads “Enter Survey Data” you will navigate to the beginning of the CIRAS Angler Survey. The next main section, Section 5 “CIRAS – Angler Survey”, will go into more detail about completing the Angler Survey. Within the CIRAS Survey, if you wish to return to the CIRAS Landing Page, select the CIRAS icon in the upper left corner of the page.




CIRAS

Currently, CIRAS is only available to Region 2 Waters. [Learn More.](#)

An improved angler experience powered by angling data.

 [Enter Survey Data](#)

 [Ready to Fish?](#)



Enter Survey Data

Ready to Fish?

Resources ▾

Angler Survey

Each entry is for a single angler, on single body of water, on a single day. Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon).

Where did you fish?

Location *

Next

4.1.1.5 Ready to Fish? Button

Near the middle of the CIRAS Landing Page you will find two large blue buttons. If you click on the button on the right that reads “Ready to Fish?” you will navigate to the Ready to Fish Data Dashboard Page. Section 6 – “Ready to Fish – Data Dashboard” will go into more detail about navigating and using the dashboard area. If you wish to return to the CIRAS Landing Page, select the CIRAS icon in the upper left corner of the page.





Enter Survey Data

Ready to Fish?

Resources ▾

Ready to Fish

An improved angler experience powered by angling data.

Search by:

Language
English ▾

FISH

WATER NAME

AREA

Fish with Data

Toggle to view only fish with data

Species Name

Search

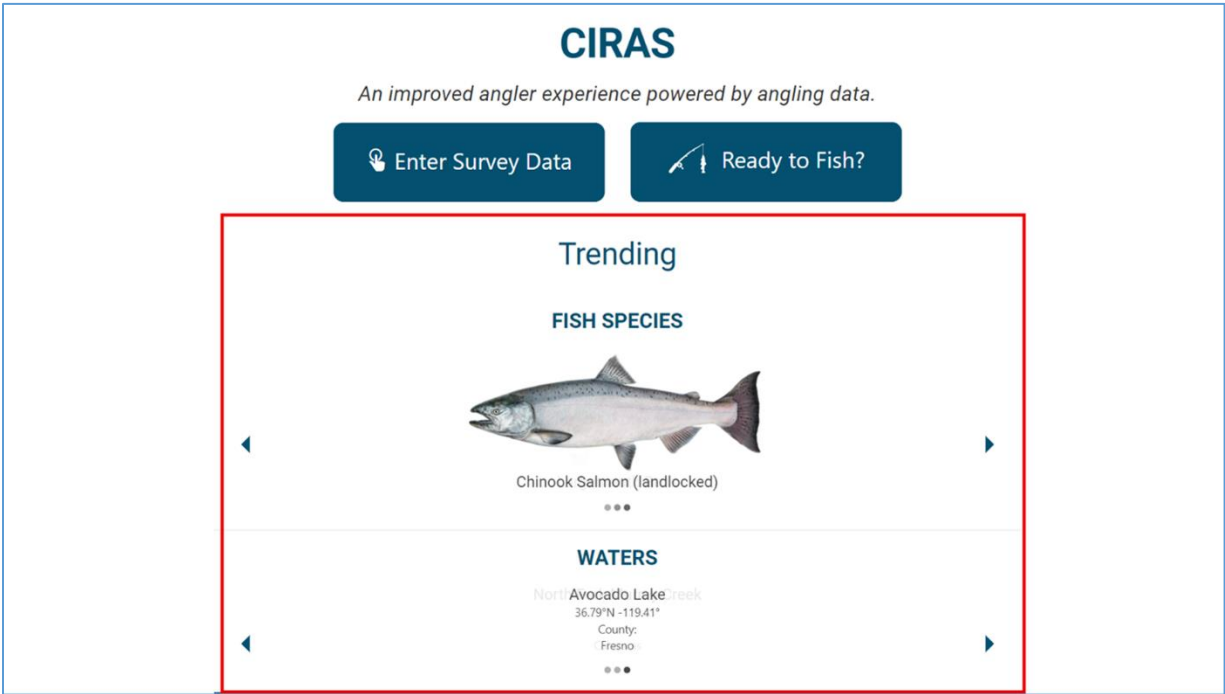
- Bass (Unidentified Species)
- Black Crappie
- Bluegill
- Brook Trout
- Brown Bullhead
- Brown Trout
- CA Golden Trout
- Catfish (Unidentified Species)
- Channel Catfish
- Chinook Salmon (landlocked)
- Coastal Cutthroat Trout
- Common Carp
- Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout
- Fish (Unidentified Species)
- Goose Lake Redhand Trout

* Fish with an asterisk do not have data



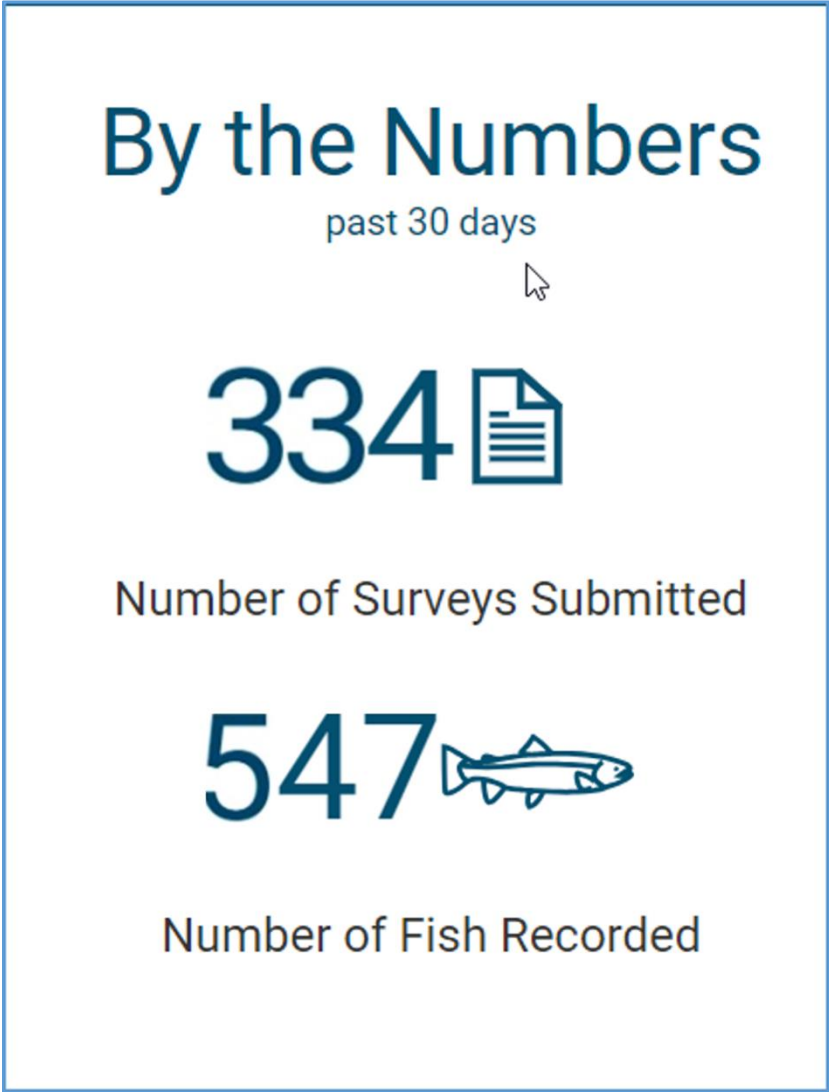
4.1.1.6 Trending

Below the Enter Survey Data and Ready to Fish buttons, you will find the Trending area. This area highlights trending fish species and waters according to CIRAS survey submissions. Illustrations of the top three trending fish species can be found on an automated reel, or you can manually click through the images. Additionally, the top three reported on waters can be found in a similar manner just below the fish illustrations. The Waters cards show the name of the water body, associated location coordinates, and the county that the water body is located in.



4.1.1.7 By the Numbers

Further down the CIRAS Landing Page you will find the “By the Numbers” area. This area provides some quick insights into the CIRAS Survey application. This area highlights both the number of surveys submitted, and the number of fish recorded in the past 30 days.



