

Staff Summary for May 14, 2025

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

Consider adopting proposed amendments to Central Valley sport fishing regulations and taking final action under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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

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 a February 2025 staff summary (Exhibit 1) and the initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 3).

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. Having completed *Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* in March 2025 (Exhibit 7), PFMC recommended during its April 9-15, 2025 meeting final management measures for the upcoming ocean salmon season.

At the Commission's April 2025 meeting, the Department provided an update on the results of the PFMC process and recommended that the Commission close the Central Valley Chinook salmon fishery, with the exception of some limited take in the American, Feather and Mokelumne Rivers within shortened seasons (Exhibit 10). The Commission also authorized a 15-day notice of changes to the proposed regulatory language to clarify that there are separate seasons for Chinook salmon and hatchery trout/hatchery steelhead, and to create a new subsection of the Feather River. Background on the 15-day notice is in Exhibit 2. The 15-day notice was issued to interested and affected parties on April 23, 2025 and posted to the Commission's website.

Today, the Commission is scheduled to determine whether to adopt the noticed regulatory amendments and, if so, to select one of the options within the noticed ranges.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Department drafted an initial study and negative declaration as a proposed mechanism for complying with CEQA and provided the draft to the Commission (included in supplemental

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materials for the April 2025 meeting). Commission staff has reviewed and analyzed the negative declaration and determined that it reflects the independent judgment of the Commission. The Commission submitted the draft negative declaration for public comment (State Clearinghouse #2025040685, available at ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2025040685); no public comments were received.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Find that the negative declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Commission, adopt the declaration, approve the proposed project for purposes of CEQA, and adopt Option 4 as described in the initial statement of reasons, with season dates and some limited take as recommended by the Department.

Department: Adopt the regulatory changes under Option 4 as proposed, with season dates and some limited take as detailed in the Department's presentation.

Exhibits

1. [Staff summary from February 12-13, 2025 Commission meeting, Agenda Item 8 \(for background purposes only\)](#)
2. [Staff summary from April 16-17, 2025 Commission meeting, Agenda Item 12A \(for background purposes only\)](#)
3. [Amended Initial statement of reasons](#)
4. [Re-noticed regulatory language](#)
5. [Department memo transmitting pre-adoption statement of reasons, received May 7, 2025](#)
6. [Pre-adoption statement of reasons](#)
7. Link to online PFMC report: [Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2025 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations](#)
8. [Department memo transmitting draft negative declaration, received April 8, 2025](#)
9. [Draft negative declaration regarding Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations \(State Clearinghouse #2025040685\)](#)
10. [Department presentation, including recommendation](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission finds that the negative declaration reflects the independent judgment of the Commission, adopts the declaration, approves the proposed project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and adopts Option 4 of the proposed changes to subsections 7.40(b)(4), (43), (66) and (80) related to Central Valley sport fishing regulations for the 2025 season, with some limited take in select water bodies and new season dates, 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

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- 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.

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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.

Staff Summary for April 16-17, 2025
For Background Purposes Only

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

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decision on the specific options within the noticed ranges at its May 14, 2025 teleconference meeting.

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.

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).

