



# CENTRAL VALLEY CHINOOK SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

*Updates for 2025*

## **PRESENTATION TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

April 16, 2025

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Photo Credit: Department of Water Resources

# Presentation Overview

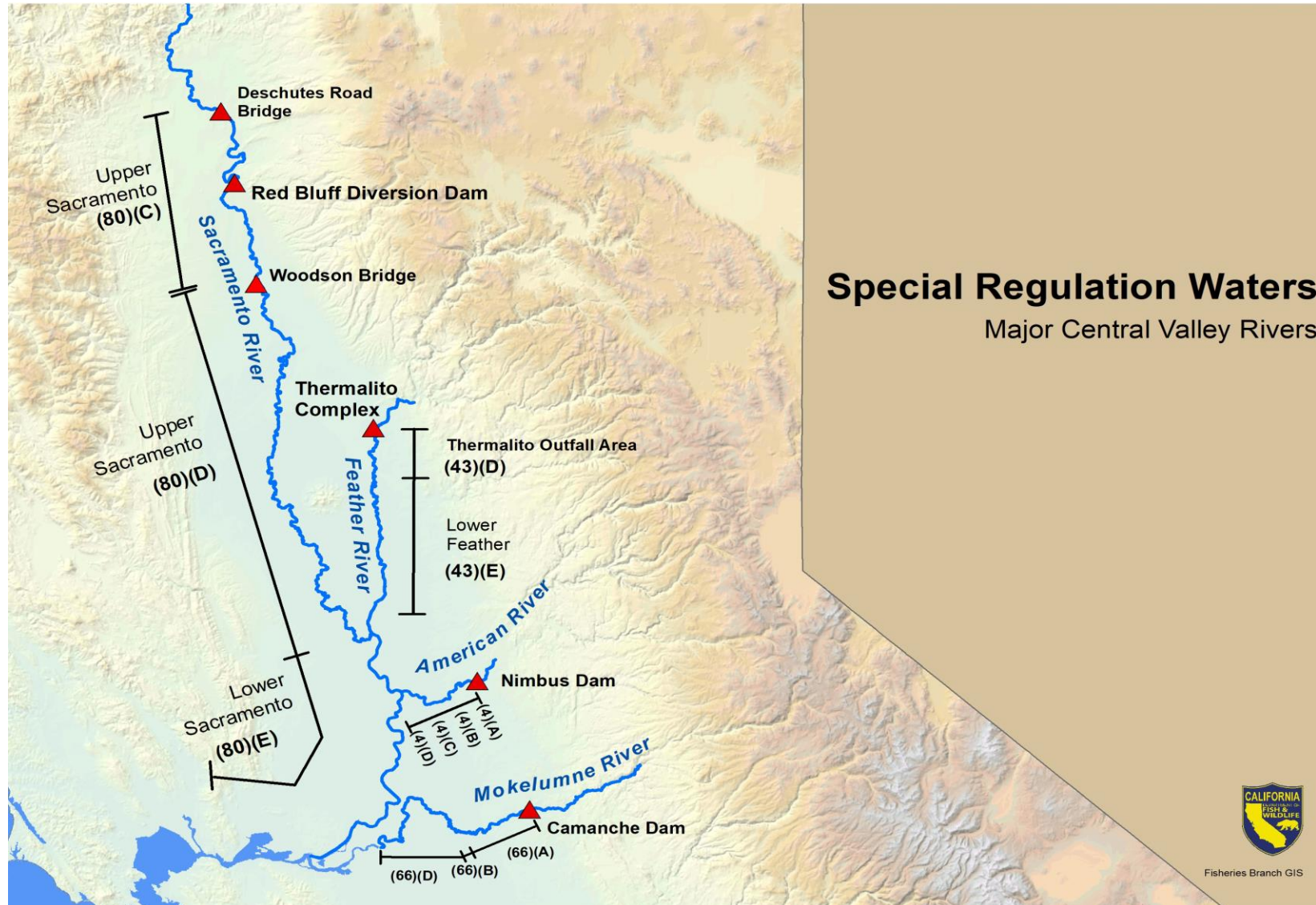
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- Map of major Central Valley rivers and Sacramento River Fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) special regulations waters
- 2024 SRFC sport fishing regulations
- 2025 Regulatory options
- Proposed Feather River subsection change and justification
- 2025 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and CDFW Recommendations
- Justification of CDFW Recommendations
- Factors Contributing to SRFC Decline
- Timeline





