

Staff Summary for April 16-17, 2025

12A. Central Valley Sport Fishing**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Discuss proposed amendments to Central Valley sport fishing regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting | September 12, 2024; WRC |
| • Notice hearing | February 12-13, 2025 |
| • Today's discussion hearing | April 16-17, 2025 |
| • Adoption hearing | May 14, 2025 |

Background

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission authorized publication of notice of its intent to amend sport fishing regulations on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers (collectively referred to as Central Valley rivers). The notice appeared in the California Regulatory Notice Register on March 28, 2025. Further background on the regulatory options noticed by the Commission can be found in Exhibit 1 and the initial statement of reasons (ISOR) in Exhibit 2.

As part of the annual process, specific bag, possession, and size limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) are scheduled for adoption by the Commission after the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) reviews the status of West Coast salmon stocks and recommends fishery allocations.

The Department has requested specific regulation changes as identified and explained in exhibits 4-6. The flexible season start and end dates, as noticed, are intended to only apply to Chinook salmon, whereas fishing seasons were historically static and applied to all species managed by the regulations. Therefore, the Department recommended changes to the proposed regulatory language clarify that the static fishing season still applies to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead and the flexible fishing season applies to Chinook salmon. The Department also recommends to split the boundary for the Feather River in subsection 7.40(b)(43)(E) into two subsections, (E) and (F). The change is intended to allow for angling opportunities for SRFC in the lower Feather River when feasible, while still maintaining protective measures for salmon migrating in the Sacramento River during closures. See exhibits 4 and 5 for draft changes to the proposed regulatory language and draft updated ISOR.

Having completed its *Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* in March 2025 (Exhibit 7), PFMC is scheduled to recommend its final management measures for the upcoming ocean salmon season at its April 9-15, 2025 meeting. At today's Commission meeting, the Department will provide an update on the PFMC process and is anticipated to provide to the Commission preliminary recommendations for specific bag, possession, and size limits based on the recommended PFMC management measures for ocean salmon. The Commission is scheduled to make its decision on the specific options within the noticed ranges at its May 14, 2025 teleconference meeting.

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California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A draft negative declaration has been prepared and submitted to the State Clearinghouse, along with a notice of completion, consistent with CEQA and Section 15205(e). The State Clearinghouse will make the documents available at [CEQAnet](#) and those documents will be included in the Commission's supplemental materials for this meeting.

The proposed regulatory amendments and any approved changes are scheduled to be adopted by the Commission at its May 14, 2025 teleconference meeting.

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

Commission staff: Approve changes to the proposed regulatory amendments related to boundaries on the Feather River and separate seasons for Chinook salmon and hatchery trout and steelhead, as recommended by the Department, by authorizing a notice of sufficiently related changes to the proposed regulations, as reflected in Exhibit 3.

Department: Authorize incorporating regulatory changes related to boundaries on the Feather River and separate seasons for Chinook salmon and hatchery trout and steelhead.

Exhibits

1. [Staff summary from the February 2025 Commission meeting, Agenda Item 8 \(for background purposes only\)](#)
2. [ISOR](#)
3. [Noticed regulatory language](#)
4. [Department memo transmitting draft revised regulatory language and draft amended ISOR, received April 8, 2025](#)
5. [Draft revised regulatory language](#)
6. [Draft amended ISOR](#)
7. [PFMC report: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations, dated March 2025](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a 15-day notice of sufficiently related changes to proposed regulations regarding Central Valley sport fishing with changes to the regulatory language and initial statement of reasons regarding section 7.40(b), as discussed today.

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025

(For background purposes only)

8. Inland Sport Fishing

Today's Item

Information ☐Action ☒(A) **Central Valley sport fishing (annual)**

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend Central Valley sport fishing regulations.

(B) **Klamath River Basin sport fishing (annual)**

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations related to Chinook salmon.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting | September 12, 2024; WRC |
| • Today's notice hearing | February 12-13, 2025 |
| • Discussion hearing | April 16-17, 2025 |
| • Adoption hearing | May 14, 2025; Teleconference |

Background

The Commission adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations and Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align state regulations with federal fishery management recommendations made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). PFMC will adopt its final regulatory recommendations in April 2025 for the upcoming season based on salmon abundance estimates and recommended ocean harvest.

Historically, the Commission has not amended regulations for the fall and spring Klamath River Chinook salmon (KRSC) concurrently in its annual rulemaking. However, the KRSC recreational sport fishery has been closed multiple times in the recent past through the emergency rulemaking process. The current stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort necessitate the Department to consider annual changes to the regulations for this fishery. As a result, the Department has incorporated the management of KRSC into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process.

The broad scope of the options in the draft initial statement of reasons (ISORs) and draft proposed regulatory language (exhibits A2, A3, B2, and B3) intentionally allows for flexibility in developing the final regulations for each respective package. This flexibility is necessary to allow the Commission to quickly adopt regulations given the timing of the PFMC process. The Department will recommend specific regulation changes to the Commission at its April 2024 meeting for potential adoption at the Commission's May 2024 teleconference meeting.

Multiple options are presented today for each rulemaking.