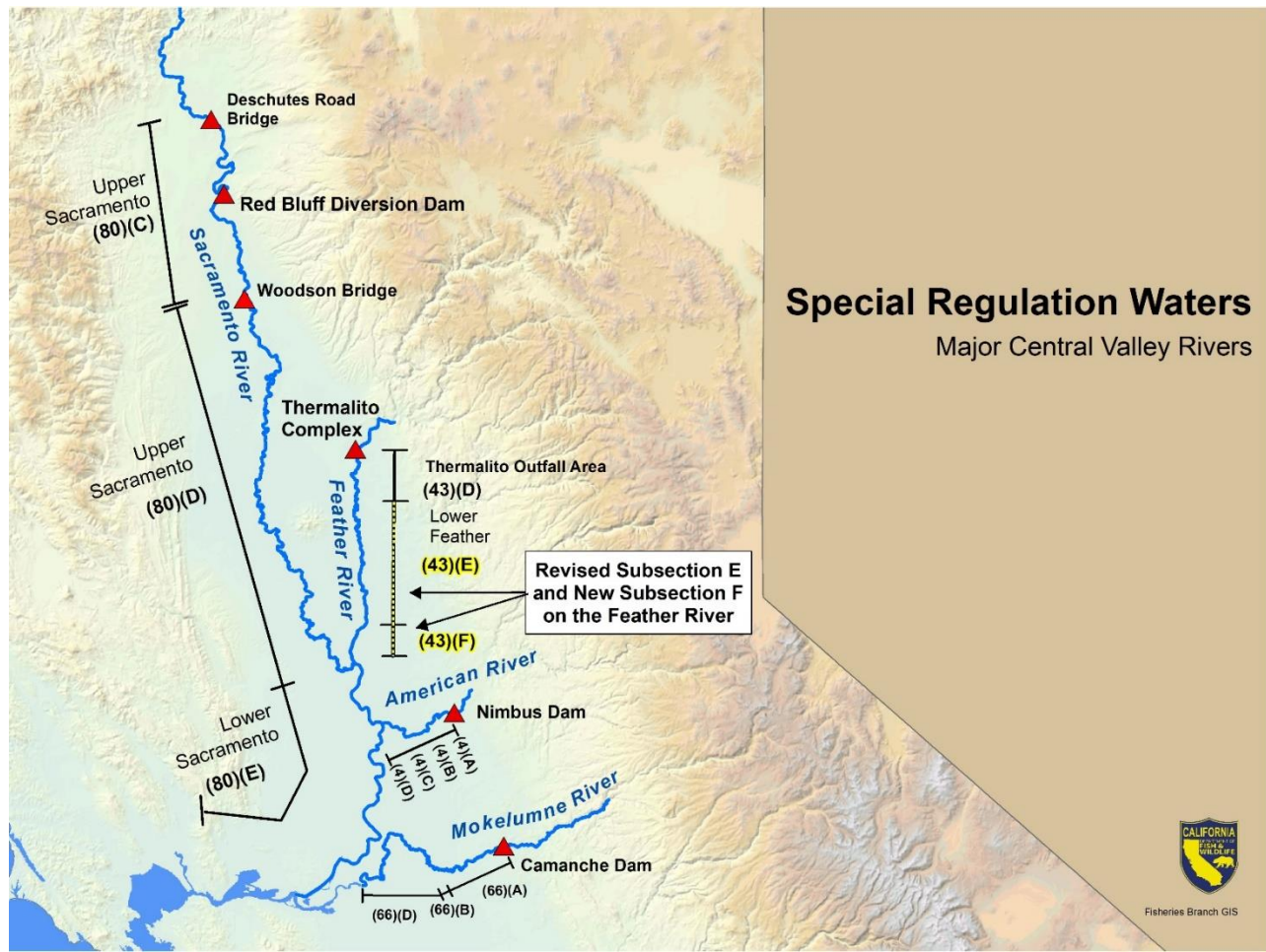


Figure 1. Map of the 2025 “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

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 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.

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 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>

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.

AMENDED Proposed Regulatory Language – Options 1 through 4

The amendments to section 7.40 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>
		<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>
(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>for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</u> <u>[July 16 – December 31] through [July 16 – December 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> <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>
		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>
(D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth	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 steelhead.</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 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.</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>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

. . . [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 Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<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 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 Marina boat ramp.</p>	<p>Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.</p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	<p>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></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>
	<p>Dec. 17 to Dec. 31.</p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

<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.</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>
(B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam including Lodi Lake.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	<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**.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>Option 1:</p> <p><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u> <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>
(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.	<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>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>
	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 possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<p>Aug. 1 through Oct 31 <u>for hatchery trout or hatchery salmon.</u></p> <p><u>[August 1 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31] 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> <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>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<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> <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>
(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**. 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 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**. 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. 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 through Dec. 31.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
tributary sloughs west of Highway 160).	<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:</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: May 7, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Submittal of Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons to Amend Subsection (b)(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 2025**

Please find attached the Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons (PSOR) for the 2025 Central Valley sport fishing regulations. The PSOR includes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) recommendations for bag and possession limits and fishing seasons for the Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) in-river fishery for 2025 as presented at the Fish and Game Commission's April 16, 2025 meeting. The Department's recommendations will be on the agenda for adoption during the California Fish and Game Commission teleconference meeting on May 14, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch, by email at Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov.

cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Jay Rowan, Branch Chief
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

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Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
May 7, 2025
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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

State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Section(s) (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. Dates of Statements of Reasons:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Initial Statement of Reasons | October 8, 2024 |
| b. Amended Statement of Reasons | March 18, 2025 |
| c. Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons: | April 29, 2025 |

III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 12, 2025	Location: Sacramento
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(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 16, 2025	Location: Sacramento
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(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: May 14, 2025	Location: Teleconference
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IV. Update

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) posted notice of a 15-day continuation period on April 23, 2025 to provide notice to the public of certain revisions to the proposed regulatory language and as explained in the Amended Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR).

V. Description of Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons

No changes have been made to the proposed regulatory language as presented in the Amended Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) noticed on April 23, 2025; however, at the April 16, 2025 Commission meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommended a combination of options 1 and 4 from the ISOR which allows for take and possession of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits (i.e., Option 1) and a closed fishery (i.e., Option 4). The Department is not recommending Option 2 (limited adult, and grilse fishery – jacks or jills) or Option 3 (grilse-only fishery).

For 2025, the Department is recommending the following Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) fishing regulations:

- Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon on all sections of the Sacramento River, on subsection (F) of the Feather River, and on subsection (D) of the American River;
- A daily bag and possession limit of one Chinook Salmon any size on the open sections of the Mokelumne, Feather, and American rivers;

- Move the fishing season end dates on the Mokelumne River up from October 15 to September 15, December 31 to October 15, and December 16 to October 31 for subsections A, B, and D, respectively;
- Move the fishing season end dates on the Feather River up from October 31 to September 15 and December 16 to October 31 for subsections D and E, respectively; and
- Move the fishing season end dates on the American River up from October 31 to October 15 and December 31 to October 31 for subsections B and C, respectively.

The Department is recommending adoption of the other proposed changes as described in the ISOR.

VI. Reasons for Modification of Originally Proposed Language of ISOR:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) has reviewed west-coast salmon stocks and has projected the escapement in the absence of fisheries to be approximately 165,655 adult Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) in 2025. On April 15, 2025, PFMC recommended a complete closure of California's commercial ocean salmon fisheries through the end of the year, and allow a total of 31 days of recreational ocean fishing spread over five months beginning June 7 and ending October 31. This action follows recent projections showing that Chinook Salmon abundance in California's ocean waters is at historic lows. Per PFMC guidance, a total of 8,000 SRFC were allocated to the in-river fishery. Under these fisheries, PFMC projected an escapement of approximately 147,733 adult SRFC for the 2025 season.

To target PFMC's escapement projection, the Department recommended to close the Chinook Salmon fishery on the Sacramento River and restrict the Chinook Salmon fishery on the American, Feather, and Mokelumne rivers at the April 16, 2025 Commission meeting. This relatively conservative approach for these waters is informed by the Department's concern regarding low adult returns to the upper Sacramento River in recent years and the continued rebuilding of the SRFC stock in the Sacramento River basin.

VII. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support

April 16, 2025 – James Stone, Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association (NCGASA) (oral comment).