# SRFC Special Regulation Waters



# 2024 SRFC Sport Fishing Regulations

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- Lower American River
  - Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon
- Feather River
  - Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon
- Sacramento River
  - Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon
- Mokelumne River
  - Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon



# Proposed Regulatory Options for 2025

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1. Any size Chinook Salmon fishery
  - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
2. Adult and grilse fishery
  - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
  - Could limit number of adults, with grilse making up the remainder
3. Grilse-only fishery
  - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
4. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon

## 5. Season Length

***Note: Options 1-5 can be used independently or in combination for the same water body, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)***



# 5. Season Length

**As discussed at the February 12<sup>th</sup> Notice hearing:**

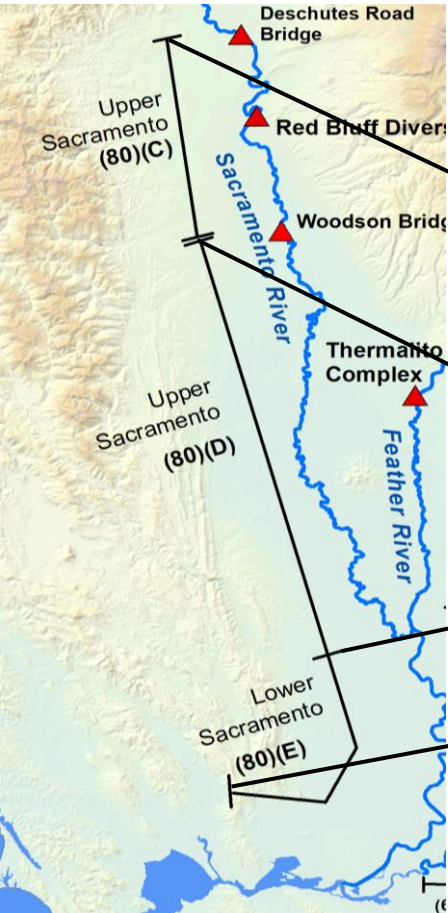
**Proposed Change:**

- Change fixed season dates to a range
  - Allows CDFW to end seasons early, start seasons later, or a combination of the two

**NOTE:**

1. Season length would remain in the form of 'consecutive fishing days'
2. Annually defaults back to full season
3. Full season applies to other species within subsections

**EXAMPLE:** Apply protective measures in the Sacramento River by closing the upper section while truncating the season lower reaches



