

Description of Specific Edits to Regulatory Language

Edits Made to Proposed Regulatory Language

Sections 5.80 and 27.90

Changes to sections 5.80 and 27.90 mirror each other. They apply to inland white sturgeon and ocean white sturgeon, respectively. Dates are changed to reflect the actual date on which the Department will stop selling the current sturgeon report card and start selling the new sturgeon report card.

Section 5.80. Inland White Sturgeon

Subsections 5.80(g)(1) and 5.80(g)(2)

On the effective date of the regulation, the Department will stop selling the current (calendar year) 2025 report card and will transition sales to the 2025-2026 (seasonal) report card. Anglers may continue to use their current (calendar year) 2025 report card until it expires on December 31, 2025 or may begin using the 2025-2026 (seasonal) report card upon the start of the season on October 1, 2025.

- Change the report card transition date from “~~July 1, 2025~~” to “[Effective date of regulation]” to account for delays to the originally proposed transition date and ensure that the public is aware of the reporting process for their card. This change is necessary as July 1, 2025 passed prior to the effective date of these regulations.

Subsection 5.80(g)(1)(E-F)

- Remove “~~salmon, steelhead,~~” and “~~abalone.~~” Remove references to salmon, steelhead, and abalone. This language was duplicated from Section 1.74, with the intent of listing only sturgeon, as the section only applies to sturgeon in this section. The other species are removed because they were an inadvertent duplication. This change is necessary to avoid duplication of Title 14 in different sections.

Section 27.90. Ocean White Sturgeon

Subsections 27.90(g)(1) and 27.90(g)(2)

On the effective date of the regulation, the Department will stop selling the current (calendar year) 2025 report card and will transition sales to the 2025-2026 (seasonal) report card. Anglers may continue to use their current (calendar year) 2025 report card until it expires on December 31, 2025 or may begin using the 2025-2026 (seasonal) report card upon the start of the season on October 1, 2025.

Change the report card transition date from “~~July 1, 2025~~” to “[Effective date of regulation]” to account for delays to the originally proposed transition date and ensure that the public is aware of the reporting process for their card. This change is necessary as July 1, 2025 passed prior to the effective date of these regulations.

Subsection 27.90(g)(1)(E-F)

Remove “salmon, steelhead,” and “abalone.” Remove references to salmon, steelhead, and abalone. This language was duplicated from Section 1.74, with the intent of listing only sturgeon, as the section only applies to sturgeon in this section. The other species are removed because they were an inadvertent duplication. This change is necessary to avoid duplication of Title 14 in different sections.

Section 701. Sport Fishing Forms and Fees

Subsection 701(c)

Split Subsection 701(c) into further subsections 701(c)(1) and 701(c)(2). In the initially proposed regulatory text, the cost for the 2025 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card provided for a range of \$5.00 to \$11.00

- add subsection (c)(1) for the 2025-2026 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card with a fee of \$0.00.
- 701(c)(2) – add subsection (c)(2) for the 2026-2027 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card with a fee of \$7.50. Since there are no longer harvest opportunities for sturgeon, the Department found that decrease the card fee to the original amount was appropriate.
- The Sturgeon Fishing Report Card fee of \$7.50 is the Department’s recommendation from the proposed range of (\$5.00-\$11.00). This fee will be applicable to the 2026-2027 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card and will be increased annually in accordance with FGC Section 713.
- For the 2025-2026 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card, the Department has recommended a fee of \$0.00. For the first five years that the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card was implemented, the fee for the report card was \$0.00. The Department recognizes that the transition from an annual report card to a seasonal report card may create some confusion and the potential that an angler would have to purchase more than one report card in a year. Offering a no cost card for the 2025-2026 season simplifies the process for the Department, as well as the public, which the Department views as an investment in the sturgeon fishery in California, as well as fulfilling the responsibility to the public to ease the transition to the new report card through a no-cost option. This amendment ensures that everyone has the same benefit opportunity from the 2025-2026 report card and aligns with the Department’s commitment to equity in California fisheries.