"The Sacramento Index, the preseason forecast of 165,655 is the lowest that we've ever opened a fishery on. In fact, in 2023, we had a higher forecast and in 2024 we had a higher forecast and yet we didn't open those seasons. Our board of directors has mentioned multiple times in public comment through the Council and the Fish and Game Commission that we were very concerned about missing the minimum conservation objective of 122,000 adults coming home every year to the Sacramento. Last year we had 213,000 estimated with a full closed fishery and only 99,000 came home. It's apparent that the entire Sacramento River will be closed with 300 miles of river closed and over 48 miles of Delta and Bay areas closed for an opportunity and the only opportunities will be a small fishery in the Feather, American, and Mokelumne fisheries. Many of the guides, anglers and our board have thought that a complete closure of one more year would probably be the right thing to do in order to complete a three year cycle and support all cohorts to completely rebuild. However, our support will lie with the Department's recommendation and whether they recommend opening a recreation season in the ocean we just ask for an opening in

the inland sector as well. So we will fully support the Department's recommendations for the Sacramento system."

Response: Support noted.

April 16, 2025 – Charles (oral comment).

"Our real problem is the California sea lion. In the future it's going to have to be addressed just like it was in Washington. There needs to be some kind of control on this animal that is just destroying the salmon population amongst other things."

Response: Comment noted.

Updated 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 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.

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.

Update

At the April 16, 2025 Commission meeting, the Department recommended a combination of options 1 and 4 from the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) which allows for take and possession of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits (i.e., Option 1) and a closed fishery (i.e., Option 4). The Department is not recommending Option 2 (limited adult, and grilse fishery – jacks or jills) or Option 3 (grilse-only fishery).

For 2025, the Department is recommending the following SRFC fishing regulations:

- **Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon on all sections of the Sacramento River, on subsection (F) of the Feather River, and on subsection (D) of the American River;**
- **A daily bag and possession limit of one Chinook Salmon any size on the open sections of the Mokelumne, Feather, and American rivers;**
- **Move the fishing season end dates on the Mokelumne River up from October 15 to September 15, December 31 to October 15, and December 16 to October 31 for subsections A, B, and D, respectively;**
- **Move the fishing season end dates on the Feather River up from October 31 to September 15 and December 16 to October 31 for subsections D and E, respectively; and**
- **Move the fishing season end dates on the American River up from October 31 to October 15 and December 31 to October 31 for subsections B and C, respectively.**

The Department's recommendation is slated for adoption at the Commission's May 14, 2025 teleconference meeting.

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.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
	<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**.</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:</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.</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: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>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>
		<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)(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 Thermalito Afterbay Outfall to 200 yards above the Live Oak boat ramp.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15.	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>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<p><u>[July 16 – October 31] through [July 16 – October 31] for Chinook Salmon.</u></p>	<p>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**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>

<p>(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 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.</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><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>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	<u>[July 16 – October 15] through [July 16 – October 15] for Chinook Salmon.</u>	<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> <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>
(B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam including Lodi Lake.	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>
	<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> [July 16 – December 16] through [July 16 – December 16] <u>for Chinook Salmon.</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. Option 1: [0-4] Chinook Salmon [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Option 2: [0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length. [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length. Option 3: [0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length. [0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length. 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, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, and Yolo cos.).		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(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 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> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		<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. 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 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>
(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>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: <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>

<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 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: <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>
	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.

Memorandum

Date: April 3, 2025

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

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has prepared the enclosed *Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to the 2025 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)*. The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40, Title 14, CCR: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80) based on federal fisheries management goals and to make additional changes for clarity. Based on the initial study, the Department assesses that the proposed amendments to the Central Valley sport fishing regulations will not have a significant effect on the environment. The Department recommends the Commission adopt the Negative Declaration.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents, please contact Karen Mitchell, Senior Environmental Scientist, at karen.mitchell@wildlife.ca.gov.

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Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
April 3, 2025
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California Fish and Game Commission

Draft Negative Declaration

for

Proposed Amendments

to

2025 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations

Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch

JANUARY 2025

This report has been prepared pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #2025040685

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing regulations as set forth in 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 season dates and daily bag and possession limits for SRFC sport fishing in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively. Each year the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) evaluates the potential need to amend the existing SRFC bag and possession limits to align with management goals. Any proposed changes to the salmon fishing regulations are presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Findings

The Commission finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed Initial Study, attached to this Negative Declaration, documents the bases for this finding and the Commission's determination that that the Project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the Commission, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The Initial Study concluded that the Project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, this Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

Basis of the Findings

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

**Project Description and Background Information
For
Proposed Amendments
to
Central valley Sport Fishing Regulations
Title 14, California code of regulations**

Annually, the Department recommends Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) sport fishing regulations for the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under California Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the SRFC sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700; this section includes three objectives:

1. Maintain sufficient populations of all aquatic species to ensure their continued existence.
2. Maintain sufficient resources to support a reasonable sport use.
3. Management of fisheries using best available science and public input.

Background

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 U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

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 limits to the Commission at its April 16-17, 2025 meeting. The Commission will then consider adopting the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 14, 2025 meeting.

Project Location

Central Valley sport fishing addressed by this environmental document occurs in the waters of the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers in northern and central California in the counties of Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Colusa, Butte, Yuba, Sutter, Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin.

Environmental Setting

Since 1945, the Commission has been charged with promulgating regulations to manage sport fishing in California, which includes a SRFC sport fishery on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Since then, the SRFC sport fishery on these rivers has been open every year, with the exception of fishing closures in 2008-2009 and 2023-24. Although the SRFC in-river sport fishery is currently closed, the Project area is open to fishing for other sport fisheries including, but not limited to, black bass, catfish, white sturgeon, striped bass, american shad, and rainbow trout. The current lull in the SRFC in-river sport fishery is abnormal and does not accurately represent the environmental baseline for the Project. The conditions that do accurately represent the environmental baseline for the Project are an open SRFC in-river sport fishery between July and December with an amount of allowable take within the range of take allowed for the Project area between 2017 and 2021. This particular period of time also represents the norm for the environmental setting as assessed in federal and state economic and fiscal analyses of the effects of possible changes to the fishery.

Project Description

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 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 (Figure 1). Each year, the Department recommends new SRFC 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 SRFC in-river sport fishery is currently closed. In April 2024, PFMC acted unanimously to recommend a full closure of California's commercial and recreational ocean salmon season (three to 200 nautical miles offshore) following projections showing Chinook Salmon abundance in California's ocean waters is at historic lows. Based on the April 2024 recommendation by PFMC, the Department recommended a full closure of the SRFC fishery in all anadromous areas of and tributaries to the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. The Commission considered the Department's recommendation and adopted the same at its May 15, 2024 meeting.