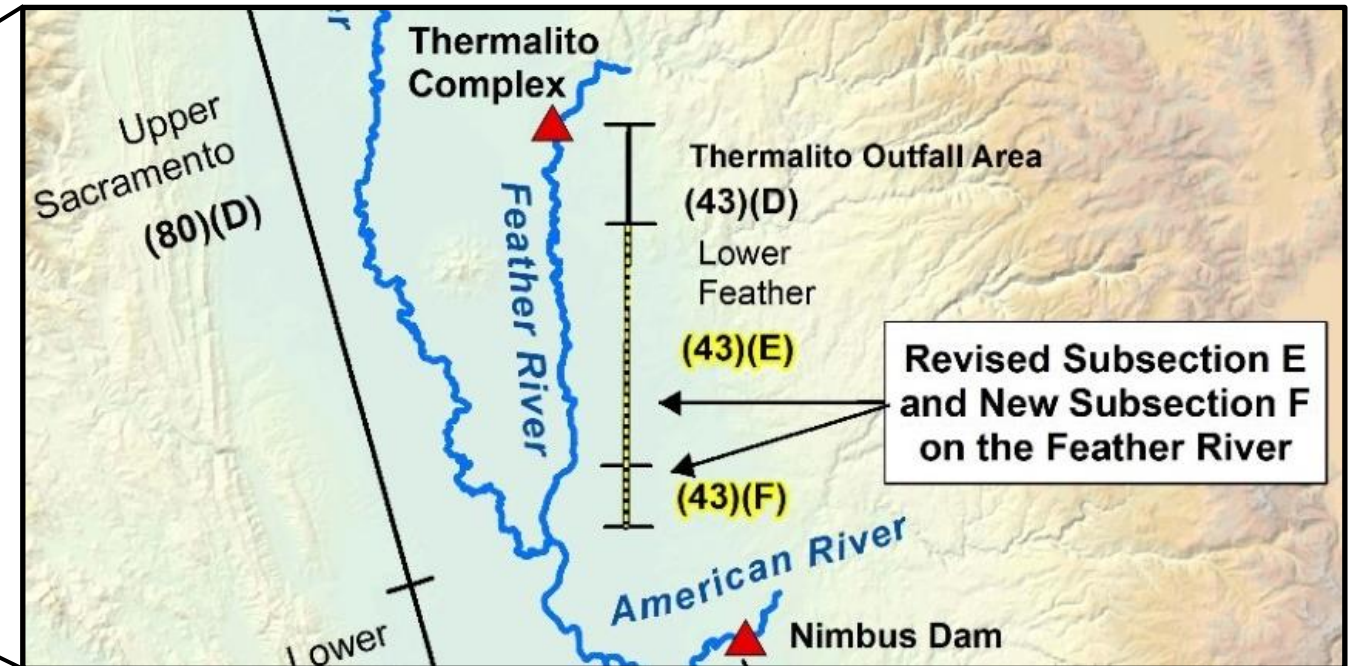
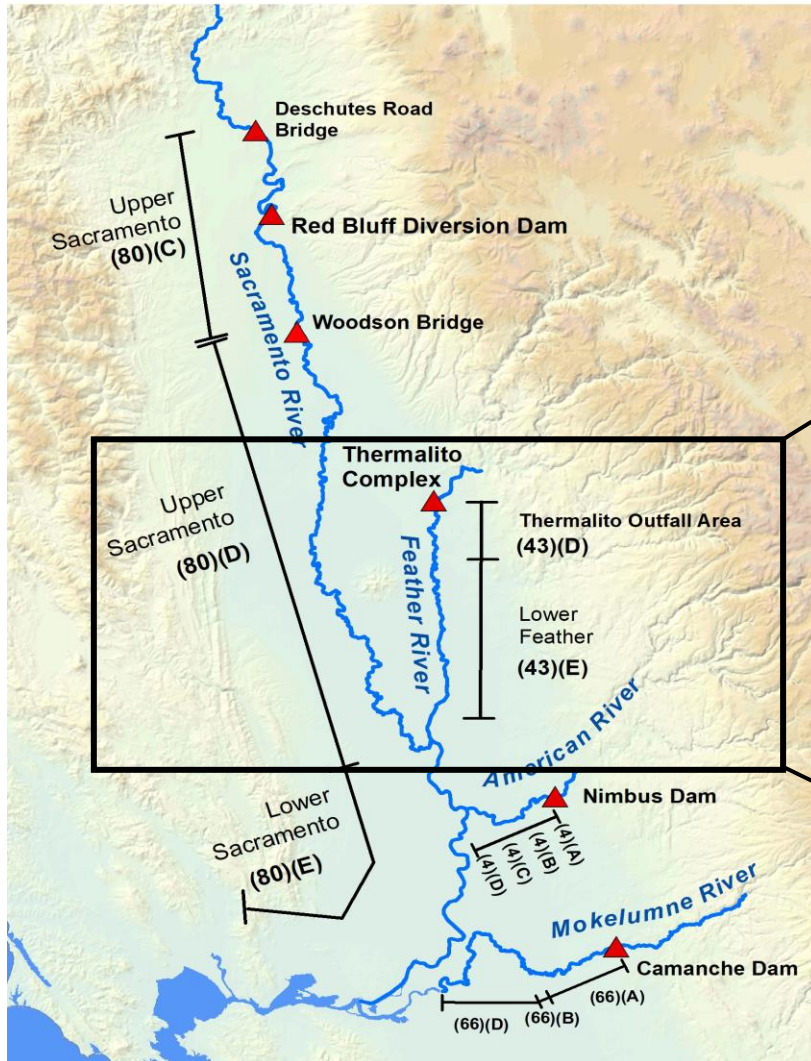
| Full Season       | Example Season   |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Aug. 1- Oct. 31   | Closed           |
| Nov. 1 – Dec. 31  | Closed           |
| July 16 – Dec. 16 | July 16- Oct. 15 |
| July 16 – Dec. 16 | July 16- Oct. 31 |