(A) **Central Valley**

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025
(For background purposes only)

- Option 1 – Allows the take of any size Chinook salmon up to the daily bag limits [0-4] and possession limits [0-12].
- Option 2 – Allows the take of a limited number of adult Chinook salmon, with grilse Chinook salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag limits [0-4] and possession limits [0-12].
- Option 3 – Allows a grilse-only Chinook salmon fishery up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].
- Option 4 – Closed to the take and possession of Chinook salmon.

Additionally, a range of consecutive days associated with the respective fishing season date range is indicated in [brackets] to allow for the ability to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.

(B) Klamath River Basin

- Option 1
 - Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) Adult Stocks (Sport Fishery Quota Management)
 - Quota range of 0-67,600 adult KRFC
 - Bag Limit of [0-4] Chinook salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.
 - Possession limit of [0-12] Chinook salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over [20-24] inches total length is allowed.
 - Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)
 - Bag Limit of [0-1] Chinook salmon
 - Possession limit of [0-2] Chinook salmon
- Option 2
 - KRFC fishery closure
 - KRSC fishery closure

The Commission may publish notice with the presented options and adopt one or more options for each body of water, independently or in combination, to meet management objectives and maximize recreational salmon fishing opportunities in the identified Central Valley and Klamath River Basin rivers and tributaries.

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025
(For background purposes only)

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Authorize publication of notices as recommended by the Department.

Committee: Authorize publication of notices as recommended by the Department.

Department: Authorize publication of notices consistent with the draft ISORs and draft proposed regulatory language.

Exhibits

- A1. Department memo, received January 2, 2025
- A2. Draft ISOR (Central Valley)
- A3. Draft proposed regulatory language (Central Valley)
- A4. Draft economic and fiscal impact statement (STD. 399) (Central Valley)
- A5. Department presentation, Central Valley
- B1. Department memo, received January 10, 2025
- B2. Draft ISOR (Klamath River Basin)
- B3. Draft proposed regulatory language (Klamath River Basin)
- B4. Draft economic and fiscal impact statement (STD. 399) (Klamath River Basin)
- B5. Department presentation, Klamath River Basin

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend subsection 7.40(b)(4) et al., related to Central Valley sport fishing regulations.

AND

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend subsection 7.40(b)(50), related to Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations.

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: October 8, 2024

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 12, 2025

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 16, 2025

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: May 14, 2025

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 2024 season dates 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).