4.1.1.8 Footer Information

At the bottom of the page within the footer section, you will find some additional information that includes:

- A link to California Department of Fish and Wildlife public website
- A link to CDFW Fisheries Branch public website
- The CDFW’s Fisheries Branch Chief – Jay Rowan
- The CDFW’s address – 1010 Riverside Parkway West Sacramento, CA 95605

- The CIRAS email address – CIRAS@wildlife.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fisheries Branch

Branch Chief: Jay Rowan

1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

CIRAS@wildlife.ca.gov

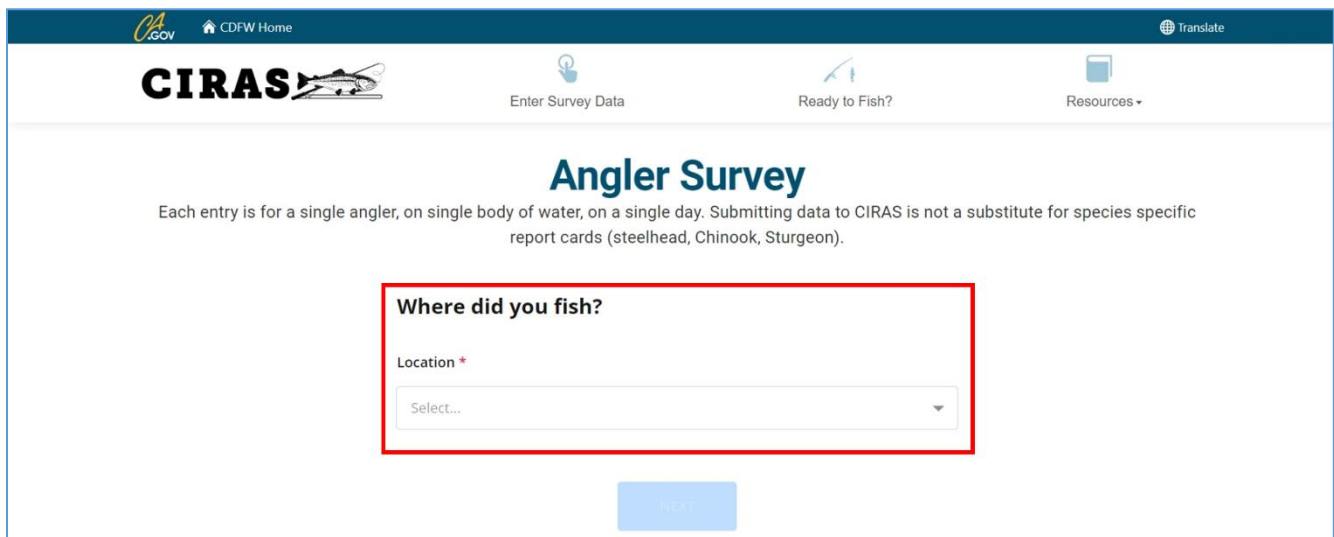
5 CIRAS - ANGLER SURVEY

5.1 OVERVIEW

The following sub sections will help with entering data into the CIRAS Angler Survey. Each section will provide details and screenshots of the corresponding survey section.

5.2 WHERE DID YOU FISH

The first page of the CIRAS Angler Survey is requesting information about the location of where you fished. Please note that each CIRAS entry is for a single angler, on a single body of water, on a single day. Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species-specific report cards (e.g., steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon).

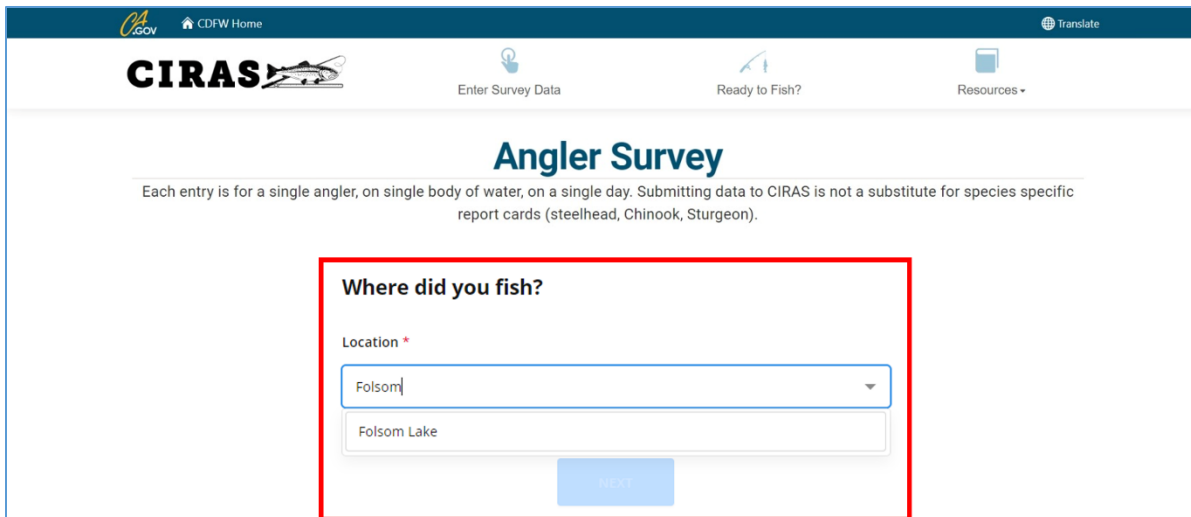


The screenshot shows the CIRAS Angler Survey website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CA.gov logo, CDFW Home, and a Translate button. Below the navigation bar, the CIRAS logo is displayed on the left, and three main menu items are listed: 'Enter Survey Data', 'Ready to Fish?', and 'Resources'. The main heading is 'Angler Survey', followed by a sub-heading: 'Each entry is for a single angler, on single body of water, on a single day. Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon)'. A red box highlights the 'Where did you fish?' section, which contains a 'Location *' label and a dropdown menu with 'Select...' as the current selection. Below this section is a blue 'NEXT' button.

5.2.1 Selecting a Water Body

On the first page of the Angler Survey, under the heading “Where did you fish?”, you are asked to select the location where you fished.

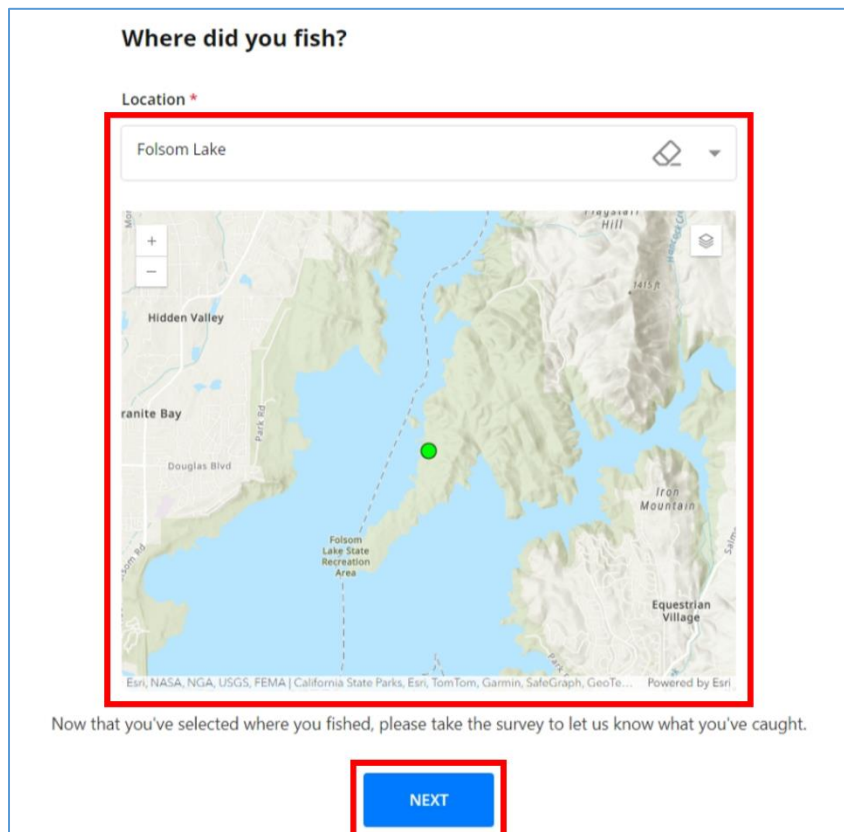
To select a waterbody, click into the drop-down list and either scroll down to the appropriate water body or begin typing the name of the waterbody in the search bar and your waterbody should populate within the list. Typing more letters will filter the options in the drop-down list accordingly.