# Proposed Feather River Subsection Change

**Split the boundary for Feather River subsection 7.40(43)(E) into two subsections (E and F)**



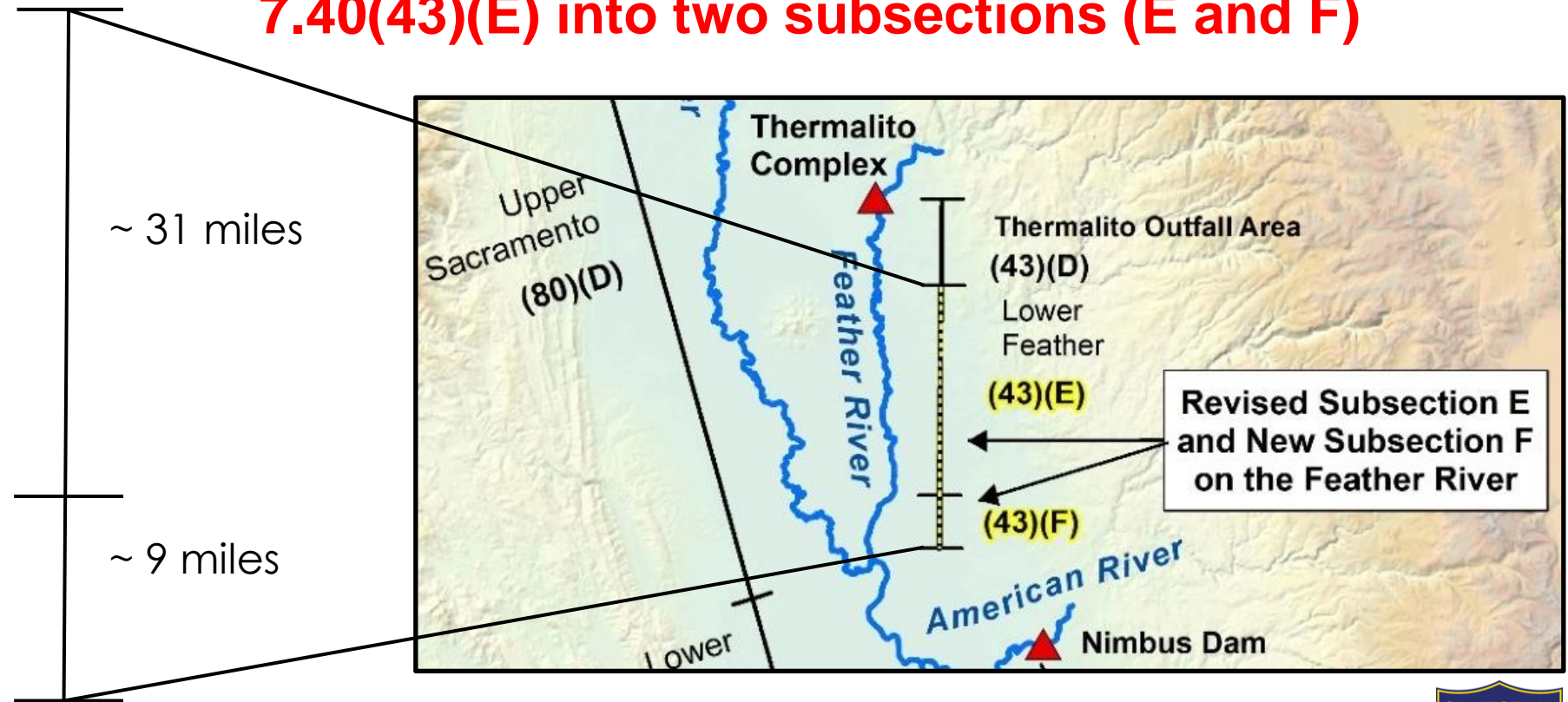
*Note: seasons, bag and possession limits, and gear restrictions for the new subsections (E) and (F) would be the same as subsection (E) in the current regulations.*