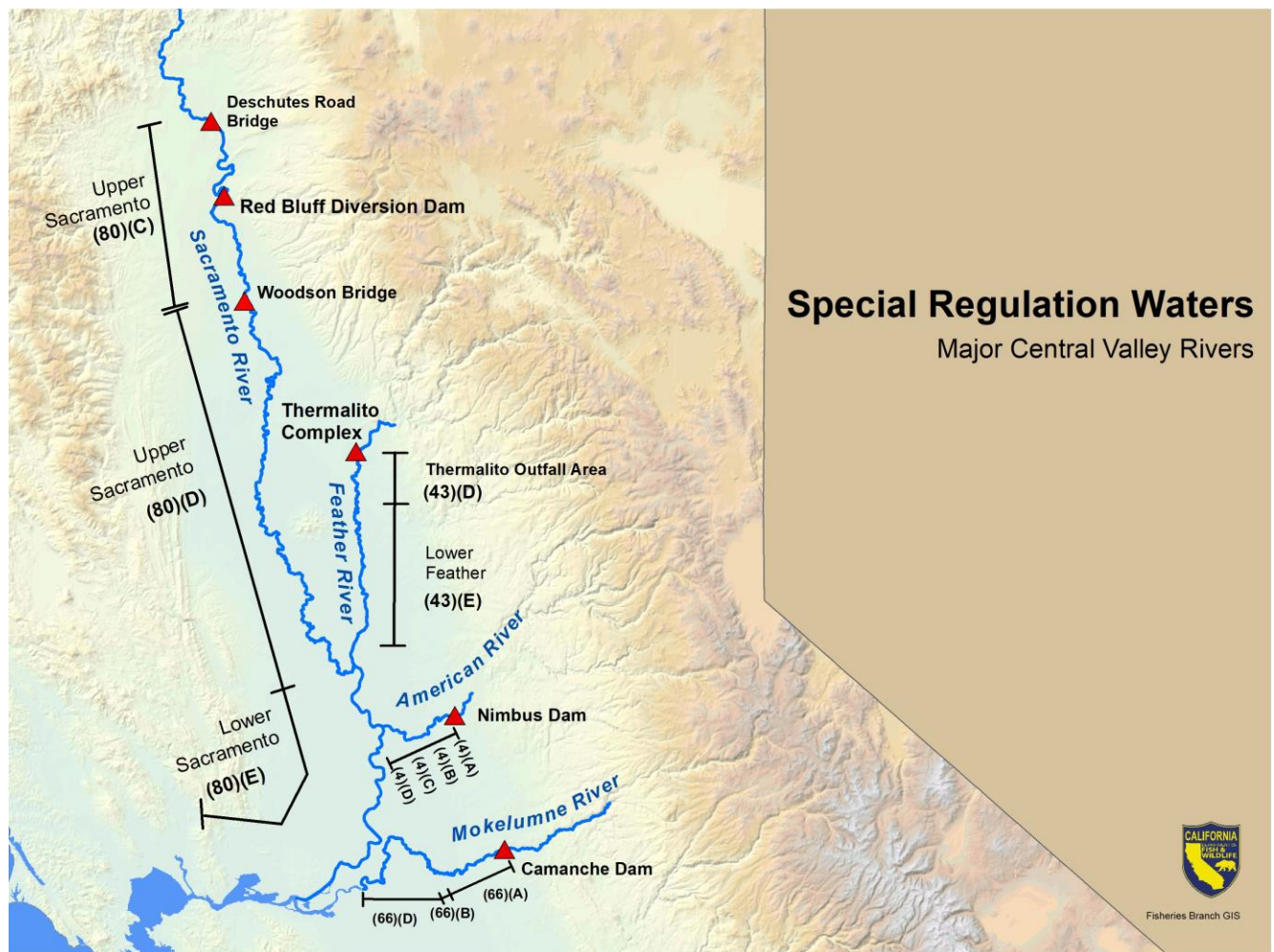


Figure 1. Map of the 2024 “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

The PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2025 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2025 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2025 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limit regulations for the Central Valley fishery to the Commission at its April 16, 2025 meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 14, 2025, meeting.

(b) Proposed Regulations

CHINOOK SALMON OPEN FISHING SEASONS

The current open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are specific to each river and river section and have start and end dates that encompass the migration periods for salmon to upstream spawning habitat in the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers. In recent years, low rivers flows, caused by low precipitation, and/or low salmon abundance estimates have forced the Department to close salmon fishing to protect all salmon populations in the Central Valley. Low river flows can cause adult salmon to delay their upstream migration to spawning habitat and prevent access for salmon to their natal streams. In some years, a

complete fishing closure is necessary to minimize fishery impacts during stressful environmental conditions, such as low flows, and low adult returns. In other years, however, a shortened fishing season may be enough to protect salmon populations in the Central Valley. To avoid a complete fishing closure when feasible, the Department needs the flexibility to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

To address this, the Department is proposing to change fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates encompassed within the historical open fishing season window (e.g., July 16 through Dec 31) specific to each river section. As done with bag and possession limits, the Department will recommend river section-specific seasons based on salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season determined by PFMC at its April 2025 meeting. Having this flexibility will allow the Department to provide fishing opportunity while still protecting salmon populations.

CHINOOK SALMON BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2025 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2025 Central Valley fishery management to target 2025 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 determine the 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 of bag and possession limits shown in [brackets] is indicated in the text below where it is desirable to continue Chinook salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. **Additionally, the respective fishing season date range is indicated in [brackets] to allow for the ability to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.**

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 2025 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 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.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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. 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.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

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

- (C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

- (D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

- (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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ July 16 – October 31 through July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge

~~July 16 through December 31~~ July 16 – December 31 through July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – October 31 through July 16 – 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 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

~~August 1 through October 31~~ [August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and ~~November 1 through December 31~~ [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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) 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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

~~Jul. 16 through Oct. 31.~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ July 16 – October 31 through July 16 – 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 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – October 15 through July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ July 16 – December 31 through July 16 – 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. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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 and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

- (C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

~~August 1 through October 31~~ August 1 – October 31 through August 1 – October 31.

~~and November 1 through December 31~~ [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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) 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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

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 downstream 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 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.

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. 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.

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

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

- (C) Sacramento River from the 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

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

- (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).

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, open seasons, and season lengths 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 science-based SRFC bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of Chinook salmon to ensure their continued existence. The adoption of flexible season lengths will enable the Department to provide fishing opportunity while minimizing risk of overharvest.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of the SRFC fishery, and general health and welfare of California residents.

(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

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region, 2016. *5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation of Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit*. Available from: <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/17018>

Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2023. *Review of 2022 Ocean Salmon Fisheries: Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. Available from: <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2023/02/review-of-2022-ocean-salmon-fisheries.pdf/>

Pahlke, K, 1988. *Length Conversion Equations for Sockeye, Chinook, and Coho salmon in southeast Alaska*. Regional Information Report No. 1j88-03. 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 12, 2024.

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 the existing 2024 fishing closure in place. The no change alternative would not allow for an open fishing season in 2025 even if the 2025 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to allow in-river sport harvest of SRFC. The proposed regulations will allow the state to harmonize its bag limits, possession limits, and harvest season lengths with NMFS' regulations.

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 23 jobs with Option 2, 46 jobs for Option 3, and 115 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 \$-14.04 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 (the 2023 salmon closure year is excluded in the baseline) for the Central Valley fishery experiences about 174,192 sport salmon angler days in which anglers spend an average of \$114.65 (2024\$) per day contributing a total of \$19.9 million (2024\$) 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 \$28.1 M (2024\$), that supports up to 229 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 2025

Regulation	Angler Days	Angler Expenditures	Total Econ Impact	Jobs
Option 1	174,192 ¹	\$19,971,143	\$28,082,495	229
Option 2	156,773	\$17,974,028	\$25,274,246	206
Option 3	139,364	\$15,976,911	\$22,465,996	183
Option 4	87,096	\$9,985,571	\$14,041,248	114

Difference	Angler Day Loss	Expenditure Loss	Total Impact Loss	Job Loss
Option 1	0	\$ -	\$ -	0
Option 2	-17,419	\$1,997,114	\$2,808,250	23
Option 3	-34,838	\$3,994,229	\$5,616,499	46
Option 4	-87,096 ²	\$9,985,571	\$14,041,248	115

¹The base year for angler days is the five-year average of 2017–2021 derived from Department creel survey data. The 2017-2021 time period is more historically typical with no emergency actions that reduced fishing opportunity.

