

State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing 2025

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: December 17, 2024

II. Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: April 21, 2025

III. Final Statement of Reasons: May 14, 2025

IV. 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: Teleconference

V. Update

On April 15, 2025, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) acted unanimously to recommend 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 salmon fishing spread over five months beginning June 7 and ending October 31. This action follows recent projections showing Chinook Salmon abundance in California's ocean waters is at historic lows. In addition, PFMC recommended a Klamath River recreational fishery allocation of 978 adult Klamath River fall Chinook Salmon (KRFC) to the Klamath River Basin for the 2025 season.

At the April 16, 2025 California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommended a complete closure of the KRFC (Option 2) and Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (KRSC) (Option 2) in-river recreational fisheries for the 2025 season. The Department recommended to allocate the 978 adult KRFC sport fishery quota to spawner escapement. A complete closure of the fisheries will provide maximum protection of the KRFC and KRSC fisheries.

At the May 14, 2025, Commission meeting, the Commission adopted the changes as recommended by the Department (Option 2). Updates have been made to the Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement (std 399) with regards to the closure.

After reviewing PFMC's recommendation, the National Marine Fisheries Service took regulatory action to enact the closure, effective in mid-May.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations

There have been no additional comments since those that were received and responded to in the April 21, 2025 Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons.

April 5, 2025-- Jerry Lampkin, T.N.G. Motorsports guide service, Guide #10270 (written comment).

Comment:

Regarding discussion and action item 12(b), Klamath basin sport fishing regulations.

Commenter has been a fishing guide on the Klamath for over 20 years and fishing the Klamath for over 30 years. Commenter has witnessed the salmon returns fluctuate from over a million, to virtually none. One constant in those 30 years, has been an open salmon fishing season regardless of whether one could keep an adult king or not. In the past, once the adult fish quota was met, a fisherman could still target and keep a jack (grilse) while releasing all adults safely. In the past, once the adult season was closed, when a fisherman returned to the dock or boat ramp, the Department counting personnel would document catch as well as record the number of adults released.

Due to the complete fishing closure in the last 2 years, the fish counting personnel have not been employed and as such, the Department has no accurate data on the water statistics to model this year's returns.

While commenter is aware of the salmon situation in California, they would like to recommend a catch and release of adults/ harvest of jacks only season, just like the last 30 years have been once the quota was met.

There are a few advantages to this recommendation.

1. CDFW would have actual "on the water " data from those of us that are on the water daily.
2. The local business that rely on the salmon season for survival, would have a chance of surviving another year.(an example would be the campground where commenter stays would have more than 3 of its 50 campsites, occupied).
3. Commenter's guide business would have a chance of survival.

Commenter feels that the system that has been in use on the Klamath for the last 30+ years, will provide for the protection of both the species, and those of us that rely on the species.

Response:

While there were 987 adult KRFC available for harvest in the freshwater sport fishery, the Department determined that these fish are better allocated to escapement to help recover this population from long term low abundance. Further, splitting those few fish among the various Klamath/Trinity River sectors would create very small quotas that are difficult to monitor in real time and manage without exceedance of the harvest limit. Finally, in years when KRFC abundance is critically low, such that individual substocks are at risk of falling below critical levels of natural spawner abundance, including falling below crucial genetic thresholds ([Salmon Technical Team \(STT\) Report 2](#) , PFMC), jack escapement becomes important for protecting the genetic integrity of these fish.

While the in-river recreational sport fishery for Chinook Salmon was closed in 2024, the Department was on the ground monitoring the fishery. A limited creel survey was carried out on the lower Klamath River to monitor steelhead angling effort and provide on the ground outreach and education for anglers not aware of the Chinook closure. Creel surveys were in place to capture any potential accidental or illegal harvest of Chinook Salmon that may have been caught. The survey effort was less than normal and began on August 6 and ran through September 30. Surveyors were present in the lower river 4 days per week (2 days each above and below Hwy 101 bridge). A preliminary estimate of 249 Chinook Salmon (140 adults and 109 jacks) were caught and released during this time. Zero Chinook were recorded as harvested in the recreational fishery. CDFW plans to operate this limited creel survey again in 2025.

Please note that the Department creel survey crews do not collect water quality information. If you are looking for real-time water quality conditions on the Klamath, the Tribal water quality monitoring network is extensive and can be viewed here: [Data - Karuk Tribe Water Quality](#).

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

Comment:

The commenter states they wish that there would be a little opportunity in the Klamath system, even a very small opportunity just like there was offered in the ocean this year in the mixed stock fishery because there will be Klamath fish, winter run fish, spring run fish, Sacramento main stem fish caught in the ocean.