The screenshot shows the CIRAS website header with the logo and navigation links: "Enter Survey Data", "Ready to Fish?", and "Resources". Below the header is the "Angler Survey" title and a note: "Each entry is for a single angler, on single body of water, on a single day. Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon)." The main form area is titled "Where did you fish?" and contains a "Location *" dropdown menu. The dropdown is open, showing "Folsom" as the selected option and "Folsom Lake" as a suggestion below it. A blue "NEXT" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Once you have selected a waterbody, a map feature will load showing a view of the waterbody that has been selected. Please review the map feature and confirm that this is the waterbody that you intended to select. The map feature includes zoom in/zoom out functionality if needed to better visualize the body of water.

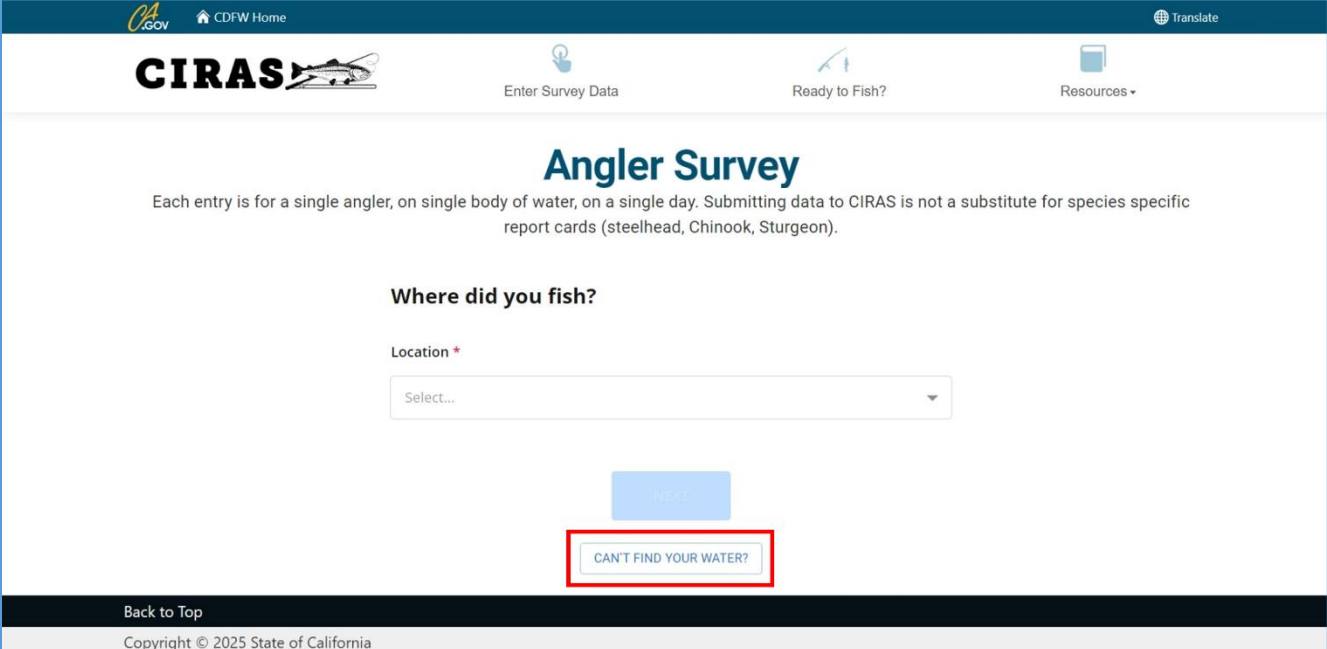
Now that you have confirmed the waterbody, please select the NEXT button to proceed to the next survey page.



The screenshot shows the same "Where did you fish?" form, but now with a map view. The "Location *" dropdown menu is set to "Folsom Lake". The map displays a satellite view of Folsom Lake with a green dot marking the fishing location. The map includes zoom in (+) and zoom out (-) buttons. Below the map, the text reads: "Now that you've selected where you fished, please take the survey to let us know what you've caught." A blue "NEXT" button is highlighted with a red box at the bottom center of the form.

5.2.2 Can't Find Your Water?

If the waterbody you are searching for isn't listed on CIRAS, please click the "Can't Find Your Water" button below the drop down.



The screenshot shows the CIRAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CIRAS logo, a home icon labeled 'CDFW Home', and a 'Translate' button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main menu items: 'Enter Survey Data', 'Ready to Fish?', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Angler Survey' and includes a sub-header 'Where did you fish?'. Under this sub-header, there is a 'Location *' dropdown menu with 'Select...' as the current selection. Below the dropdown menu, there is a blue 'Go' button and a red-bordered button labeled 'CAN'T FIND YOUR WATER?'. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Back to Top' link and a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2025 State of California'.

The resulting page will provide the following fields to capture the information of the missing waterbody so we can make updates to the waterbody list:

- Name of the Body of Water (Required Field) – Type in the name of the Missing Waterbody
- County Body of Water is Found In – Select which county the waterbody is found in.
- Location Description – Type a location description of where the waterbody is found.
- Map Component (Required Field) – Location Pin – Drop a Pin on the map to show the location of the waterbody. See the next section if you need instructions on how to drop a pin.
- Optional Contact Information
 - Name (Optional) – Type in your name
 - Phone Number (Optional) – Enter your phone number
 - Email Address (Optional) – Enter your email address

Angler Survey

Each entry is for a single angler, on single body of water, on a single day. Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon).

Can't find your water?

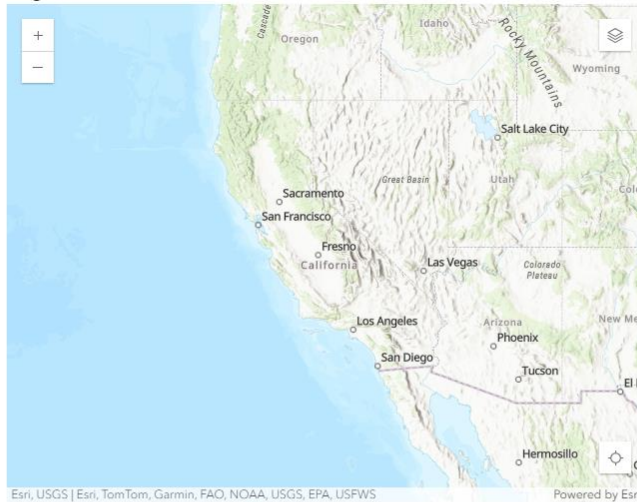
[Cancel](#)

Name of Body of Water looking for *

County Body of Water found in

Location Description

Please select the approximate location you fished by placing a pin on the map. If you are unable to find the water on the map, place the pin near the location where you fished. After identifying your water, please take the survey to let us know what you caught.



Name (Optional)

Phone Number (Optional)

Email (Optional)

5.2.3 Dropping a Pin

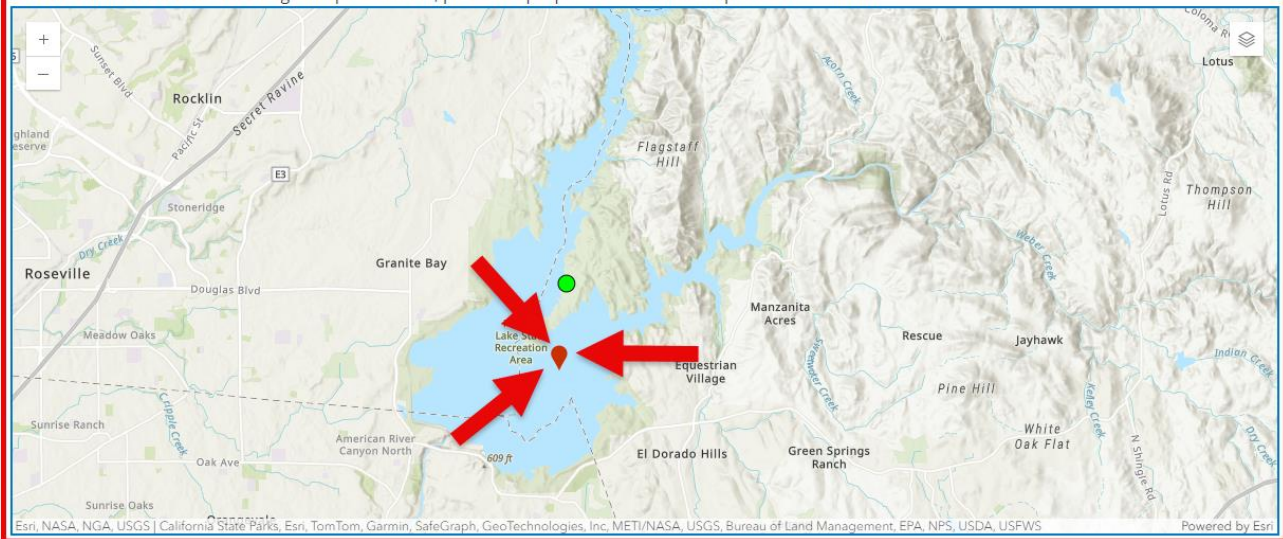
After you have selected your waterbody and advanced to the next page of the survey, within the map component, you are asked to drop a pin in the approximate area that you were fishing. You can change the pin location by tapping another spot on the map. If fishing in multiple locations, please drop a pin in the centralized point within that general area. Please note that the pin location will not be shared on CIRAS or with the public.