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 (2024\$), 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 2024 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 0-115 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 science-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.

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 2024 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. In considering the current 2024 regulations the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) accepted the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (Department) recommendation for the most conservative option that prohibited fishing for Chinook salmon in the Central Valley.

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.

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 2025 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2025 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2025 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific seasons and bag and possession limit regulations to the Commission at its April 16, 2025, meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 14, 2025, meeting.

Proposed Regulations

Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2025 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission’s consideration to tailor 2025 Central Valley fishery management to target 2025 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.

- American River, subsections 7.40(b)(4)(B), (C) and (D).
- Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D) and (E).
- Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)(A), (B) and (D).
- Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C), (D) and (E).

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 2025 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.

Chinook Salmon Fishing Seasons

The current open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are specific to each river and river section and have start and end dates that encompass the migration periods for salmon to upstream spawning habitat in the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers. To provide angling opportunity while minimizing the risk of overharvest due to uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections, the Department is presenting a range of dates within that historic range that spans the open fishing season specific to each river section. This will provide the Commission with the flexibility to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.

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, and health and welfare of California residents.

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]

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(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.	
(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. <u>[July 16 – October 31]</u> <u>through [July 16 – October 31].</u> Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<u>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>
(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. <u>[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31].</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>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>
(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16. <u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16].</u>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take of Chinook Salmon.</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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	<p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>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> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

. . . [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.
(D) From the unimproved boat ramp above the	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.		4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 31. <u>[July 16 – October 31]</u> through [July 16 – October 31].	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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>
	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(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. <u>[July 16 – December 16]</u> <u>through [July 16 – December 16].</u>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Dec. 17 to 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. <u>[July 16 – October 15]</u> <u>through [July 16 – October 15].</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<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>
(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. <u>[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31].</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
(C) Between the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam and the Lower Sacramento Road bridge.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(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. <u>[July 16 – December 16]</u> <u>through [July 16 – December 16].</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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.</u> <u>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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	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.
	<u>Closed to all fishing from Apr. 1 through Jul. 31.</u>	
	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.
(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		possession.
	<p>Aug. 1 through Oct 31. <u>[August 1 – October 31]</u> <u>through [August 1 – October 31].</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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.</u> <u>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>
	<p>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 <u>[November 1 – December 31]</u> <u>through [November 1 – December 31].</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<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>
(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge 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. <u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16].</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<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.
(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. <u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16].</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p>Salmon.</p> <p>Option 1:</p> <p><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2:</p> <p><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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:</p> <p><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4:</p> <p><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

. . . [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.

Memorandum

Date: April 4, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Item for April 16-17, 2025 Fish and Game Commission Meeting - Submission of Amended Initial Statement of Reasons, Re: Central Valley Sport Fishing Updates**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) consider at its April 16-17, 2025 meeting the new proposed regulation changes presented in the enclosed Amended Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) amending subsection (b)(43) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

The Department also requests that the Commission provide the public with a 15-day continuation notice of these changes as required by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

The Department is proposing to split the boundary for Feather River subsection 7.40(43)(E) into two new subsections (E and F). The purpose of this change is to provide the Department with the ability to be more protective of salmon migrating to the upper Sacramento River during fishing closures and still provide angling opportunity for SRFC in the lower Feather River when feasible. The Department is also proposing to clarify that the new flexible open season dates for the affected sections apply only to Chinook salmon, while the historic static open season still applies to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch, at fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov. The notice for this amended ISOR should identify the Environmental Program Manager, Jonathan Nelson, as the Department's point of contact. He can be reached at (916) 902-5575.

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Jay Rowan, Branch Chief
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Misbah Husain, Attorney
Office of the General Council

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
April 4, 2025
Page 2

Karen Mitchell, Sr. Env. Scientist (Spec)
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Ona Alminas, Env. Program Manager
Regulations Unit
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Mike Randall, Regulatory Analyst
Regulations Unit
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David Haug, Regulatory Analyst

California Fish and Game Commission

Ari Cornman, Wildlife Advisor
California Fish and Game Commission

Dixie Van Allen, Regulations Manager
California Fish and Game Commission

AMENDED Proposed Regulatory Language – Options 1 through 4

The amendments to subsection (b)(43) are indicated by ~~double strikethrough~~ for deletions; double underline for additions

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]

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(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.	
(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 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u> <u>[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u> Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p><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) 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.
	<p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 31 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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>
(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	<p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take of Chinook Salmon.</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:</p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

. . . [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.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
(C) From Highway 70 bridge to the unimproved boat ramp above the Thermalito Afterbay Outfall.	All year.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
(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.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<p>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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>
	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

<p>(E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the <u>mouth Highway 99 bridge</u>. 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 Marina boat ramp.</p>	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	<p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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 to Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<p><u>(F) From the Highway 99 bridge 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 Marina boat ramp.</u></p>	<p><u>Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.</u></p>	<p><u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u></p>
	<p><u>July 16 through December 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p><u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u></p> <p><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> <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><u>Option 3:</u> <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><u>Option 4:</u> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	<p><u>Dec. 17 to Dec. 31.</u></p>	<p><u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u></p>