Response:

While there were 987 adult KRFC available for harvest in the freshwater sport fishery, the Department determined that these fish are better allocated to escapement to help recover this population from long term low abundance. Further, splitting those few fish among the various Klamath/Trinity River sectors would create very small quotas that are difficult to monitor in real time and manage without exceedance of the harvest limit. Finally, in years when KRFC abundance is critically low, such that individual substocks are at risk of falling below critical levels of natural spawner abundance, including falling below crucial genetic thresholds ([STT Report 2](#)), jack escapement becomes important for protecting the genetic integrity of these fish.

April 16, 2025 – Charles (verbal comment).

Comment:

Commenter states that the 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.

VII. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

The use of more liberal regulations for the KRFC quota, bag limits, and possession limits would be less desirable than a complete closure of the KRFC in-river sport fishery. The adopted closure of the KRFC and KRSC in-river fisheries is more protective than the PPMC-recommended recreational fishery allocation of 978 KRFC to the Klamath River Basin for the 2025 season and continues the closure from the prior season. More liberal regulations for bag and possession limits on this severely depressed stock may have lasting effects on future KRFC and KRSC fishing opportunities.

(b) No Change Alternative

The No Change Alternative would be very similar and would leave the existing 2024 regulations for a KRFC and KRSC closure in place. However, **since the expiration of the emergency regulations in December 2024 that closed the KRSC fishery for its summer and fall 2024 season, the no change alternative would default to this fishery opening on July 1, 2025 for the Trinity River and tributaries (subsection 7.40(b)(50)E.6.). Also, the no change alternative for** this proposal for 2025 would not make the listed non-substantive changes for **season dates and years, and for** consistency and to reduce ambiguity.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives

In view of information currently possessed regarding historically low abundance of KRFC and KRSC and the risks of overfishing, no alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the adopted regulation, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

VIII. 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 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 regulation 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 regulations are projected to range from minor to no impact on the net revenues to local businesses servicing sport fishermen. The last period with no closures for KRFC salmon fishing was the 2022 season, which is considered a typical season in terms of fishing activity and visitor spending. The adopted 2025 regulations would continue the 2024 closure (zero quota). If the 2025 KRFC quota is reduced, visitor spending closure~~ may correspondingly be reduced ~~visitor spending compared to a typical season~~, and in the absence of alternative visitor activities, the drop in spending could induce some business contraction. ~~If the 2025 KRFC quota remains similar to the KRFC quotas allocated in previous years, then local economic impacts are expected to be unchanged. Neither~~ However, the KRFC seasonal closure

scenario is **not** expected to directly affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

- (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

An estimated 30-50 businesses that serve sport fishing activities are expected to be directly and/or indirectly affected ~~depending on by~~ the **final KRFC closure quota**. The impacts range from no impact to **small temporary** adverse impacts (**Projection 1 under the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA), below**) ~~to small adverse impacts (Projection 3, EIA, below)~~.

~~Depending on the final KRFC quota, the~~ **The** Commission anticipates the potential for some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in California. The potential adverse employment impacts range from no impact **for some businesses for which alternate outdoor activities may substitute for KRFC visitor spending** to the loss of 13 jobs; **however, it should be noted that the job losses usually occur as a lagged effect, and given the continued closure from 2023 businesses may have already shed these positions over the last two years in anticipation of a continued KRFC closure. Under all alternatives, due** ~~Due~~ to the **limited** seasonal time period of this regulation's impact, the Commission anticipates no impact on the creation of new businesses, the elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses in California.

~~For all of the proposed scenarios, the~~ **The** possibility for growth of businesses to serve alternative recreational activities exists. Adverse impacts to jobs and/or businesses **would be projected to** be less ~~if because~~ fishing of other species ~~and grilse KRFC is permitted, than~~ under a **complete** closure to **all KRFC** fishing. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulatory action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently, promote the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's salmonid resources. The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety because the proposed action does not affect working conditions.

- (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.~~ **No change in costs or savings is anticipated from the proposed regulations, however implications for local sales tax and transient occupancy tax (TOT) revenue are projected, as noted in the STD 399 and Addendum.**

(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.

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.

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, is managed for fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) through a cooperative system of state, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport, and tribal fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport 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 California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin (in-river) sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations are promulgated by individual tribal governments.