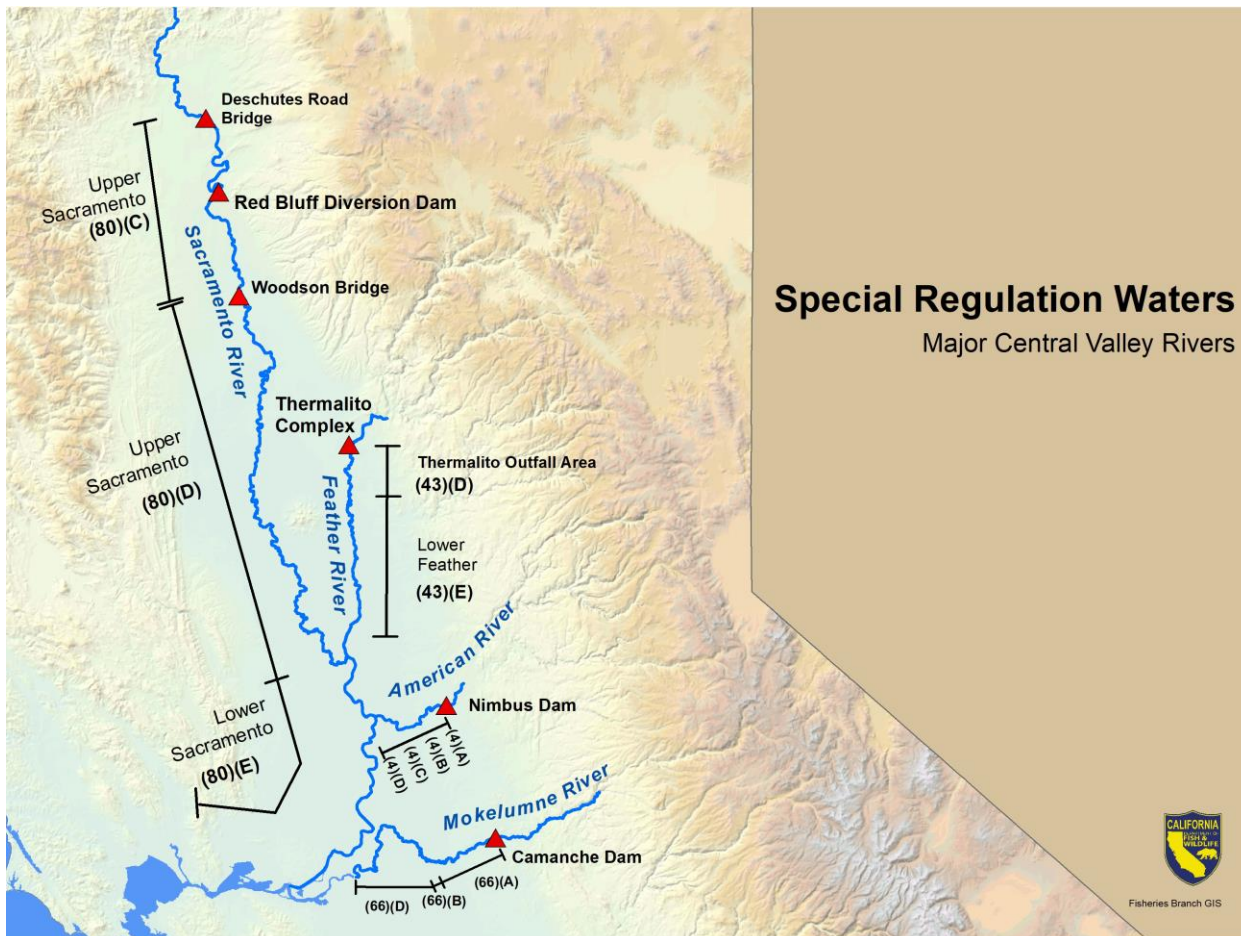


Figure 1. Map of the 2025 SRFC sport fishery encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments will become effective on or around July 15, 2025.

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 create this needed flexibility, the Department is proposing to change fishing seasons from a static date range to a range of opening and closing dates encompassed within the historical open fishing season window (e.g., July 16 through Dec 31) specific to each river section. Therefore, season length options will range from 1 through the maximum number of days that make up the historical fishing season window for that specific river section. As done with bag and possession limits, the Department will recommend river section-specific season lengths based on salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season determined by PFMC at its April 2025 meeting. This flexibility will allow the Department to provide fishing opportunities 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: the most liberal of the options, 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: A more conservative option, allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.

Option 4: The most conservative option, 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, 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.**

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.

Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title: Proposed Amendments to 2025 Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location: The American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
6. General Plan designation: N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning: N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project: Potentially amend the daily bag and possession limits for the Central Valley Chinook Salmon sport fishery to further the state's policy on conservation, maintenance, and utilization of California's aquatic resources as stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting: N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None.
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?
No.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | | |

This project will not have a "Potential Significant Impact" on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

April 9, 2025
Date

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LTS	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XX WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned "timberland production." Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

- a) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the Department, NMFS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Less than Significant impact. The SRFC in-river sport fishery is currently closed. Commission adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3, or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the fishery in 2025 and would establish new bag and possession limits for SRFC for the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon co-occur in these waters. Existing regulations prohibit take of these species and current sport fishing regulations, including seasonal and area closures, minimize angler contact with these species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to these species.

In addition, an open sport fishery with new daily bag and possession limits for SRFC would not result in a significant impact to SRFC. Daily bag and possession limits are established consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment. Furthermore, adding flexibility into the regulations to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers will minimize fishery impacts during stressful environmental conditions such as low flows and low adult returns. These limits are designed to avoid adverse effects to the target species. Therefore, the proposed project will have no significant impacts to SRFC.

- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the Department or USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.

- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, ground disturbing work, or the creation of any structures for human habitation.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve or indirectly result in ground disturbing work.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

- a) The project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

The SRFC in-river sport fishery is currently closed. Adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3 or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the SRFC sport fishery in 2025 and would establish new daily bag and possession limits for SRFC on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. The Project would emit greenhouse gases (GHG) through the use of fuel in vehicles used to transport anglers to and from designated fishing areas. Regulations governing SRFC sport fishing in the Central Valley have been in effect for nearly 80 years. The SRFC fishery has been open during this period with the exception of fishing closures in 2008-2009 and 2023-24. Considering this, the Project will not generate a significant increase in GHG emissions above existing baseline levels.

- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

The SRFC in-river sport fishery is currently closed. Adoption of Options 1, 2, or 3 or a combination thereof would result in the reopening of the SRFC sport fishery in 2025 and would establish new daily bag and possession limits for SRFC on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Regulations governing SRFC sport fishing in the Central Valley have been in effect for nearly 80 years and the potential reopening of the SRFC sport fishery is not expected to result in an increase in new anglers or in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities.

- b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines, Title 14, CCR, Section 15064.3, subsection (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.
- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal and Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1, subsection (k). The project does not involve ground disturbing work and does not have the potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. The project does not

involve ground disturbing work and has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The project does not involve any construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there

are no potential adverse impacts that are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.



CENTRAL VALLEY CHINOOK SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Updates for 2025

PRESENTATION TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

May 14, 2025

Colby Hause

Chinook Salmon Sport Fish Coordinator
Fisheries Branch



Photo Credit: Department of Water Resources

Presentation Overview

- 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



Proposed Regulatory Options for 2025

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 12th Notice hearing:

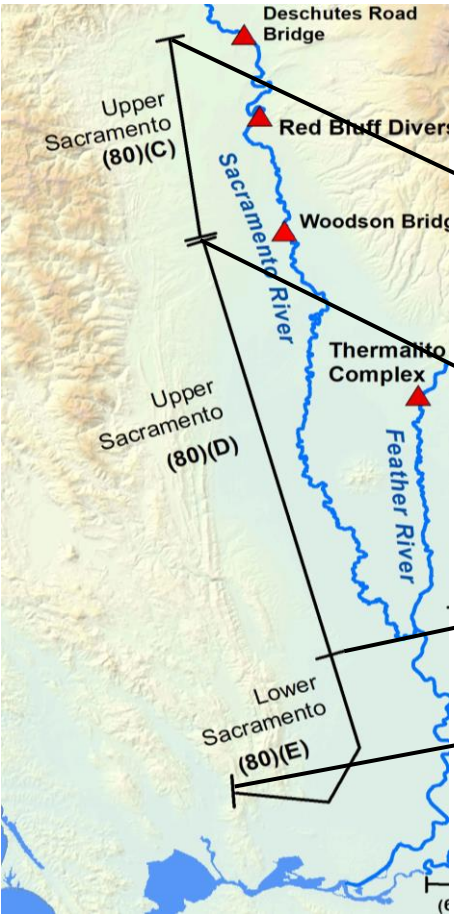
Proposed Change:

- 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

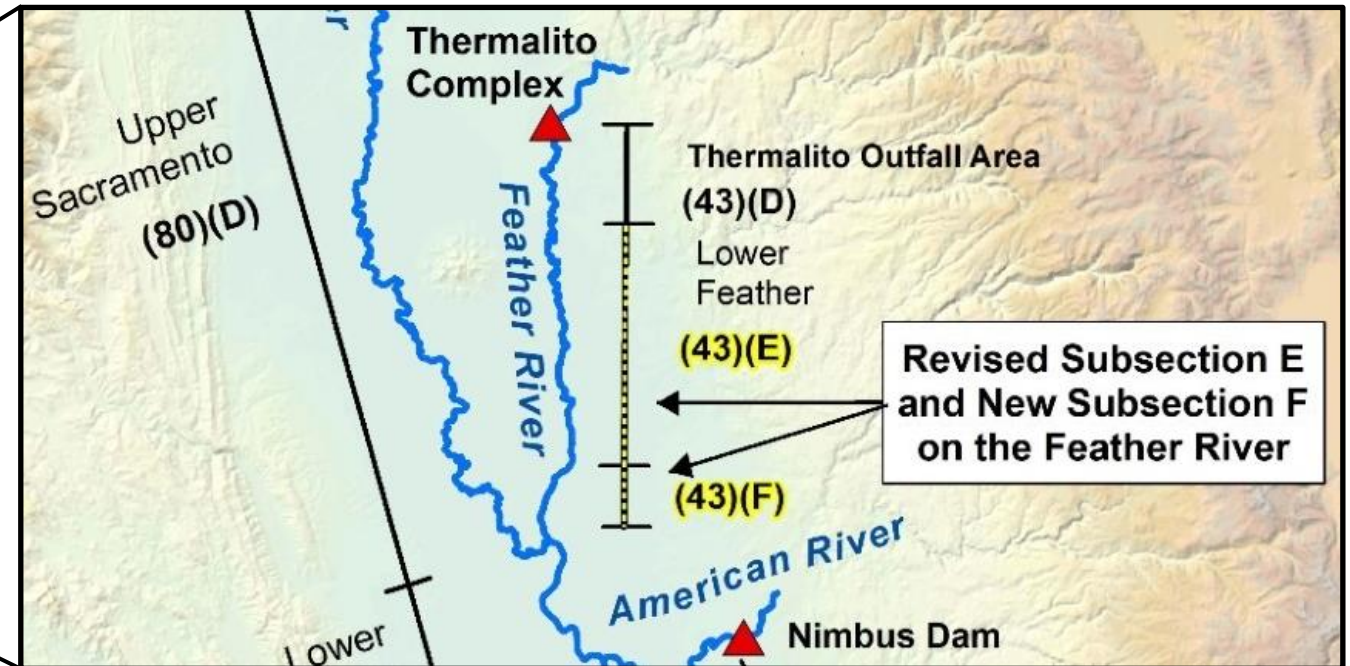
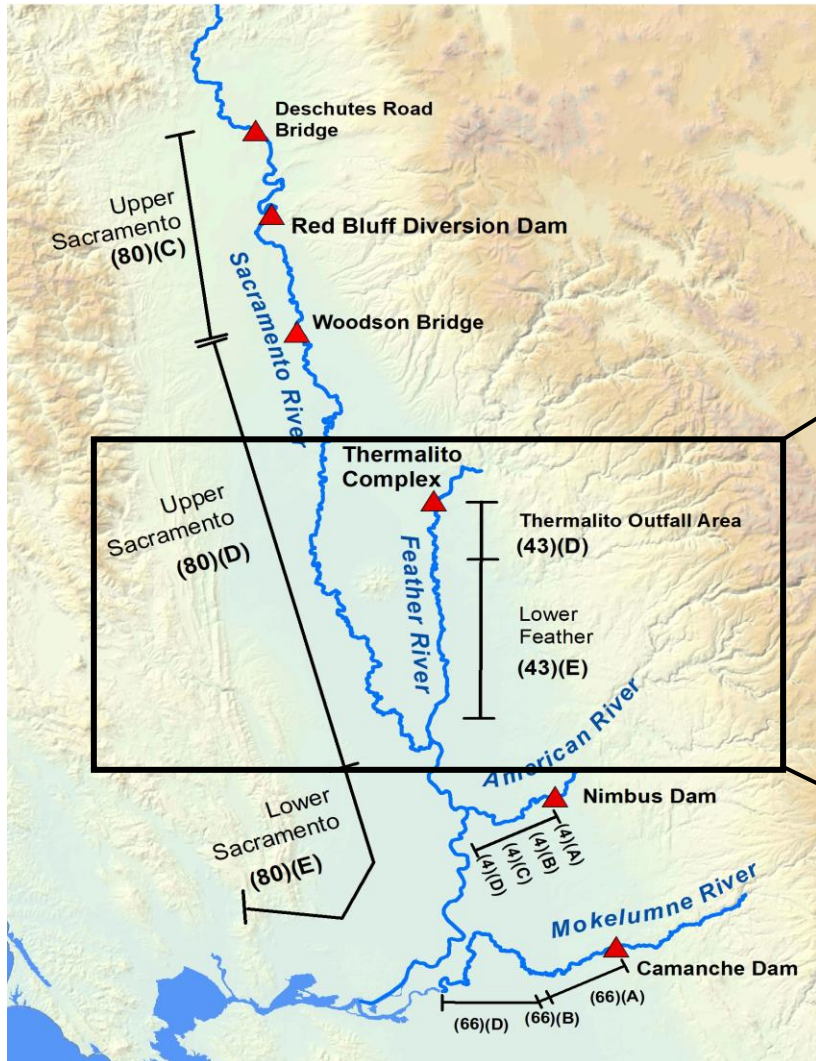


Full Season	Example Season
Aug. 1- Oct. 31	Closed
Nov. 1 – Dec. 31	Closed
July 16 – Dec. 16	July 16- Oct. 15
July 16 – Dec. 16	July 16- Oct. 31



Proposed Feather River Subsection Change

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



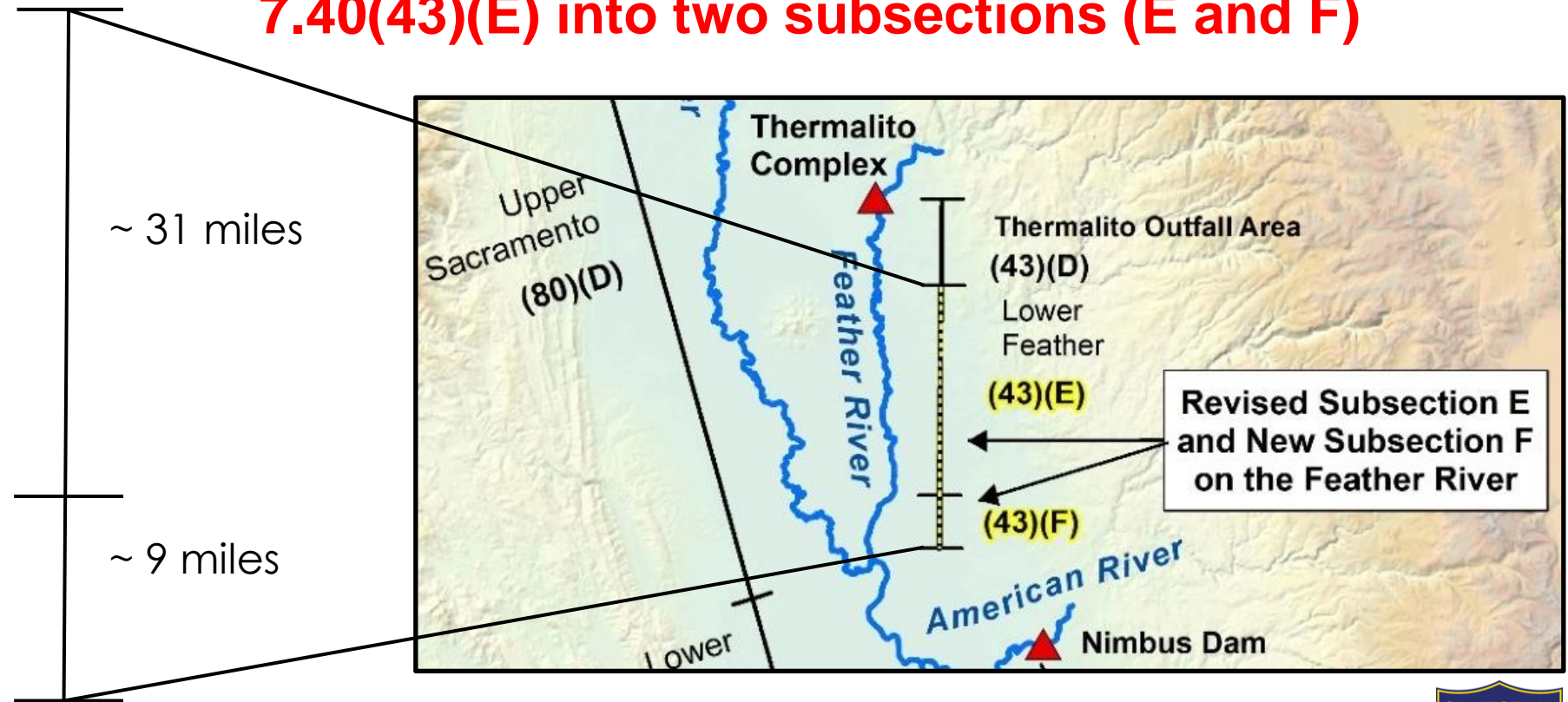
Note: seasons, bag and possession limits, and gear restrictions for the new subsections (E) and (F) would be the same as subsection (E) in the current regulations.