. . . [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 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u> <u>[July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – October 15] for Chinook Salmon.</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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>
(B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
District Dam including Lodi Lake.		
	<p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 31 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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.	
(D) From the Lower Sacramento Road bridge	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
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.	Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u> <u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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.	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,		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
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.
	Closed to all fishing from Apr. 1 through Jul. 31.	
	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.
(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Aug. 1 through Oct 31 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery salmon.</u> <u>[August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u>

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

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<p><u>may be over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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>
(D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	<p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery salmon.</u></p> <p><u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</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.</u></p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<u>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.
(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 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery salmon.</u> <u>[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] for Chinook Salmon.</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<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)(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
Fish and Game Commission
Amended 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 Amended Initial Statement of Reasons: March 18, 2025

Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: October 8, 2024

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 12, 2025

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 16, 2025

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: May 14, 2025

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). Changes from the original Initial Statement of Reasons are designated by double underline and ~~double-strikeout~~.

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 2024 season dates 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).

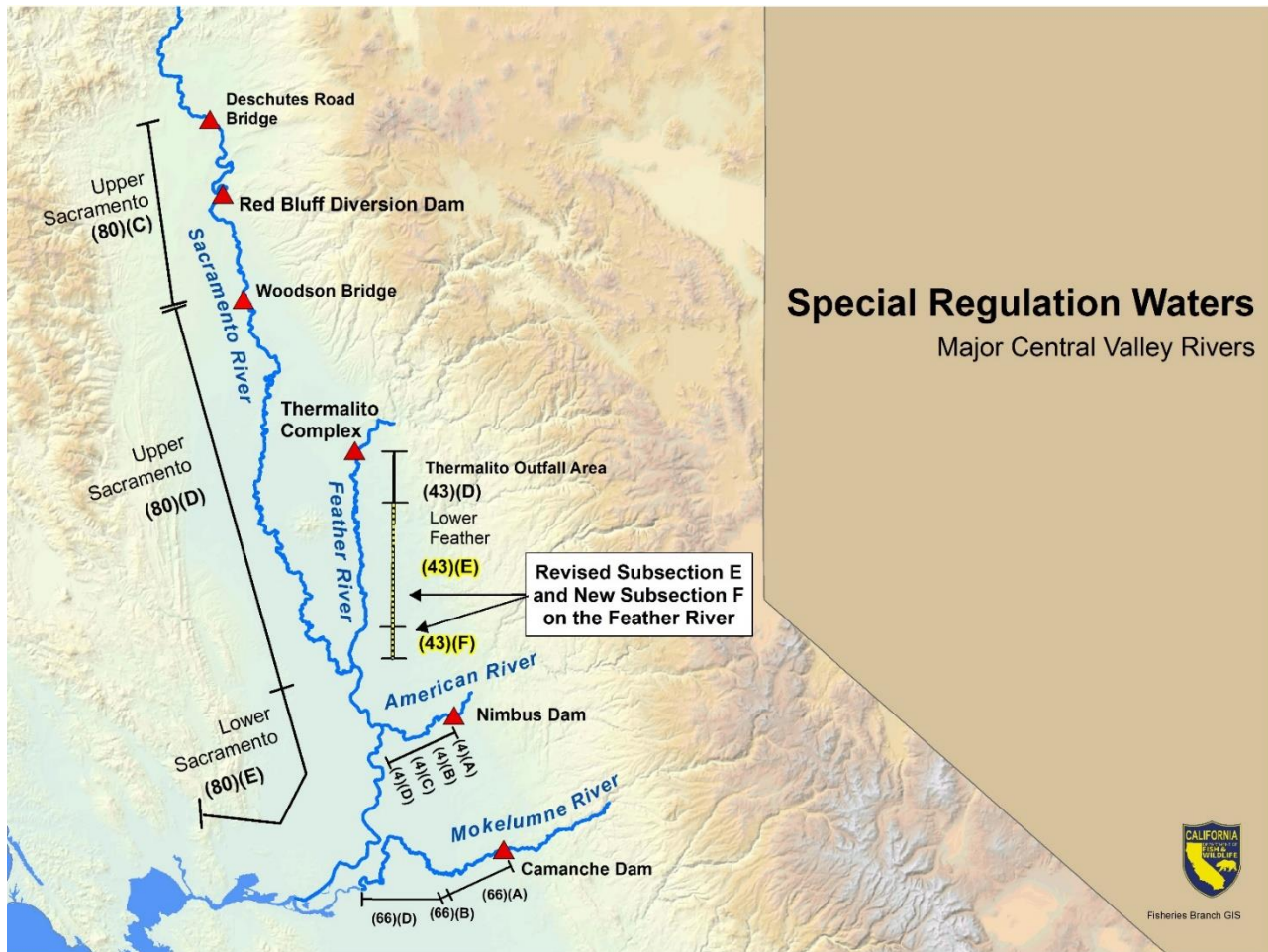


Figure 1. Map of the 2025 “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

The PFMC will develop the annual Pacific coast ocean salmon fisheries regulatory options for public review at its March 2025 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2025 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2025 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific bag and possession limit regulations for the Central Valley fishery to the Commission at its April 16, 2025 meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 14, 2025, meeting.