# Proposed Feather River Subsection Change (cont.)

**Split the boundary for Feather River subsection 7.40(43)(E) into two subsections (E and F)**

**43(E):** From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge

**(43)(F):** From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth\*



\*Lower boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marine boat ramp



# Subsection Change Justification

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## **Provides tool for protecting mainstem SRFC while allowing angling opportunity in the lower Feather River**

- Low adult escapement of SRFC to the upper Sacramento River in recent years
- SRFC returning to the upper Sacramento River and tributaries are known to temporarily hold in the lower sections of the American and Feather rivers
- Ability to close lower reach preserves angling opportunity on the Feather River while
  - a) Limiting contact with temporarily holding SRFC and
  - b) Preventing access to the mainstem Sacramento River from the current Feather River lower boundary
    - Aids law enforcement



# PFMC 2025 Fishery Recommendations

April 15: PFMC adopted the following measures for California:

1. Complete closure commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the CA Coast
2. Ocean recreational salmon fisheries:
  - OR/CA border to US/Mexico Border: June 7-8, July 5-6, July 31-Aug. 3, Aug. 25-31
    - *In season action may be taken when harvest approaches statewide guideline of 7,000*
  - Point Reyes to Pigeon Point: September 4-7, 29-30 and October 1-5, 27-31
  - Pigeon Point to Point Sur subarea: September 4-7, 29-30
    - *In season action may be taken when harvest approaches statewide guideline of 7,500*
    - *Note: Fall fishery does not count toward 2025 impacts*
3. River fishery allocation of 8,000

***Actions result in an anticipated escapement of 147,700 SRFC***



# CDFW 2025 SRFC Recommendations: Summary

- Sacramento River and Delta 7.40(80):
  - *All sections: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon*
- Feather River 7.40(43)
  - (D) and (E)\*: shortened season; daily bag limit and possession limit of 1
  - (F)\*: *Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon*
- American River 7.40(4)
  - (B) and (C): shortened season; daily bag limit and possession limit of 1
  - (D): *Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon*
- Mokelumne River 7.40(66)
  - (A), (B) and (D): shortened season; daily bag limit and possession limit of 1