Klamath River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon

Adult Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals are established by PFMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

PFMC Overfishing Review

KRFC stocks have been designated as “overfished” by PFMC. This designation is the result of not meeting conservation objectives for these stocks. Management objectives and criteria for KRFC are defined in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The threshold for overfished status of KRFC is a three-year geometric mean less than or equal to 30,525 natural area adult spawners. This overfished-threshold was met for KRFC during the 2015-2017 period. The 30,525 KRFC natural area adult spawners is considered the minimum stock size threshold, per the FMP. The KRFC adult natural area spawning escapement for 2024 was 24,032 natural area adult spawners, which is below the one-year conservation threshold of 40,700 natural area adult spawners. The most recent three-year geometric mean of 27,879 is still less than the required 40,700 natural area adult spawners conservation threshold, therefore the KRFC are still considered as an “overfished” stock.

Accordingly, the FMP outlines a process for preparing a “rebuilding plan” that includes assessment of the factors that led to the decline of the stock, including fishing, environmental factors, model errors, etc. The rebuilding plan includes recommendations to address conservation of KRFC, with the goal of achieving rebuilt status. Rebuilt status requires meeting a three-year geometric mean of 40,700 adult natural area KRFC spawner escapement. The plan developed by representatives of NMFS, PFMC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), and tribal

entities, was submitted to PFMC in February 2019, adopted by PFMC in June 2019, and submitted to NMFS in August 2019. Forthcoming recommendations from the rebuilding plan may alter how KRFC are managed in the future, including changing the in-river allocation number, and/or allocating less than the normal target number.

Klamath River Spring Chinook Salmon

The Klamath River Basin also supports Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (KRSC). Naturally produced KRSC are both temporally and spatially separated from KRFC in most cases. Presently, KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by PFMC. This in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. KRSC harvest is monitored on the Klamath River below the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Klamath River by creel survey. The upper Trinity River, upstream of Junction City, is monitored using tag returns from anglers.

KRFC Allocation Management

The PFMC allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest is normally a minimum of 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation of KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2025 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from PFMC until March 2025. The 2025 basin allocation was recommended by PFMC in April 2025. That allocation will inform the quota that the Department proposes to the Commission for adoption as a quota for the in-river sport harvest at the Commission's May 2025 teleconference meeting.

The Commission may adopt a KRFC in-river sport harvest quota that is different than the quota proposed by the Department or the PFMC 2025 allocation for that fishery. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

The annual KRFC in-river sport harvest quota is specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)1. The quota is split among four geographic areas with a subquota for each area, expressed as a percentage of the total in-river quota, specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)2. For angler convenience, the subquotas, expressed as the number of fish, are listed for the affected river segments in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E).

The in-river sport subquota percentages are as follows:

1. Main stem Klamath River from the California-Oregon border to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the in-river sport quota;
2. Main stem Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Pacific Ocean -- 50 percent of the in-river sport quota;

The spit area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) closes to all fishing after 15 percent of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

3. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the in-river sport quota; and
4. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the in-river sport fishery quota.

These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort to ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River. The subquota system requires the Department to monitor or assess angler harvest of adult KRFC in each geographic area. All areas are monitored on a real time basis, except for the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and in the Trinity River. Due to funding and personnel reductions, the Department does not currently conduct real time harvest monitoring in the Klamath River upstream of the Weitchpec and in the Trinity River.

The Department has developed Harvest Predictor Models (HPM), which incorporate historic creel survey data from the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean, and the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River. Each HPM is driven by the positive relationship between KRFC harvested in the respective lower and upper subquota areas of the Klamath River and the Trinity River. The HPMs will be used by the Department to implement fishing closures to ensure that anglers do not exceed established subquota targets. Using this method, the upper Klamath River subquota area generally closes between 28-30 days after the lower Klamath River subquota is reached. Similarly, the upper Trinity River subquota area generally closes 45 days after the lower Klamath River subquota has been met. The Department also takes into consideration several other factors when implementing closure dates for subquota areas, including angler effort, KRFC run timing, weir counts, and ongoing recreational creel surveys performed by the Hoopa Valley Tribe in the lower Trinity River below Willow Creek.

Sport Fishery Management

The KRFC in-river sport harvest quota is divided into geographic areas, and harvest is monitored under real time subquota management. The KRSC in-river sport harvest is managed by general season, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations.

The Department presently differentiates the two stocks by the following sport fish season in each sub-area:

Klamath River

July 1 through August 14 – General Season KRSC.

For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.

August 15 to December 31 – KRFC quota management.

Trinity River

July 1 through August 31 – General Season KRSC.

For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.

September 1 through December 31 – KRFC quota management.