(b) Proposed Regulations

AMEND FEATHER RIVER FISHING BOUNDARIES

Proposed Changes:

For the 2025 SRFC sport fishing season in the Central Valley, the Department is proposing to split the boundary for Feather River subsection 7.40(43)(E) into two subsections (E and F). The purpose of this change is to provide the Commission with the ability to be more protective of salmon migrating to the upper Sacramento River during fishing closures, and still provide

angling opportunity for SRFC in the lower Feather River when feasible. This would be similar to the lowest section of the American River [subsection 7.40(4)(D)]. SRFC returning to the upper Sacramento River and tributaries are known to temporarily hold in the lower sections of the American and Feather rivers before continuing their spawning migration to the upper portions of the basin. Coded wire tag data show that, in some years, SRFC produced at Coleman National Fish Hatchery in the upper Sacramento River are contacted in the Feather River (Palmer-Zwahlen et al. 2019a,b; Palmer-Zwahlen and Kormos 2020; Letvin et al. 2020; Letvin et al. 2021).

Currently, subsection 7.40(43)(E) spans approximately 40 miles from Live Oak Boat Ramp downstream to the confluence of the Sacramento River. If the Commission determined a salmon fishery could occur on the Feather River but remain closed on the Sacramento River, the Department would want to minimize potential catch of salmon passing by the mouth or temporarily holding in the lowest sections of the Feather River. To be protective, the Department would recommend closing subsection (E) to salmon fishing. The Department proposes creating a new subsection (F) starting at the Hwy 99 Bridge to the confluence of the Sacramento River. This is an approximately nine-mile section, and the bridge is the first prominent feature that anglers can easily identify as a boundary. It also provides enough distance to be protective of salmon temporally holding in the lower section of the Feather River as they make their migration to the upper Sacramento River and tributaries. Subsection (E) would remain from Live Oak Boat Ramp and end at the Hwy 99 bridge. This section would be approximately 31 miles of river.

The fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and gear restrictions for the new subsections (E) and (F) would be the same as subsection (E) in the current regulations. The salmon season date range would be July 16 through Dec 16. Fishing for steelhead and other fish species would remain open in these sections during salmon season closures.

Amend Subsection 7.40(b)(43)(E)

The proposed regulation change would move the existing lower fishing boundary for subsection (E) upstream to the Highway 99 bridge. In addition, the language in subsection (E) that defines the lower fishing boundary at the mouth of the Feather River will be removed and placed in the new subsection (F). This change is needed because the new lower fishing boundary for subsection (E) is upstream from the mouth of the Feather River, and therefore the language no longer applies.

Add Subsection 7.40(b)(43)(F)

The fishing boundary for subsection (F) would start at the Highway 99 bridge and extend downstream to the mouth of the Feather River. The language that defines the lower boundary at the mouth of the Feather River that is currently in subsection (E), will be placed in subsection (F). This change is needed because the lower fishing boundary for subsection (F) ends at the mouth of the Feather River.

CHINOOK SALMON OPEN FISHING SEASONS

The current open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are specific to each river and river section and have start and end dates that encompass the migration periods for salmon to upstream spawning habitat in the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers. In recent years, low river flows, caused by low precipitation, and/or low salmon abundance estimates have forced the Department to close salmon fishing to protect all salmon populations in the Central Valley. Low river flows can cause adult salmon to delay their upstream migration to spawning habitat and prevent access for salmon to their natal streams. In some years, a complete fishing closure is necessary to minimize fishery impacts during stressful environmental conditions, such as low flows, and low adult returns. In other years, however, a shortened fishing season may be enough to protect salmon populations in the Central Valley. To avoid a complete fishing closure when feasible, the Department needs the flexibility to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

To address this, the Department is proposing to change fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates encompassed within the historical open fishing season window (e.g., July 16 through Dec 31) specific to each river section. As done with bag and possession limits, the Department will recommend river section-specific seasons based on salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season determined by PFMC at its April 2025 meeting. Having this flexibility will allow the Department to provide fishing opportunity while still protecting salmon populations.

Separate the Steelhead and Chinook Salmon Fishing Seasons

Under existing regulations, the open fishing seasons for Chinook Salmon in the Central Valley also apply to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead. The Department's proposal to change the Chinook Salmon fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates does not apply to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead. The existing fishing seasons for hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead will remain unchanged. Therefore, it is necessary to uncouple the fishing seasons for the two fisheries throughout the regulatory text. The separated steelhead and Chinook Salmon seasons are indicated in the Amended Proposed Regulatory Language as double underline, as follows:

Subsections 7.40 (b)(4)(B), (C), (D); (b)(43)(D), (E); (b)(66)(A), (B), (D); (b)(80)(C), (D), (E).

CHINOOK SALMON BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2025 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2025 Central Valley fishery management to target 2025 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 determine the 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 of bag and possession limits shown in [brackets] is indicated in the text below where it is desirable to continue Chinook Salmon fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. **Additionally, the respective fishing season date range is indicated in [brackets] to allow for the ability to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.**

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 2025 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 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.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 Highway 99 bridge. 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.~~

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

- (F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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. 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.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

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

- (C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

- (D) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights

Landing.