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

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

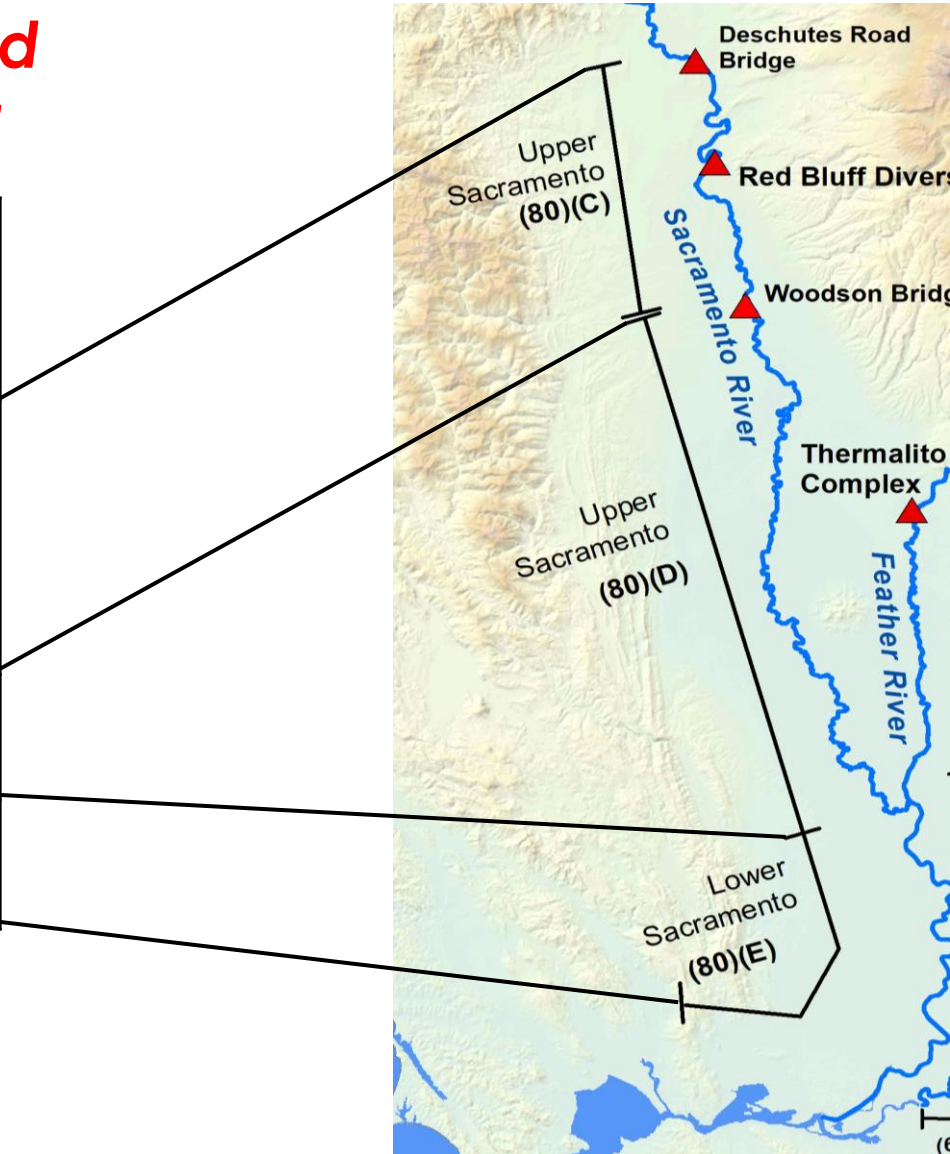
* New proposed subsections



Sacramento River Recommendations

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

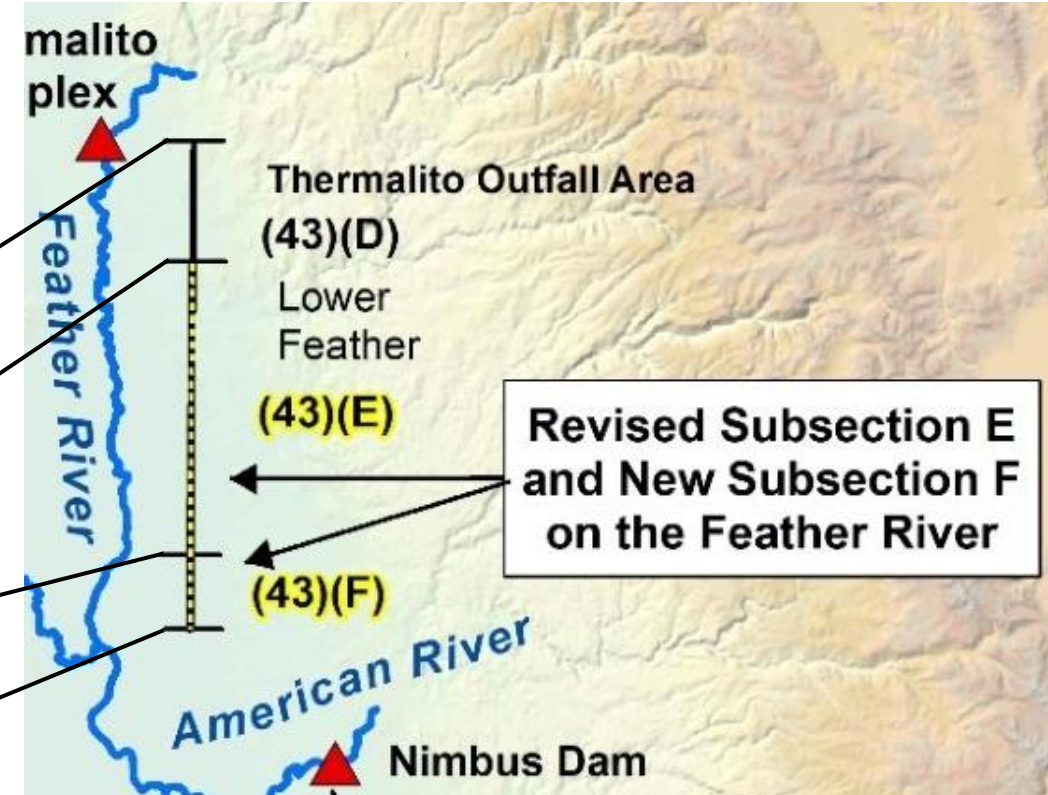
Section	Full Season	Proposed Season
C	August 1- October 31	Closed
C	November 1 – December 31	Closed
D	July 16 – December 16	Closed
E	July 16 – December 16	Closed



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