\* New proposed subsections

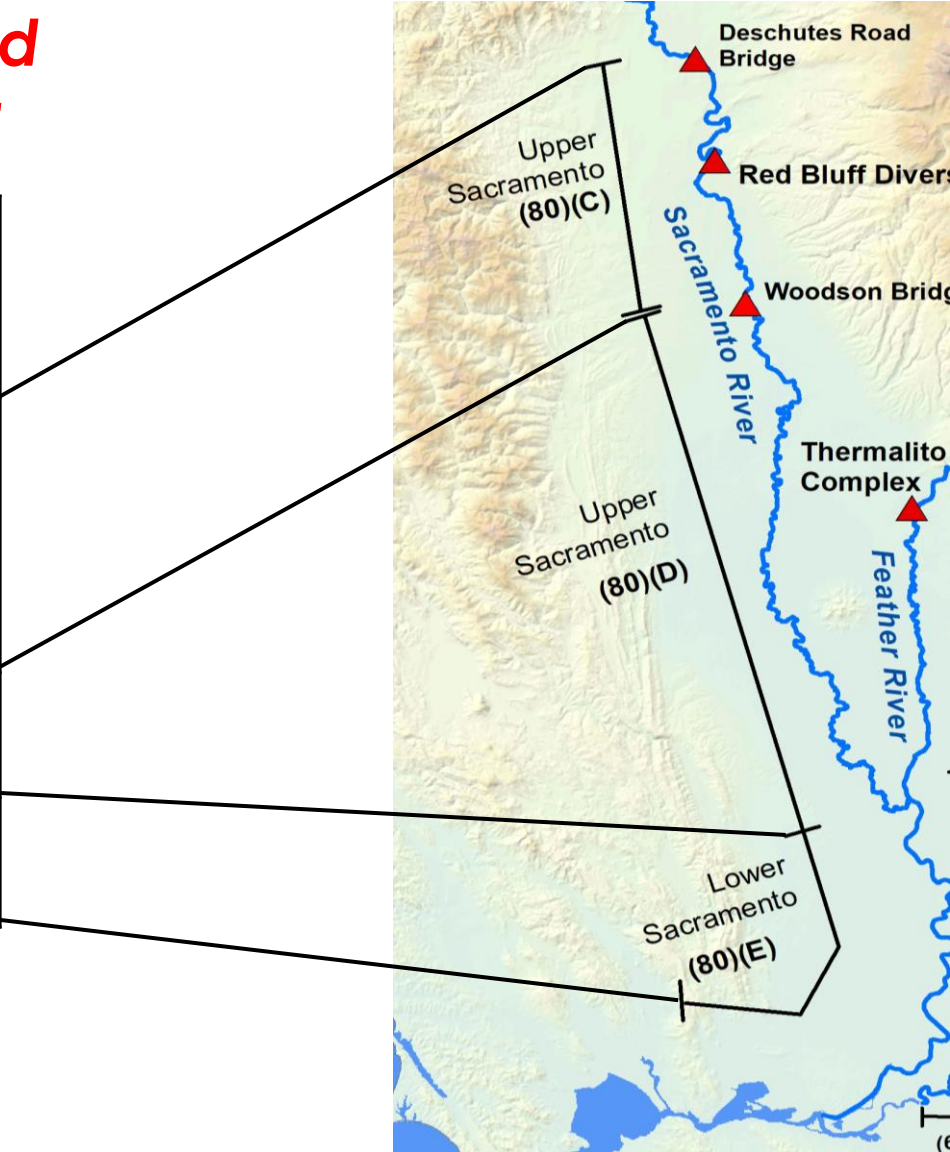




# Sacramento River Recommendations

Sacramento River 7.40(80): *closed to take and possession of Chinook for sections C,D, and E*

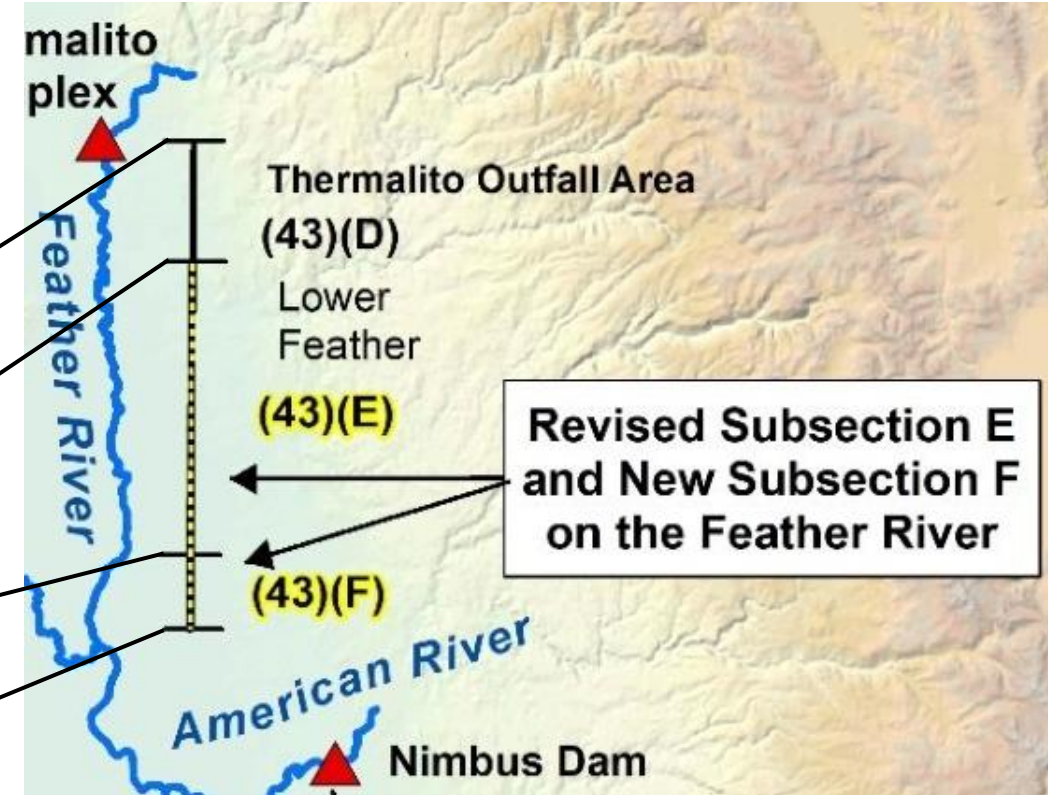
| Section | Full Season              | Proposed Season |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| C       | August 1- October 31     | Closed          |
| C       | November 1 – December 31 | Closed          |
| D       | July 16 – December 16    | Closed          |
| E       | July 16 – December 16    | Closed          |