Where did you fish?

Location ← Back

Folsom Lake

Tap the map to drop a pin in the approximate area that you were fishing. You can change it at any time by tapping another spot on the map. **Pin location WILL NOT be shared on CIRAS.** If fishing multiple locations, please drop a pin in the centralized point within that area.




Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS | California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS
Powered by Esri

5.3 WHEN DID YOU FISH?


On the second page of the Angler Survey, under the heading “When did you fish?”, you are asked to select the date of your fishing trip, the start time of your fishing day, and the number (#) of hours fished.

When did you fish?

Date *



Start of fishing day *




of hours fished *

5.3.1 Date

The Date field under “When did you fish?” defaults to today’s date. To change the date, you can type in the appropriate date in the formal mm/dd/yyyy, or you can click on the calendar icon and select the date from the date picker area. Please note that you cannot select dates in the future.

When did you fish?

Date *



August 2024

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Clear Today

5.3.2 Start of Fishing Day

The next field, “Start of Fishing Day”, requires the time that your fishing day started. You can click on the clock icon to use the time scroll functionality to select your desired time, or you can type the time

directly into the survey field. Please note that the CIRAS application will not allow you to select a time and date that are in the future.

When did you fish?

Date *

Start of fishing day *

08	00	AM
09	01	PM
10	02	
11	03	
12	04	
01	05	
02	06	

fish for?

specific species? *

5.3.3 # of Hours Fished

The next field asks for data about the number of hours spent fishing. You can only input numbers into this field. For example, for three hours spent fishing, enter the number 3. For four and a half hours, enter 4.5 hours.

When did you fish?

Date *

Start of fishing day *

of hours fished *

5.4 WHAT DID YOU FISH FOR?

5.4.1 Were you fishing for a specific species?

Under the survey heading “What did you fish for?” the first question asks if you were fishing for a specific species. If no, select the “No” toggle and move onto the “What Did You Catch?” section of the survey.

If you were fishing for a specific species, select the “Yes” toggle. With the “Yes” toggle activated, an additional field titled “Fish Species” will appear. Next, select your specific Fish Species in the drop-down list either by scrolling to the species name or by typing the species name into the search box.



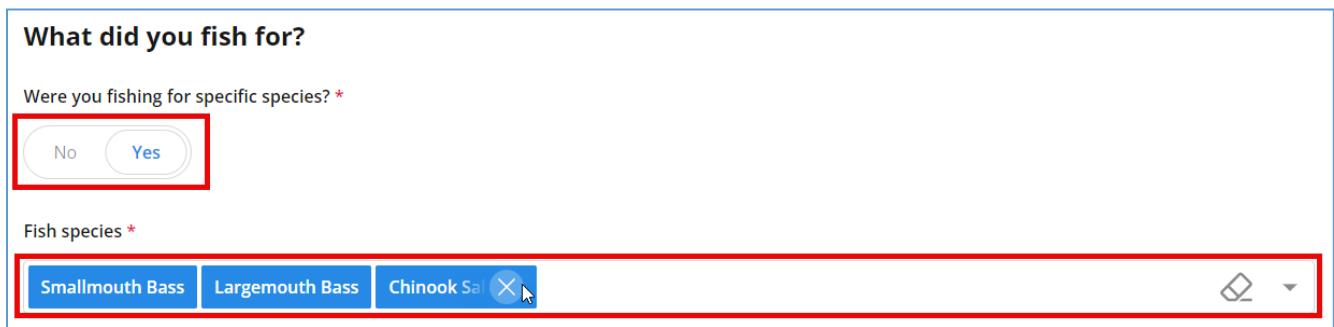
What did you fish for?

Were you fishing for specific species? *

No Yes

5.4.2 Target Fish Species

The Target Fish Species field and associated drop-down list is only available when the previous field, “Were you fishing for a specific species?”, is set to “Yes”. When set to “Yes”, the Target Fish Species drop-down works in a similar way to the Water Body/Location List that was on the first page of the survey. You can either scroll until you find the desired Target Fish Species, or you can begin typing the name of the species in the search bar and the results should filter the list and populate with your species as one of the potential choices. On a mobile device, once you select your species from the drop-down menu, click “OK” to add it to the list. Please note that you can add multiple species. You can also delete a species by selecting the “X” if you hover over the right-side of the blue label in the Fish Species box on a computer or by touching the species name in the list on a mobile device.



What did you fish for?

Were you fishing for specific species? *

No Yes

Fish species *

Smallmouth Bass Largemouth Bass Chinook Salmon X

5.5 WHAT DID YOU CATCH?

5.5.1 Did you catch fish?

Under the “What did you catch?” section you are asked to report if you caught any fish. There is a toggle that you can indicate “Yes” or “No”. If “Yes” is selected, a Catch List Table will appear. If “No” is selected, the Catch List Table will not appear, and you can move onto the next section of the survey.

What did you catch?
Please record the number of fish kept and released for each fish size and species caught. Click the info button for more details.

Did you catch fish? *

No Yes (i)

5.5.1.1 Catch List

If you selected “Yes” for the previous question, the Catch List entry fields will appear. Here, you will be able to add data about the fish that you caught to create a Catch List table (see image below). Within the table, select the fish species that you caught, the size of the fish (in inches), the number of fish kept and/or released. Once you have entered the catch data, select “Add to Catch List” to add the data to the table. If you need to enter additional information, you can enter multiple rows of data to the catch list, just make sure to select the “Add to Catch List” button each time to make sure all your data is included in the catch list table to be submitted in the survey. Please enter a row for each species and size combination (see example below). If you caught fish of different sizes but the same species, please enter a new row for each species/size combination. Additionally, if you need to delete a row of the Catch

What did you catch?
Please record the number of fish kept and released for each fish size and species caught. Click the info button for more details.

Did you catch fish? *

No Yes (i)

Fish Species * Size (inch) * # Kept # Released

Select... (Add to Catch List)

Fish Species	Size (inch)	# Kept	# Released	
Largemouth Bass	14	0	1	
Smallmouth Bass	12	0	1	
Largemouth Bass	13	1	0	

Total # Fish: **3** Total # Kept: **1** Total # Released: **2**

List table, you can select the trash bin icon to the right of the row, and it will be removed from the Catch List table.

5.6 WHAT DID YOU USE?

In the survey section titled “What did you use?” you are asked to enter some additional information about your fishing trip such as what gear you used and where you fished from during the trip.

What did you use?

Gear Used *

Bait Fly Lure Other (describe)

Used Second Rod

Where did you fish from? * (i)

Select... ▼

5.6.1 Gear Used

In the first section under “What Did You Use?”, please select the type of gear that you used during your fishing trip. The gear type choices include Bait, Fly, Lure, Other (describe), and Used Second Rod. This is a multi-select field, so please check all applicable options. Please note that if “Other (describe)” is selected, a text box will be provided for you to fill in additional details about your alternate gear type.

Gear Used *

Bait Fly Lure Other (describe)

Used Second Rod

5.6.2 Where did you fish from?

The next question asks for details about where you fished from. The options include motorized boat, non-motorized boat, or shore/wading. For the purposes of the CIRAS application, a motorized boat is defined as a boat with an electric or gas motor. Some examples of non-motorized boats include float tubes, kayaks, drift boats, paddleboards, etc.

Where did you fish from? * (i)

Select... ▼

Motorized Boat

Non-Motorized Boat

Shore/Wading

5.7 HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU?

The “How Satisfied Are You?” section provides an area to rate your angling experience and provide additional comments about your fishing trip.