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

Possession limit – [0-12] Chinook salmon.

- (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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge

~~July 16 through December 31~~ July 16 – December 31 through July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – October 31 through July 16 – 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 Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth ~~Highway 99 bridge. 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.~~

~~July 16 through December 16~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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.

- (F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ July 16 – October 15 through July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ July 16 – December 31 through July 16 – 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. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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 and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

~~August 1 through October 31~~ August 1 – October 31 through August 1 – October 31, and ~~November 1 through December 31~~ November 1 – December 31 through November 1 – 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ July 16 – December 16 through July 16 – 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) 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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

~~Jul. 16 through Oct. 31.~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 downstream to the Jibboom Street bridge.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.

~~July 16 through October 31~~ [July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – 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 Live Oak boat ramp to the mouth ~~Highway 99 bridge~~. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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.

- (F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

[July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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~~ [July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – 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.

~~July 16 through December 31~~ [July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – 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. 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.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 and tributaries below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80):

(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.

~~August 1 through October 31~~ [August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31],
and ~~November 1 through December 31~~ [November 1 – December 31] through [November 1 – 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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) 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).

~~July 16 through December 16~~ [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – 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 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.

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 downstream 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 Live Oak boat ramp to the ~~mouth~~ Highway 99 bridge. ~~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.~~

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

- (F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this regulation, the lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp.

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. 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.

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

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

- (C) Sacramento River from the 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) Sacramento River from Woodson Bridge to the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing.

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

- (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).

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, open seasons, and season lengths 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 science-based SRFC bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of Chinook salmon to ensure their continued existence. The adoption of flexible season lengths will enable to Department to provide fishing opportunity while minimizing risk of overharvest.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of the SRFC fishery, and general health and welfare of California residents.

(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

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region, 2016. *5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation of Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit*. Available from: <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/17018>

Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2023. *Review of 2022 Ocean Salmon Fisheries: Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan*. Available from: <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2023/02/review-of-2022-ocean-salmon-fisheries.pdf/>

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>

Palmer-Zwahlen, M., V. Gusman, and B. Kormos. 2019a. *Recovery of Coded-Wire Tags from Chinook Salmon in California's Central Valley Escapement, Inland Harvest, and Ocean Harvest in 2014.* California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Technical Report.

Palmer-Zwahlen, M., V. Gusman, and B. Kormos. 2019b. *Recovery of Coded-Wire Tags from Chinook Salmon in California's Central Valley Escapement, Inland Harvest, and Ocean Harvest in 2015.* California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Technical Report.

Palmer-Zwahlen and B. Kormos. 2020. *Recovery of Coded-Wire Tags from Chinook Salmon in California's Central Valley Escapement, Inland Harvest, and Ocean Harvest in 2016.* California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Technical Report.

Letvin, A., M. Palmer-Zwahlen and B. Kormos. 2020. *Recovery of Coded-Wire Tags from Chinook Salmon in California's Central Valley Escapement, Inland Harvest, and Ocean Harvest in 2017.* California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Technical Report.

Letvin, A., M. Palmer-Zwahlen, B. Kormos and P. McHugh. 2021. *Recovery of Coded-Wire Tags from Chinook Salmon in California's Central Valley Escapement, Inland Harvest, and Ocean Harvest in 2019.* California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Technical Report.

(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 12, 2024.

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 the existing 2024 fishing closure in place. The no change alternative would not allow for an open fishing season in 2025 even if the 2025 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to allow in-river sport harvest of SRFC. The proposed regulations will allow the state to harmonize its bag limits, possession limits, and harvest season lengths with NMFS' regulations.

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 23 jobs with Option 2, 46 jobs for Option 3, and 115 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 is up to \$8.4 million (2024\$) 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 range over the 2017-2021 seasons (the 2023 salmon closure year is excluded in the baseline) for the Central Valley fishery experiences between 104,619 and 214,214 sport salmon angler days in which anglers spend an average of \$114.65 (2024\$) per day contributing a total of between \$12 and 24.6 million (2024\$) 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 between \$16.9 and 34.6 Million (2024\$), that supports up to 229 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 2025

Regulation	Angler Days	Angler Expenditures (Millions)	Total Economic Impact (Millions)	Jobs Supported
Option 1	104,619-214,214 ¹	\$12.0-24.6	\$16.9-34.6	229
Option 2	94,157-192,793	\$10.8-22.1	\$15.2-31.1	206
Option 3	83,695-171,371	\$9.6-19.7	\$13.5-27.7	183
Option 4	52,310-107,107	\$6.0-12.3	\$8.5-17.3	114

Difference	Angler Day Loss Below Historic Range	Expenditure Loss Below Historic Range (Millions)	Total Impact Loss	Job Loss
Option 1	0	\$0	\$0	0
Option 2	Up to 10,462	Up to \$1.2	Up to \$1.7	23
Option 3	Up to 20,924	Up to \$2.4	Up to \$3.4	46
Option 4	Up to 52,309 ²	Up to \$6	Up to \$8.4	115

¹The base year for angler days is the five-year average of 2017–2021 derived from Department creel survey data. The 2017-2021 time period is more historically typical with no emergency actions that reduced fishing opportunity.