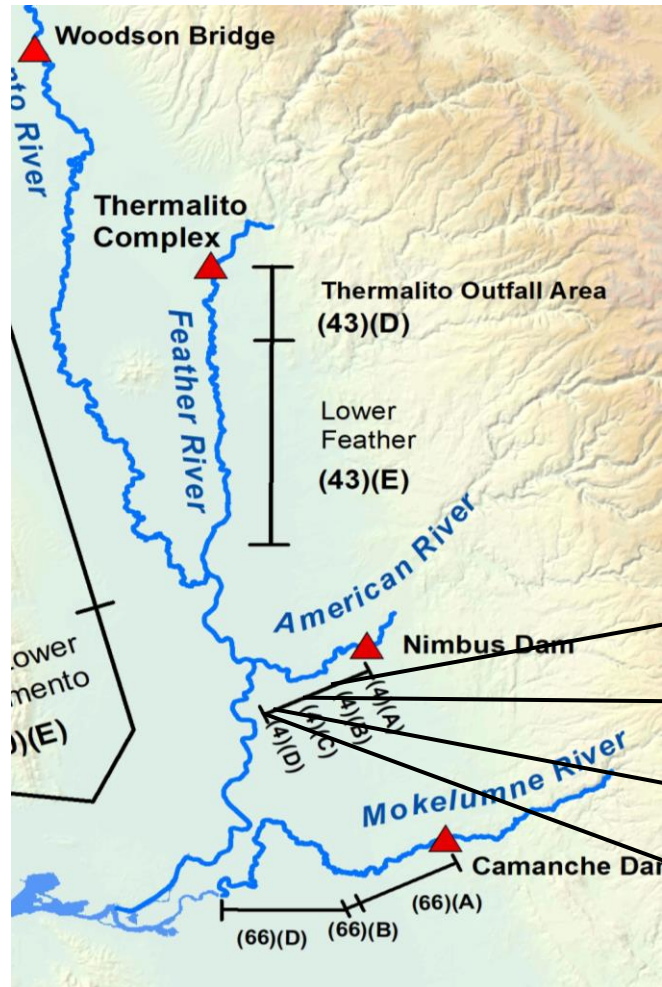


* New proposed subsections

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)



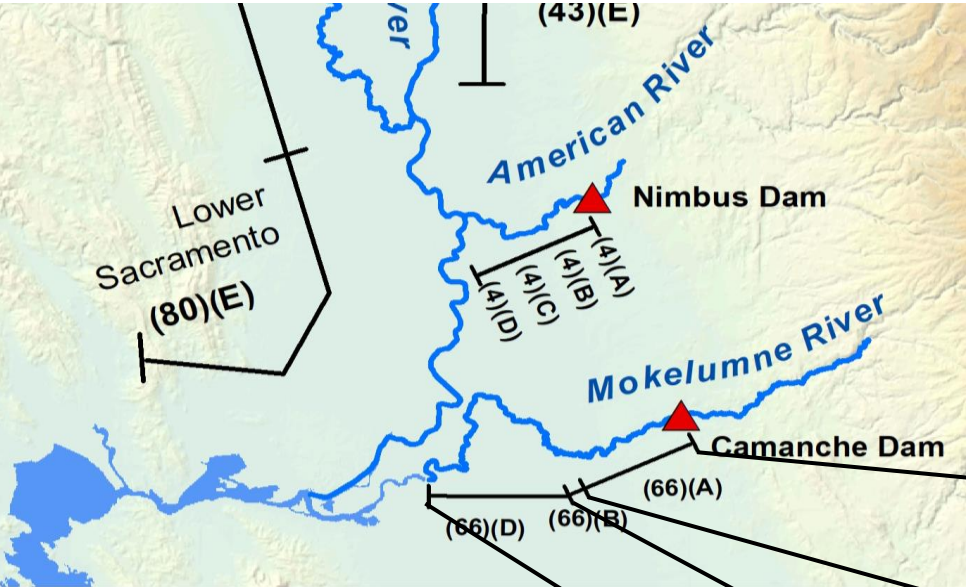
*Proposed bag and possession limit of **1 Chinook Salmon** for sections 7.40(4)(B) and (C) and closed to the take and possession of Chinook for section (D)*

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



Questions | Contact



Photo Credit: Department of Water Resources

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