How satisfied are you?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Overall Angling Experience	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Size of Fish	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of Fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Additional comments about this fishing trip

5.7.1 Satisfaction Table

The Satisfaction Table contains three categories: Overall Angling Experience, Size of Fish, Number of Fish. Users are asked to select a satisfaction level for each of the three categories. The satisfaction levels ordered from highest satisfaction to lowest satisfaction are: Very Satisfied, Somewhat Satisfied, Neutral, Somewhat Unsatisfied, or Very Unsatisfied.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Overall Angling Experience	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Size of Fish	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of Fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5.7.2 Additional Comments about this fishing trip

If you would like, you can leave additional comments on your fishing trip in the free text field below the Satisfaction Table.

Additional comments about this fishing trip

5.8 ABOUT YOU

5.8.1 Home Zip Code

Under the “About You” section, you are required to enter your Home Zip Code. This gives us information regarding approximately how far anglers are willing to travel to certain fisheries.

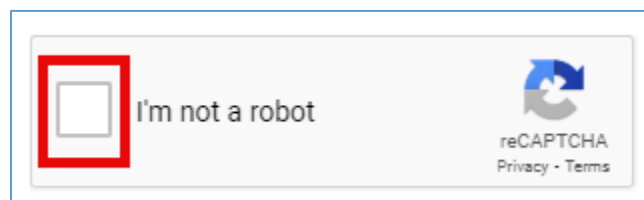
About you

Home Zip Code *

5.9 RECAPTCHA AND SUBMIT

The CIRAS Survey application uses reCAPTCHA to help protect the application from spam, bots, and fake submissions. It uses a combination of adaptive CAPTCHAs and risk analysis to differentiate between humans and bots, while allowing legitimate users to pass through with ease.

Click on the checkbox that reads “I’m not a robot”. Complete the reCAPTCHA prompt if there is one and then select Submit to submit your CIRAS survey.



I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Submit

Please note that if you have incorrectly entered data into any of the survey fields or left any required fields blank, your survey will not be submitted until those fields have been filled out correctly. Fields with errors will be highlighted in red with a corresponding error message such as Response Required. Please fill out any errored fields and resubmit your survey once completed.

About you

Response required.

Home Zip Code *

I



I'm not a robot


reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Submit

5.10 SURVEY SUBMITTED

Once you have successfully submitted your CIRAS survey you will arrive at the Survey Submitted page. There should be a note at the top of the page thanking you for submitting your survey data and asking you to please enter some optional demographic information within the fields that follow.


 [CDFW Home](#)  Translate

CIRAS  [Enter Survey Data](#) [Ready to Fish?](#) [Resources](#)

Survey Submitted

Thank you for submitting your survey data, please enter optional demographic information below.

About you
Please enter optional demographic information below. Demographic data will be kept confidential.

GOID 

Age

Gender

Race/Ethnicity

Primary language spoken at home

Which accessibility improvement would you like to see CDFW direct resources towards? (please select your top priority)

[Submit](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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5.10.1 About you - Optional Demographic Data

Within the “About You” section you are asked to enter optional demographic information that will not be shared on the CIRAS platform, it is for internal use only.

These optional fields include:

- GOID (10 digit)
- Age
- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Primary language spoken at home
- Which accessibility improvement would you like to see CDFW direct resources towards? (please select your top priority)

Please note that if the drop-down lists do not contain your choice value, you can select “Other (describe)” and you will be provided with a free text field to type in your missing value.

Once you have provided the optional information, please select “Submit” and your demographic data will be submitted.

Survey Submitted

Thank you for submitting your survey data, please enter optional demographic information below.

About you
Please enter optional demographic information below. Demographic data will be kept confidential.

GOID (i)

Age

Gender

Race/Ethnicity

Primary language spoken at home

Which accessibility improvement would you like to see CDFW direct resources towards? (please select your top priority)

5.10.2 Additional Questions

Some fish species may include some additional follow-up questions. For example, if you report Chinook Salmon or steelhead, caught in anadromous waters, you will be prompted with the following supplemental questions (note, you may also be prompted with these questions in inland waters if there is an ongoing special study):

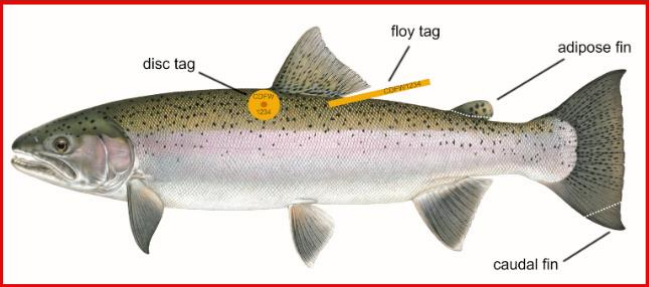
- Did any of your fish have a clipped fin?
- Were any of your fish tagged?

5.10.2.1 Fish Fin Clip

In this additional section you are asked if any of your fish had a clipped fin. For your reference, an illustration has been provided within the CIRAS survey to show examples of possible tags or fin clip locations.

Within this section, there is a table for you to provide information about clipped fins. The choices are Adipose, Other, No, or Unknown.

Fish Fin Clip
Submitting data to CIRAS is not a substitute for species specific report cards (steelhead, Chinook, Sturgeon).



Did any of your fish have a clipped fin?

	Size	Action	Adipose	Other	No	Unknown
Chinook Salmon (anadromous)	12	Kept	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

5.10.2.2 Fish Tagged Questions

In this additional section you are asked if any of your fish were tagged. There is a table that will show a list of the fish you caught with an area to add information about any potential tags. If you select “Yes”, please also include the Tag ID if possible. Including Tag IDs could allow CDFW staff to estimate growth and survival statistics.

Fish Tagged

Were any of your fish tagged?

	Size	Action	Yes	No	Unknown	Tag ID
Chinook Salmon (anadromous)	12	Kept	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="text"/>

6 READY TO FISH DASHBOARD

6.1 OVERVIEW

The Ready to Fish Dashboard is the data dashboard component of CIRAS. The dashboard uses information submitted by anglers via CIRAS surveys to help anglers plan for their future fishing trips. This area gets information back into the hands of the public with hopes of improving angling experiences by providing insights into fish species, waterbodies, geographical areas, and more.

Anglers can search the Ready To Fish Dashboard by selecting a fish species, waterbody, or geographic area:

- Fish – This section of the dashboard will show insights for a specific fish species across all waterbodies where the species was reported. Data displayed includes the waterbodies where the fish are commonly caught, a distribution chart of the length of fish caught (inches), and the most popular gear type used to catch a particular fish.
- Waterbody – This section of the dashboard will show insights for a specific waterbody. Some highlights of this section include information about common species of fish caught in the waterbody, information about the fishing trips that have been reported to CIRAS with data about the number of trips, number of fish caught, and the number of hours spent fishing. The dashboard also shows angler satisfaction averages for the waterbody.
- Area – This section of the dashboard will show insights about waterbodies and fish near a certain geographic location. Users can select a location and a mileage range to filter results down to a specific area. The dashboard will show waterbodies within the filtered range, common fish species reported to CIRAS, and additional fishing trip data such as number of fish caught, number of hours spent fishing, and total number of fishing trips.

The following sections of the user guide will review each of the three ways to search the information on the Ready to Fish Dashboard.

CA.GOV CDFW Home Translate

CIRAS Enter Survey Data Ready to Fish? Resources

Ready to Fish

An improved angler experience powered by angling data.

Search by: Language English


FISH WATER NAME AREA

Fish with Data
Toggle to view only fish with data

Species Name
Search

- Bass (Unidentified Species)
- Black Crappie
- Bluegill
- Brook Trout
- Brown Bullhead
- Brown Trout
- CA Golden Trout
- Catfish (Unidentified Species)
- Channel Catfish
- Chinook Salmon (landlocked)
- Coastal Cutthroat Trout
- Common Carp
- Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout
- Fish (Unidentified Species)
- Goose Lake Redband Trout

* Fish with an asterisk do not have data



6.2 READY TO FISH – LANGUAGE OPTION

The Ready to Fish Dashboard has an option to change the language from the English default. To change the language for this area, simply locate the Language drop box on the upper right portion of the dashboard area and select a language from the resulting list. Once you have selected a language the page will reload and display translatable text in the newly selected language.