# Feather River Recommendations

## Feather River 7.40(43)

| Section | Full Season      | Proposed Season   |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| D       | July 16 - Oct 31 | July 16 - Sept 15 |
| E*      | July 16 - Dec 16 | July 16 - Oct 31  |
| F*      | July 16 - Dec 16 | Closed            |

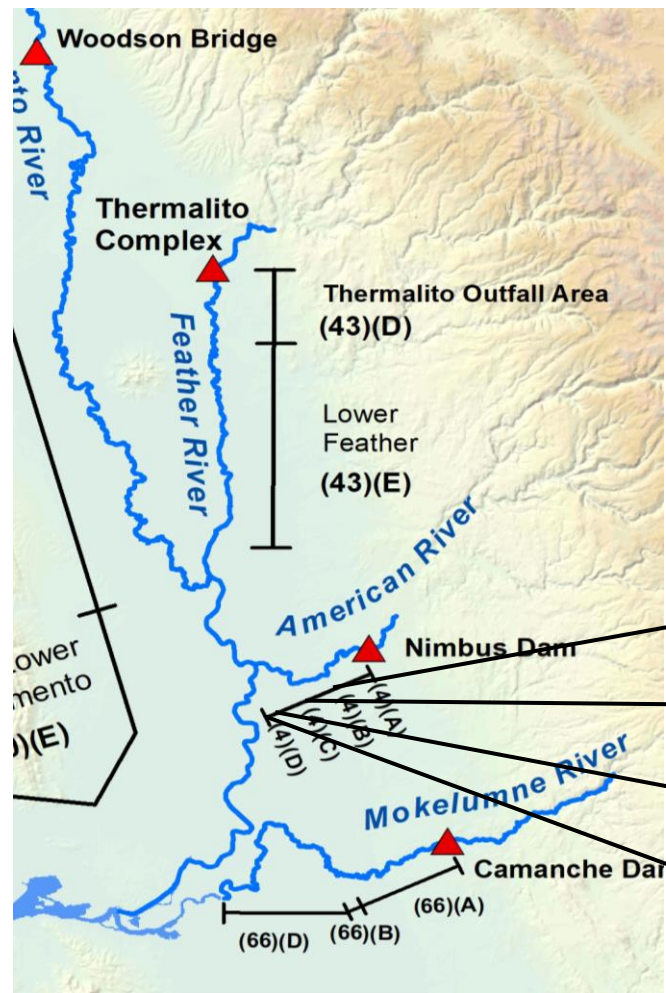


\* New proposed subsections

Proposed daily bag and possession limit of **1 Chinook Salmon** for sections 7.40(43)(D) and (E) and closed to take and possession for section (F)

# American River Recommendations

## American River 7.40(4)



*Proposed bag and possession limit of **1 Chinook Salmon** for sections 7.40(4)(B) and (C) and closed to the take and possession of Chinook for section (D)*