The daily bag and possession limits apply to both stocks within the same sub-area and time period. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.a. through 2.e. specify bag limits for KRFC stocks in the Klamath River. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b., e., and f. specify bag limits for KRFC stocks in the Trinity River. Current regulations in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(C)2.a. and 2.b. specify KRSC and KRFC possession limits, respectively.

Proposed Changes

KRFC Adult Stocks (Sport Fishery Quota Management)

Quota: For public notice requirements, the Department recommends the Commission consider a quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and Commission to make adjustments during the 2025 regulatory cycle.

Subquotas: The proposed subquotas for KRFC stocks are as follows:

1. Main stem Klamath River from the California-Oregon border to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,492];
2. Main stem Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Pacific Ocean -- 50 percent of the total quota equates to [0-33,800];
3. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154]; and
4. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154].

Seasons:

- Klamath River - August 15 through December 31
- Trinity River - September 1 through December 31

Bag and Possession Limits

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, ranges are shown in [brackets] below of bag and possession limits which encompass historical quotas. All are proposed for the 2025 KRFC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

- Bag Limit - [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 - [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.

The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal recommendations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC is proposed once the subquota has been met.

Size Limits

KRFC are managed based on adult quotas which is the maximum number of adult fish (age three and older) that can be harvested. In 2023, the Department moved away from the fixed standing cutoff size between grilse and adult Chinook Salmon of 23 inches total length to using a range between 20 to 24 inches total length as an annual option for cutoff size. This allows for annual variation in size cutoffs, as informed by previous year(s) data to manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota more

effectively. The Department is currently conducting a post season assessment of KRFC length and age data which will be used to help determine the proposed 2025 size cutoff. The 2025 proposed adult cutoff will be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Option 2: KRFC Fishery Closure

This option would close salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC 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 of the ocean recreational salmon fishery and/or an allocation of 0 (zero) adult KRFC to the in-river fishery, this option would give the Department flexibility to respond to and support any federal action. This option prohibits all methods of targeting KRFC including catch and release fishing.

KRSC Sport Fishery

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 have necessitated the Department to consider regulations of this fishery annually. As a result, the management of KRSC has been incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process.

Seasons:

- Klamath River – July 1 through August 14
- Trinity River – July 1 through August 31

Option 1 Bag and Possession Limits

Ranges are shown in [brackets] below of bag and possession limits which encompass historical ranges. All are proposed for the 2025 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

- Bag Limit - [0-1] Chinook Salmon
- Possession limit - [0-2] Chinook Salmon.

Option 2: KRSC Fishery Closure

This option would close salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRSC should the Department be concerned with stock status or predicts a large shift in effort due to widespread salmon closures in other areas of the state. In any year, should the PFMC recommend a complete or near complete closure of the ocean recreational salmon fishery and/or an allocation of 0 (zero) adult KRFC to the in-river fishery, this option would give the Department flexibility to respond to potential effort shift. This option prohibits all methods of targeting KRSC including catch and release fishing.

Benefit of the Regulations

The benefits of the proposed regulations are conformance with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of Klamath River Basin fish resources, health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on salmon sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

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 authority to the Commission to promulgate sport fishing regulations (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. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other state regulations related to sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

Update:

On April 15, 2025, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) acted unanimously to recommend 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 salmon fishing spread over five months beginning June 7 and ending October 31. This action follows recent projections showing Chinook Salmon abundance in California’s ocean waters is at historic lows. In addition, PFMC recommended a Klamath River recreational fishery allocation of 978 adult Klamath River fall Chinook Salmon (KRFC) to the Klamath River Basin for the 2025 season.

At the April 16, 2025 California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommended a complete closure of the KRFC (Option 2) and Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (KRSC) (Option 2) in-river recreational fisheries for the 2025 season. The Department recommended to allocate the 978 adult KRFC sport fishery quota to spawner escapement. A complete closure of the fisheries will provide maximum protection of the KRFC and KRSC fisheries.

Clarifications have been made to the No Change Alternative to clarify how the KRSC season and bag limit would be impacted, as well as updates to the impacts section with the decision on Option 2.

At the May 14, 2025, Commission meeting, the Commission adopted the changes as recommended by the Department (Option 2).

The regulations were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law with a request for a July 1, 2025 effective date in order to close the spring-run chinook fishery prior to its normal opening on July 1. This would prevent public confusion and enforcement difficulties if the regulations were to take effect after the season opening date.

During review by the Office of Administrative Law, references to “federal regulations” were corrected to “federal recommendations.” This more accurately captures the process followed by the Commission and Department in developing these regulations for state waters.