The list of languages currently available include:

- Arabic, Armenian, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, Filipino (Tagalog), French, Hebrew, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

Search by:

Language
 Spanish

FISH

Nombre de la especie: Rainbow Trout

Filtro Avanzado

Año: Todas

Nombre Del Agua: Todas

20 mil
Número de peces capturados

4430 **54**
Número de viajes Número de aguas

Rainbow Trout

WATERBODY

Nombre del agua: Kern River

Satisfacción General:

Número de peces capturados por Mes:

enero	0,4 mil
febrero	0,5 mil
marzo	0,8 mil
abril	1,2 mil
mayo	1,8 mil
junio	3,0 mil
julio	3,4 mil
agosto	2,5 mil
septiembre	2,7 mil
octubre	2,9 mil
noviembre	1,0 mil
diciembre	0,2 mil

Largo de los peces capturados por Pulgadas:

4-6	2,5 mil
7-9	6,2 mil
10-12	3,4 mil
13-15	5,1 mil
16-18	1,8 mil
19-21	1,0 mil
22-24	0,1 mil
25-27	0,1 mil

AREA

Sly Creek Reservoir

Captura de peces por hora: 4

Longitud mediana (pulgad...): 15

Silver Fork America...

Captura de peces por hora: 2,75

Longitud mediana (pulgad...): 7

Stony Creek

Captura de peces por hora: 2,75

Longitud mediana (pulgad...): 7

Número de peces capturados por Equipo:

Mosca	13 mil
Senuelo	4 mil
Carreola	3 mil
Otro	0 mil

6.3 BY FISH SPECIES

6.3.1 Initial Page

The first section of the dashboard uses Fish Species as the main filter. On the initial page of the Search by Fish dashboard, you can select a fish species that you would like to get more CIRAS insights about. Please note that the list defaults to Fish with Data. You can switch the toggle in the top right corner of the visualization page to “All Fish” but please keep in mind that some of the fish in the resulting list may not have any CIRAS data associated with the fish species so the dashboard may not be available. Once users submit data for that species it will be available on this section of the dashboard. You can return to the list of fish with data by switching the same toggle back to the default.

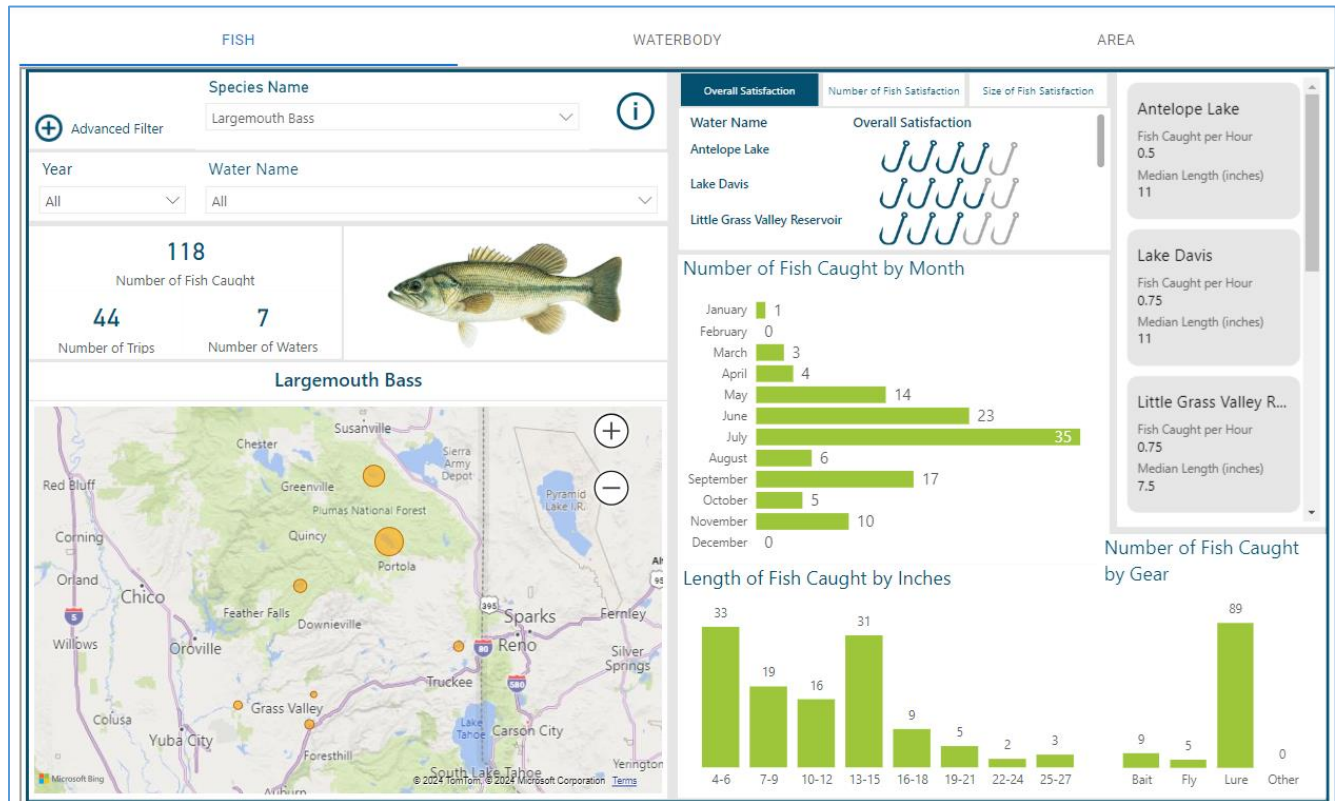
For this example, Largemouth Bass has been selected. You will notice that the fish illustration to the right of the list will update based on the fish species selected.

Once you have your fish selected and you have confirmed that the illustration matches that of your selected species, please click on the View Dashboard button at the bottom of the page.

The screenshot shows the CIRAS 'Ready to Fish' dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CIRAS logo, 'Enter Survey Data', 'Ready to Fish?', and 'Resources' buttons. Below this is a header section with the title 'Ready to Fish' and the subtitle 'An improved angler experience powered by angling data.' A language dropdown menu is set to 'English'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'FISH', 'WATER NAME', and 'AREA'. The 'FISH' column contains a search bar and a list of fish species with checkboxes. 'Largemouth Bass' is selected and highlighted with a red box. To the right of the list is an illustration of a Largemouth Bass. A toggle switch labeled 'Fish with Data' is in the top right corner of the list area, also highlighted with a red box. At the bottom of the list area, there is a 'View Dashboard' button, also highlighted with a red box. A note at the bottom of the list area states: '* Fish with an asterisk do not have data'.

6.3.2 Dashboard

For this dashboard example, Largemouth Bass was selected as the fish species.



Within the visualization you will see that the Species Name is Largemouth Bass.

The visualizations/metrics shown on this dashboard include:

- Species Name – Largemouth Bass in this example
- Year – Based on available CIRAS survey data
- Water Name – Default is set to all, but you can select a specific waterbody if desired
- Number of Fish Caught – Total number of fish caught (Kept and Released) within the filtered range
- Number of Trips – Total count of CIRAS surveys reported within the filtered range
- Number of waters where the fish species was caught within the filtered range
- Map Component – Shows locations where the fish species was caught within the filtered range. The larger the circle the more fish were caught at the specific location.
- Water Rating - Satisfaction table based on the CIRAS survey results for satisfaction at a given water body. Three tabs for overall satisfaction, number of fish caught satisfaction, and size of fish caught satisfaction. The top three waterbodies are displayed as default.
- Number of Fish Caught by Month – Shows the number of fish caught during each month.
- Length of Fish Caught by Inches – Bar graph to show the distribution of length of fish caught in inches.
- Waterbody Cards – Shows name of waterbody, number of fish caught per hour, and median length (inches) of fish caught.

- Number of Fish Caught by Gear Type – Bar graph to show the number of fish caught by gear type.

By default, the Fish Species tab on the dashboard uses the following Advanced Filters to create the visualization that loads on the resulting page.