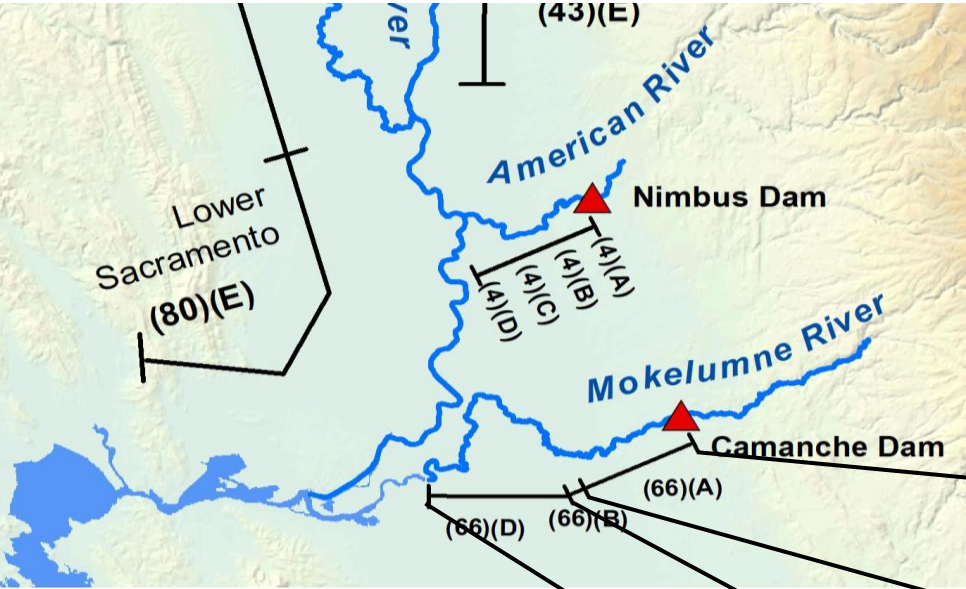
| Section | Full Season      | Proposed Season |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| B       | July 16 - Oct 31 | July 16-Oct 15  |
| C       | July 16 - Dec 31 | July 16-Oct 31  |
| D       | July 16 - Dec 16 | Closed          |





# Mokelumne River Recommendations

## Mokelumne River 7.40(66)



*Proposed bag and possession limit of 1 **Chinook Salmon** for sections 7.40(66)(A), (B), and (D)*

| Section | Full Season      | Proposed Season |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| A       | July 16 - Oct 15 | July 16-Sept 15 |
| B       | July 16 - Dec 31 | July 16-Oct. 15 |
| D       | July 16 - Dec 16 | July 16-Oct. 31 |



# Justification for CDFW 2024 Recommendations

## Mainstem Sacramento River Closure

### 1. SRFC population is in decline in the Upper Sacramento River

- 2022-2024 represent lowest returns to the Upper Sacramento Basin since 2017
  - Less than 10,000 adults returned to **natural areas** in 2022-2024 (previous 10-yr average = ~45,000 adults)
  - Less than 20,000 total adult escapement (**hatchery + natural areas**) (previous 10-yr average = ~68,500 adults)

### 2. Adult spring-run and winter-run Chinook Salmon returns perilously low in 2023 and 2024

- Certain areas in the Sacramento River are known to hold Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon, especially in low precipitation years when they do not have access to their natal streams



# Justification for CDFW 2025 Recommendations

## Small surplus for tributary fisheries

1. 2025 ocean abundance forecast (Sacramento Index [SI]): ~165,700

- NMFS recommendation:  $\geq 122,000$  hatchery + natural area adult escapement, leaving small surplus for fisheries
- Increased hatchery production in tributaries in recent years, along with fisheries closures and additional inland management tools, warrants limited opportunity for inland harvest

2. Equitable opportunity with ocean sport fishery

- New in-season management tools designed to reduce chances of overharvest in ocean fisheries



*Photo Credit: Department of Water Resources*





# Factors Contributing to SRFC Decline

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- **Fishery planning:**

- Stock abundance over-forecasted
- Harvest under-forecasted
- Contributes to low escapement

- **Environmental factors**

- Consecutive years of drought
- Freshwater stressors
- Habitat compression and impact to forage assemblages in the ocean



# Timeline

- February 12, 2025 – Notice hearing
- April 16, 2025 – Discussion hearing
- May 14, 2025 – Adoption hearing (teleconference)
- New regulations go into effect July 16, 2025



# Questions | Contact

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Photo Credit: Department of Water Resources

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