



Tracking Number: (2025-09)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Brandon Worthington

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

Rulemaking Authority (Required)

Fish and Game Code Section 200 provides the Commission authority to regulate sport fishing in California, including establishing methods of take, gear restrictions, seasonal closures, and bag limits. This authority applies to waters of the Klamath River under the jurisdiction of the State of California.

Overview (Required)

The petitioner requests amendments to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, **Section 7.40(b)(91.1) Klamath River**, specifically in **subsections (2)(A) and (2)(B)**. These amendments would:

- Allow angling **only with artificial lures and barbless hooks** in the designated upper sections of the Klamath River;
- **Prohibit the take and possession and angling of Chinook Salmon** in these sections;
- Set the **bag limit for hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead to zero**, establishing a full **catch-and-release fishery**;
- Restore the **year-round angling season** previously allowed in **Section 2A prior to recent regulation changes**, and extend a similar catch-and-release season to Section 2B; Retain angling restrictions around vital tributaries such as Shovel, Fall, Jenny and Scotch creeks.
- Better align California regulations with those currently in place in Oregon, which allow year-round, catch-and-release trout angling in the same river system following dam removal and habitat reconnection.



- Regulation change would allow for downriver trips originating in Oregon to continue over the state line during peak season.

These updates would reflect the river's restored ecological function, support wild trout conservation, and enable responsible use of newly developed public access points under an outfitter-designed recreation plan.

2. Rationale (Required)

Wild trout populations, particularly reaside rainbow trout, are rapidly increasing in newly reconnected river sections. These fish were **not a focal point of dam removal** and were **not previously subject to special conservation measures**. They are not listed as a species of concern in the Klamath River, and few special management protections were in place for them before the dams were removed. Accordingly, a **regulated, catch-and-release fishery using artificial lures and barbless hooks** is appropriate and in line with California's existing wild trout policy in other waters.

In addition, the **recreation stakeholder group involved in the dam removal process**—of which the petitioner has been an active member for the past five years—successfully advocated to FERC for a robust recreation plan as a condition of the license surrender. That advocacy led to the **implementation of an outfitter-produced access and recreation plan by KRRC**, resulting in the construction of several new boat ramps and river access points throughout the restored reaches.

However, these new facilities **remain underutilized by both the angling public and licensed outfitters** due to current regulations that prohibit fishing for much of the year or across too broad a scope. The proposed changes would allow those access points to fulfill their intended role—supporting **low-impact, guided catch-and-release fishing** that benefits local economies while continuing to protect vulnerable anadromous fish populations.

The proposed regulation changes will bring California's management of the Upper Klamath River into better alignment with **Oregon's regulations**, which already allow **year-round, catch-and-release angling** in reaches of the river similarly affected by dam removal. Now that the Klamath flows freely across the Oregon–California border, harmonizing regulations between states is both logical and ecologically sound.

The proposed regulation change would allow outfitters to originate trips in Oregon, and takeout in California. The river is the same river now above and below the Stateline, except for regulation disparities.

This amendment is a timely opportunity to apply smart, conservation-based access policy that reflects the river's new ecological reality and honors the recreation goals built into the dam removal process.

SECTION II: Optional Information

3. **Date of Petition: August 4, 2025**

4. **Category of Proposed Change**



- Sport Fishing
- Commercial Fishing
- Hunting
- Other, please specify: [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)

5. The proposal is to: *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

X Amend Title 14 Section(s) **Amend Title 14 Section(s):** 7.40(b)(91.1)(2)(A) and 7.40(b)(91.1)(2)(B)

- Add New Title 14 Section(s): [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)
- Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)

6. If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition [\[Click here to enter text.\]](#)
Or X Not applicable.

Effective date: January 1, 2026 (start of the next regulation cycle)

If earlier implementation is feasible, we request an **emergency adoption** to take effect upon publication in the 2026 sport fishing supplement.

Nature of emergency: The river has undergone a major ecological and regulatory transformation due to dam removal. New infrastructure is in place, wild trout populations are expanding, and the lack of a functional angling season is restricting both access and conservation-based recreation. Prompt implementation would allow these regulations to take effect before the 2026 angling season and guide planning for outfitters and the public.

7. Supporting documentation:

- [American Whitewater Interactive Recreation Map](#) showing new and restored river access points, boat ramps, and trailheads.
- [2025 Oregon Upper Klamath River fishing regulations – Southeast Zone](#), which include:

Klamath River: 1 rainbow trout per day, 12 inch minimum and 15 inch maximum length. Closed from Hwy 66 Bridge to Keno Dam June 16 – September 30.

- [KRRC Recreation Plan](#) detailing the outfitter-informed infrastructure plan implemented as part of the dam removal and license surrender agreement
- Letter of support from a licensed California fly fishing guide operating in Section 2A and hopefully 2B soon.



Economic or Fiscal Impacts: The proposed change is expected to have **positive economic impacts** on local and regional economies by:

- Enabling outfitters, guides, and gear shops to operate during expanded seasons
- Increasing visitation to remote Klamath River communities
- Encouraging responsible use of newly developed river access sites
- Supporting tourism businesses during the shoulder and peak seasons in Siskiyou County

As the only licensed fly fishing outfitter operating on both the California and Oregon sides of the Klamath River, the petitioner is uniquely positioned to benefit from harmonized regulations. Allowing access to the California side **this fall** or at least in 2026 would enable us to run significantly more trips during the **prime river recreation season**, supporting not just our small business, but also local lodging, dining, and transportation services.

There are **no known negative fiscal impacts** to the Department of Fish and Wildlife or other state agencies. Catch-and-release angling imposes minimal biological pressure and requires no additional hatchery investment or resource outlay.

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [Click here to enter text.](#)

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: _____

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number