- Location
 - All
- Distance from location (miles)
 - All
- Gear
 - All
- Length in Inches
 - e.g., 1-72” (full size range of reported fish in image below)
- Month
 - All
- Date Fished
 - e.g., 10/24/2005 –08/22/2024 (full date range of reported fishing trips in image below)

Clear Filters

Location
All

Distance from location (miles)
All

Gear
All

Length in Inches
1 72

Month
All

Date Fished
5/1/2024 8/22/2024

6.4 BY WATER NAME

6.4.1 Initial page

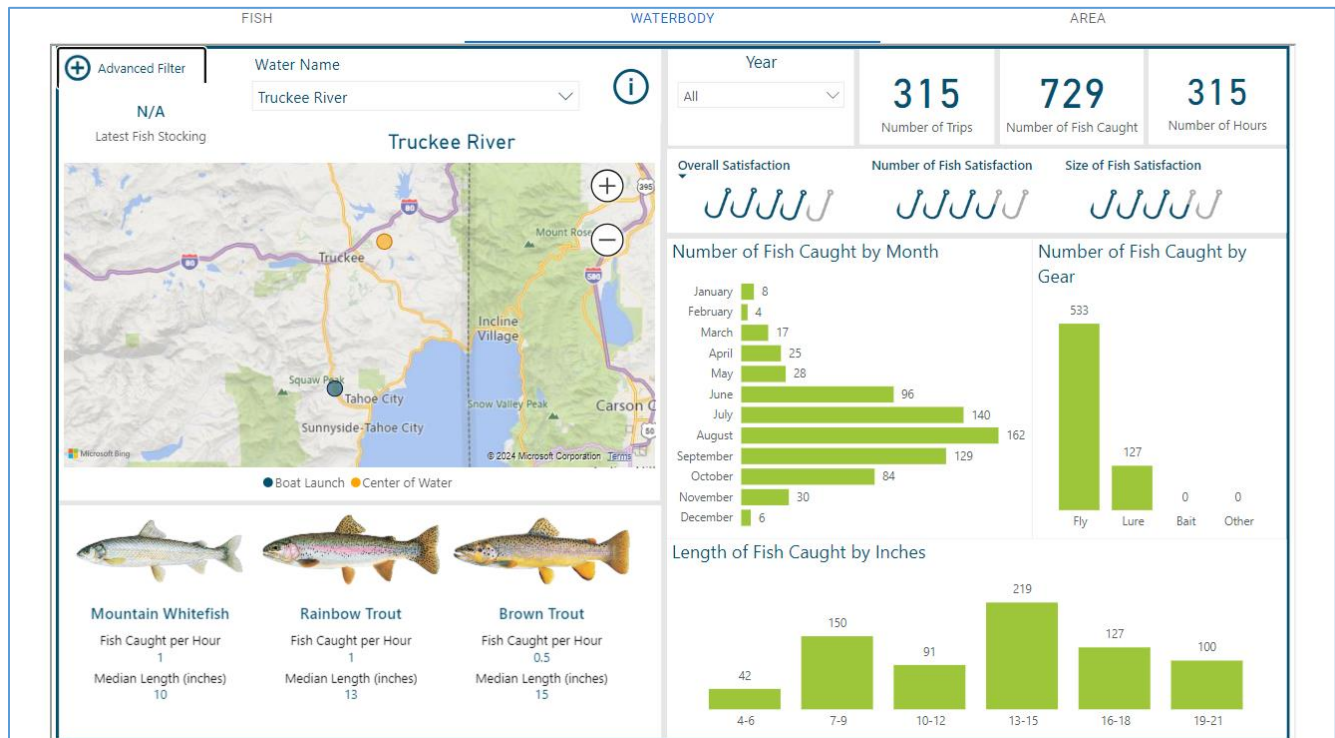
The next dashboard tab uses Water Name as the main filter. On the initial page of the Search by Water Name tab, you can select a waterbody that you would like to get more CIRAS insights about. Please note that the list defaults to Surveyed Waters or waters for which users have already submitted data. You can switch the toggle in the top right corner of the visualization page to “All Waters” but please keep in mind that some of the waterbodies in the resulting list may not have any CIRAS data associated with the waterbody so the dashboard may not be available. You can return to the list of waterbodies with data by switching the same toggle back to the default.

For this example, Truckee River has been selected as the waterbody.

The screenshot shows the CIRAS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CA.GOV logo, CDFW Home, and a Translate button. Below this is the CIRAS logo and three main navigation buttons: 'Enter Survey Data', 'Ready to Fish?', and 'Resources'. The main heading is 'Ready to Fish' with the subtitle 'An improved angler experience powered by angling data.' There is a search bar and a language dropdown set to 'English'. Below the search bar are three tabs: 'FISH', 'WATER NAME' (which is selected and highlighted in grey), and 'AREA'. A list of waterbodies is displayed under the 'WATER NAME' tab, with checkboxes next to each name. 'Truckee River' is selected, indicated by a filled checkbox and a red box around it. Other waterbodies include Stony Creek, Sugar Pine Reservoir, Susan River, Tamarack Creek, Trinity Lake, Tuolumne River, Twin Lakes, Twin Valley Creek, Union Valley Reservoir, Upper Truckee River, Webber Lake, West Fork Carson River, West Fork San Gabriel River, and Whiskeytown Lake. A toggle switch for 'Surveyed Waters' is located in the top right of the list area, with a red box around it and the text 'Toggle to view only surveyed waters'. At the bottom of the list area, there is a 'View Dashboard' button, also highlighted with a red box. A small note at the bottom of the list area states '* Waters with an asterisk do not have data'.

6.4.2 Dashboard

For this example, Truckee River was selected as the Waterbody.



Within the visualization you will see that the water name is Truckee River.

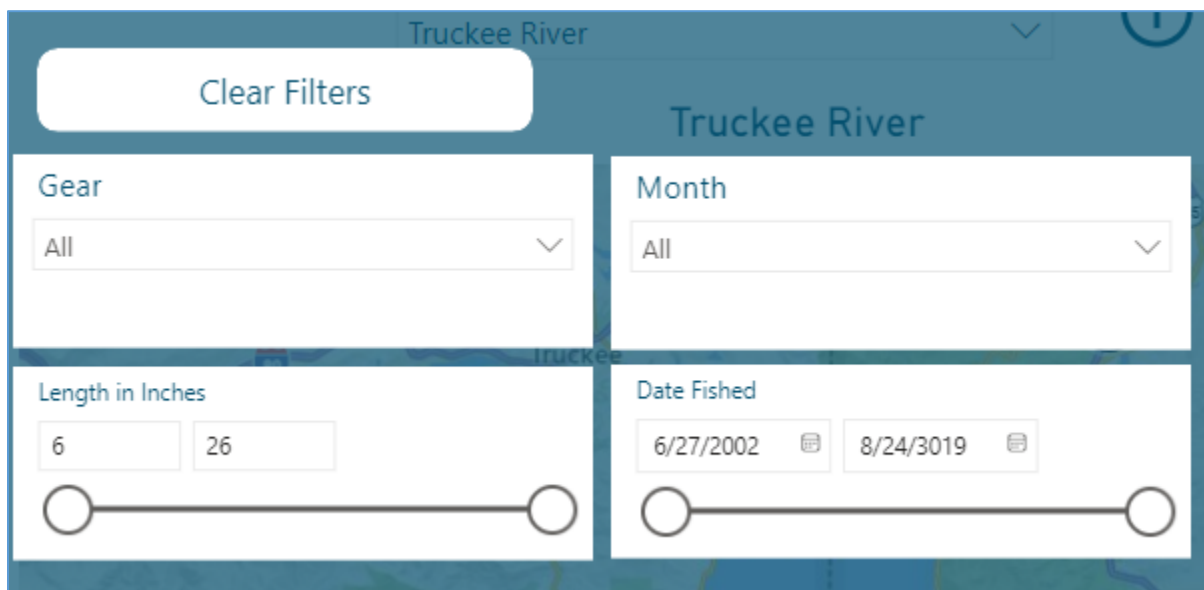
The visualizations/metrics shown on this dashboard include:

- Water Name – Truckee River in this example
- Last Fish Stocking – If available, this will show the week the waterbody was last stocked with fish.
- Waterbody Map – Aerial view of the waterbody
- Year – Total number of fish caught (kept and released) within the filtered range
- Number of Trips – Total count of CIRAS surveys reported within the filtered range
- Number of Fish Caught – Total number of fish caught at the waterbody within the filtered range
- Number of Hours Fished – Sum of total hours fished at this waterbody
- Overall Satisfaction – Average rating based on CIRAS Satisfaction Survey
- Number of Fish Caught Satisfaction - Average rating based on CIRAS Satisfaction Survey
- Size of Fish Caught Satisfaction - Average rating based on CIRAS Satisfaction Survey
- Number of Fish Caught by Month – Shows the number of fish caught during each month.