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 (2024\$), 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 2024 Chinook salmon season on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Option 2 may result in declines in angler days of up to 10,461 below a typical year. Option 3 may result in larger declines, or up to 20,922 fewer angler days. Option 4 may result in an estimated 50 percent reduction or up to 52,310 fewer angler days below the historical normal range 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. Furthermore, the creation of subsections 7.40(b)(43)(E) (31 miles) and (F) (9 miles) would allow for scenarios where fishing in the new area created by subsection (F) is permitted while subsection (E) is closed or vice-versa. 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 0-115 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 science-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.

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 2024 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. In considering the current 2024 regulations the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) accepted the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (Department) recommendation for the most conservative option that prohibited fishing for Chinook salmon in the Central Valley.

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.

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 2025 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2025 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2025 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific seasons and bag and possession limit regulations to the Commission at its April 16, 2025, meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 14, 2025, meeting.

Proposed Regulations

Amend Feather River Fishing Boundaries

Proposed Changes:

For the 2025 SRFC sport fishing season in the Central Valley, the Department is proposing to split the boundary for Feather River subsection 7.40(43)(E) into two subsections (E and F). The purpose of this change is to provide the Department with the ability to be more protective of salmon migrating to the upper Sacramento River during fishing closures and still provide angling opportunity for SRFC in the lower Feather River when feasible. This would be similar to the lowest section of the American River [7.40(4)(D)]. SRFC returning to the upper Sacramento River and tributaries are known to temporarily hold in the lower sections of the American and Feather rivers before continuing their spawning migration to the upper portions of the basin. Coded wire tag data show that, in some years, SRFC produced at Coleman National Fish Hatchery in the upper Sacramento River are contacted in the Feather River (Palmer-Zwahlen et al. 2019a,b; Palmer-Zwahlen and Kormos 2020; Letvin et al. 2020; Letvin et al. 2021).

Currently, subsection 7.40(43)(E) spans approximately 40 miles from Live Oak Boat Ramp downstream to the confluence of the Sacramento River. If the Department determined a salmon fishery could occur on the Feather River but remain closed on the Sacramento River, the Department would want to minimize potential catch of salmon passing by the mouth or temporarily holding in the lowest sections of the Feather River. To be protective, the Department would recommend closing subsection (E) to salmon fishing. The Department proposes creating a new subsection (F) starting at the Hwy 99 Bridge to the confluence of the Sacramento River. This is an approximately nine-mile section and the bridge is the first prominent feature that anglers can easily identify as a boundary. It also provides enough distance to be protective of salmon temporarily holding in the lower section of the Feather River as they make their migration to the upper Sacramento River and tributaries. Subsection (E) would remain from Live Oak Boat Ramp and end at the Hwy 99 bridge. This section would be approximately 31 miles of river.

The fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, and gear restrictions for the new subsections (E) and (F) would be the same as subsection (E) in the current regulations. The salmon season date range would be July 16 through Dec 16. Fishing for steelhead and other fish species would remain open in these sections during salmon season closures.

Amend Subsection 7.40(b)(43)(E)

The proposed regulation change would move the existing lower fishing boundary for subsection (E) upstream to the Highway 99 bridge. In addition, the language in subsection (E) that defines the lower fishing boundary at the mouth of the Feather River will be removed and placed in new subsection (F). This change is needed because the new lower fishing boundary for subsection (E) is upstream from the mouth of the Feather River.

Add Subsection 7.40(b)(43)(F)

The fishing boundary for subsection (F) would start at the Highway 99 bridge and extend downstream to the mouth of the Feather River. The language that defines the lower boundary at the mouth of the Feather River that is currently in subsection (E), will be placed in subsection (F). This change is needed because the lower fishing boundary for subsection (F) ends at the mouth of the Feather River.

Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2025 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2025 Central Valley fishery management to target 2025 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.

- American River, subsections 7.40(b)(4)(B), (C) and (D).
- Feather River, subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D) and (E).
- Mokelumne River, subsection 7.40(b)(66)(A), (B) and (D).
- Sacramento River below Keswick Dam, subsection 7.40(b)(80)(C), (D) and (E).

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 2025 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.

Chinook Salmon Fishing Seasons

The current open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are specific to each river and river section and have start and end dates that encompass the migration periods for salmon to upstream spawning habitat in the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers. To provide angling opportunity while minimizing the risk of overharvest due to uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections, the Department is presenting a range of dates within that historic range that spans the open fishing season specific to each river section. This will provide the Commission with the flexibility to start the season later or end the season earlier, per section of river or across the valley.

Separate the Steelhead and Chinook Salmon Fishing Seasons

Under existing regulations, the open fishing seasons for Chinook Salmon in the Central Valley also apply to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead. The Department's proposal to change the Chinook Salmon fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates does not apply to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead. The existing fishing seasons for hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead will remain unchanged. Therefore, it is necessary to uncouple the fishing seasons for the two fisheries throughout the regulatory text. The separated steelhead and Chinook Salmon seasons are indicated in the Amended Proposed Regulatory Language as double underline, as follows:

Subsections 7.40 (b)(4)(B), (C), (D); (b)(43)(D), (E); (b)(66)(A), (B), (D); (b)(80)(C), (D), (E).

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, and health and welfare of California residents.

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.