- Number of Fish Caught by Gear Type – Bar graph to show the distribution of fish caught by gear type.
- Length of Fish Caught by Inches – Bar graph to show the distribution of length of fish caught in inches.

By default, the By Waterbody dashboard uses the following Advanced Filters to create the visualization that loads on the resulting page.

- Gear
 - All
- Month
 - All
- Length in Inches
 - e.g., 6-26” (full size range of reported fish in image below)
- Date Fished
 - e.g., 06/27/2002 – 8/24/2019 (full date range of reported fishing trips in image below)



6.5 BY AREA

6.5.1 Initial Page

The final dashboard uses Area or location as the main filter. On the initial page of the Search by Area tab, you can select a location or city that you would like to get more CIRAS insights about. You can

select a city in the Location drop-down list or search for a city by typing the value into the search bar. Next, you can select a distance from the location (miles) value to filter the results down to waterbodies within a certain number of miles from the city you wish to select.

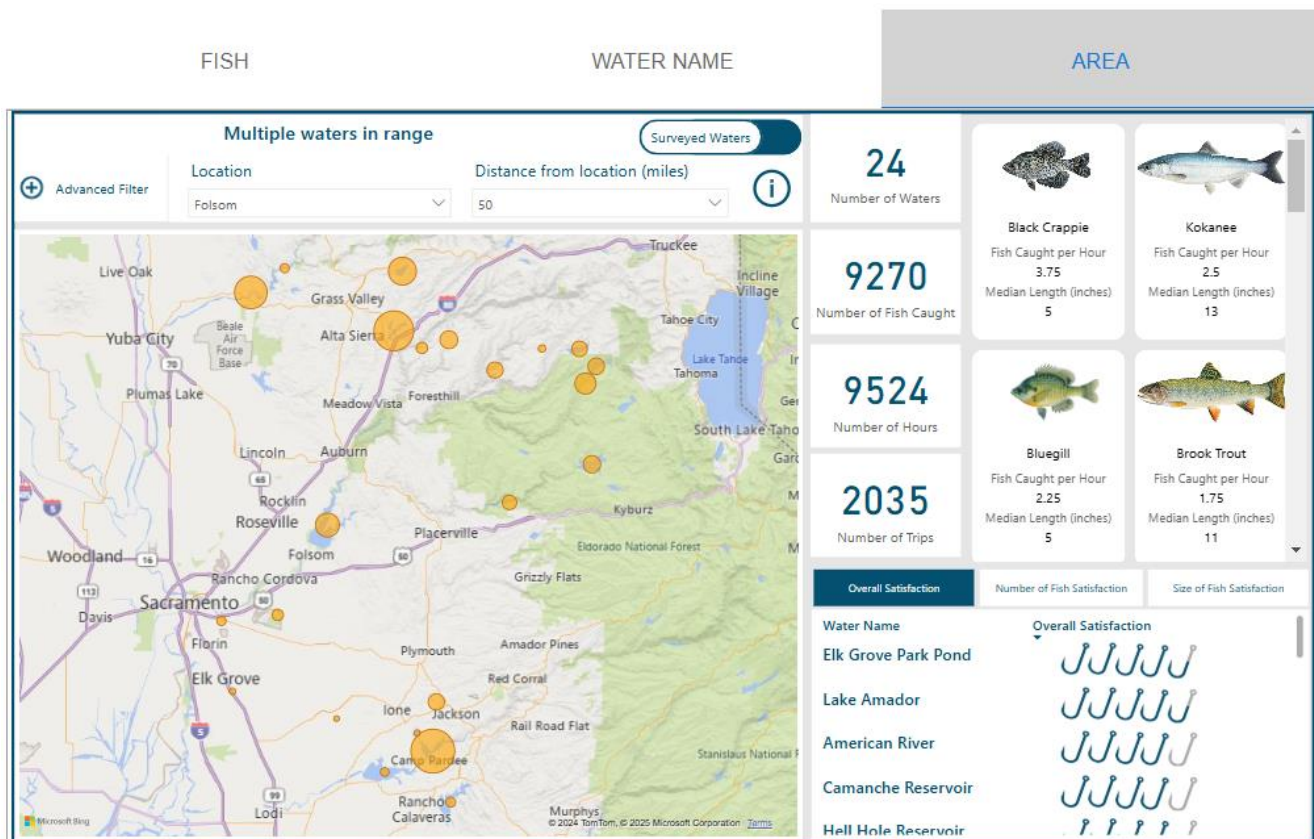
For this example, Folsom has been selected as the location/city and we have selected 50 Miles as the distance from the location (miles) to filter our results by.

The screenshot shows the CIRAS 'Ready to Fish' dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CIRAS logo, 'CDFW Home', and a 'Translate' button. Below the navigation bar, there are three main sections: 'Enter Survey Data', 'Ready to Fish?', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Ready to Fish' and includes a sub-header 'An improved angler experience powered by angling data'. Below this, there is a brief description of the dashboard and a link to the 'Angler Survey'. A language dropdown menu is set to 'English'. The search section is titled 'Search by:' and has three tabs: 'FISH', 'WATER NAME', and 'AREA'. The 'AREA' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a 'Surveyed Waters' button. The search filters are: 'Location' (Folsom) and 'Distance from location (miles)' (50). A 'View Dashboard' button is located at the bottom of the search area.

6.5.2 Dashboard

Within the visualization you will see that the location is set to Folsom and the Distance from Location (miles) has been set to 50.

The visualizations/metrics shown on this dashboard include:



- Waterbody Map – Aerial view of the waterbodies within the filtered range. The circles on the map correspond to waterbodies with recorded CIRAS data. The larger the circle the more CIRAS surveys that have been submitted for the specific waterbody.
- Number of Waters – The total number of waterbodies within the given range with CIRAS data reported.
- Number of Fish Caught – Total number of fish caught at the waterbody within the filtered range
- Number of Hours Fished – Sum of total hours fished at the highlighted waterbodies.
- Number of Trips – Total count of CIRAS surveys reported within the filtered range.
- Fish Species Cards – Statistics about the Top three fish species caught in the area. The card includes information about the number of fish caught per hour and the median length in inches of the fish caught.

- Overall Satisfaction – Average rating based on CIRAS satisfaction surveys (sorted by highest to lowest rating).
- Number of Fish Caught Satisfaction - Average rating based on CIRAS satisfaction surveys (sorted by highest to lowest rating).
- Size of Fish Caught Satisfaction - Average rating based on CIRAS satisfaction surveys (sorted by highest to lowest rating).

By default, the By Waterbody dashboard uses the following Advanced Filters to create the visualization that loads on the resulting page.

- Species Name
 - All
- Gear
 - All
- Date Fished
 - e.g., 06/27/2002 – 8/24/2019 (full date range of reported fishing trips in image below)
- Length in Inches
 - e.g., 6-26" (full size range of reported fish in image below)
- Year
 - All
- Month
 - All

7 TROUBLESHOOTING AND SUPPORT

7.1 POTENTIAL ISSUES

- Page Not Loading
 - Ensure you have a stable internet connection and try refreshing the page.
- Survey Not Submitting
 - Check for any incomplete sections or required fields and ensure that all information is provided.
 - There may be red error messages to alert you of missing survey information that is required to submit the survey.

7.2 HELP AND SUPPORT

- FAQs
 - Check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section located in the Resources menu for quick answers.
- Additional assistance or inquiries
 - Email: CIRAS@wildlife.ca.gov
 - [Contact Us / Feedback](#)

8 CONCLUSION

The California Inland Recreational Angler Survey (CIRAS) User Guide has been designed to support anglers in effectively submitting, navigating, and utilizing survey data to enhance recreational fishing experiences across California's inland waters. By following the guidelines and instructions outlined in this guide, users can ensure accurate data collection, insightful analysis, and meaningful interpretation of results.

Our collective understanding of fishing patterns, preferences, and impacts will be significantly enriched through the diligent application of CIRAS tools and techniques. Additionally, the CIRAS platform provides a new level of data openness and transparency. This, in turn, will contribute to the development of informed strategies for managing and sustaining California's valuable aquatic resources for the public's enjoyment. We encourage all users to actively engage with the survey process, review the data-backed insights, and provide feedback to achieve our shared goal of preserving and improving the quality of inland recreational fishing.

Thank you for your dedication to advancing recreational angling and supporting the fishing community in California.