

## Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026

**19. 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****(A) Central Valley**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting | September 11, 2025; WRC     |
| • <b>Today's notice hearing</b>              | <b>February 11-12, 2026</b> |
| • Discussion hearing                         | April 15-16, 2026           |
| • Adoption hearing                           | May 6, 2026                 |

**(B) Klamath River Basin**

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • WRC vetting                   | September 11, 2025; WRC     |
| • <b>Today's notice hearing</b> | <b>February 11-12, 2026</b> |
| • Discussion hearing            | April 15-16, 2026           |
| • Adoption hearing              | May 6, 2026                 |

**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 2026 for the upcoming season based on salmon abundance estimates and recommended ocean harvest.

Historically, the Commission has not amended regulations for fall and spring Klamath River Chinook salmon (KRFC and KRSC, respectively) sport fishing concurrently in its annual rulemaking. However, the KRSC sport fishery has been closed multiple times in the recent past through emergency regulations. The current stock status and need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort necessitate the Commission considering annual changes to the regulations for this fishery. As a result, beginning with the 2025 season, the Department recommends that the Commission incorporate 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 and draft proposed regulatory language (exhibits A2, A3, B2, and B3) intentionally allows for flexibility in developing the final regulations for each rulemaking, which is necessary to allow the Commission to quickly adopt regulations given the timing of the PFMC process. The

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Department will recommend specific regulations to the Commission at its April 2026 meeting for potential adoption at its May 2026 meeting.

Multiple options are presented today for bodies of water within each rulemaking.

**(A) Central Valley**

- 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 dates is indicated in [brackets] to allow for the ability to start the sport fishing season on a later date or end the season on an earlier date, 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, with a subquota applied to each section of river
    - 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 a subquota is met in a section, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length for that section.
    - 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

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Authorize publication of notices for Central Valley sport fishing and Klamath River Basin sport fishing as recommended by the Department.

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**Wildlife Resources Committee:** Authorize publication of notices as recommended by the Department.

**Department:** Authorize publication of notices consistent with the draft initial statement of reasons and draft proposed regulatory language.

### Exhibits

- A1. [Department memo, received January 22, 2026](#)
- A2. [Draft initial statement of reasons \(Central Valley\)](#)
- 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 6, 2026](#)
- B2. [Draft initial statement of reasons \(Klamath River Basin\)](#)
- 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.

## Memorandum

**Date:** January 21, 2026

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

**From:** Valerie Termini  
Acting Director

**Subject:** **Submittal of Initial Statement of Reasons to Amend Central Valley Sport Fishing Regulations for the February 11-12, 2026, Fish and Game Commission Meeting**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publishing notice of its intent to amend subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

The Department is presenting four regulatory options for the 2026 Central Valley sport fishing regulations for the Commission's consideration in May 2026 as follows:

Option 1 – Allows take of any size Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits, which are to be determined.

Option 2 – Allows take of a limited number of adult Chinook Salmon, with grilse Chinook Salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limits.

Option 3 – Allows a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery.

Option 4 – Closed to take and possession of Chinook Salmon.

The purpose for providing options is to increase flexibility for development of the final Central Valley sport fishing regulations. Specific bag and possession limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; SRFC) will be presented to the Commission after the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopts its final recommendations at its April 2026 meeting. The Commission may adopt these options for each river section independently, or in combination to meet PFMC SRFC management objectives and maximize recreational salmon fishing

opportunities.

To further increase flexibility for development of Chinook Salmon sport fishing regulations in the Central Valley, the Department is also proposing a range of consecutive fishing days encompassed within the historical open fishing season window (e.g., July 16 through December 31) specific to each 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 2026 meeting. Having this flexibility will allow the Commission and Department to provide fishing opportunities while still protecting salmon populations.

The Department is also proposing to allow the harvest of Brown Trout in the Sacramento River. This proposed change will reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead and align these regulations with existing regulations for Brown Trout in anadromous waters. The proposed regulations add take for Brown Trout to Section 7.40, subsections (b)(80)(B)(1) and (2) and (C) with a bag limit of 5 fish per day and 10 fish in possession.

The draft negative declaration for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act will be provided to the Commission prior to the April 2026 discussion hearing. The Department asks that the Commission request that the Office of Administrative Law make the regulations effective on or before July 15, 2026.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Jay Rowan, Fisheries Branch Chief, or Senior Environmental Scientist Karen Mitchell at [Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).

ec: **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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January 21, 2026  
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State of California  
Fish and Game Commission  
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 Initial Statement of Reasons: December 20, 2025

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 12, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing:

Date: May 6, 2026

Location: Webinar/Teleconference

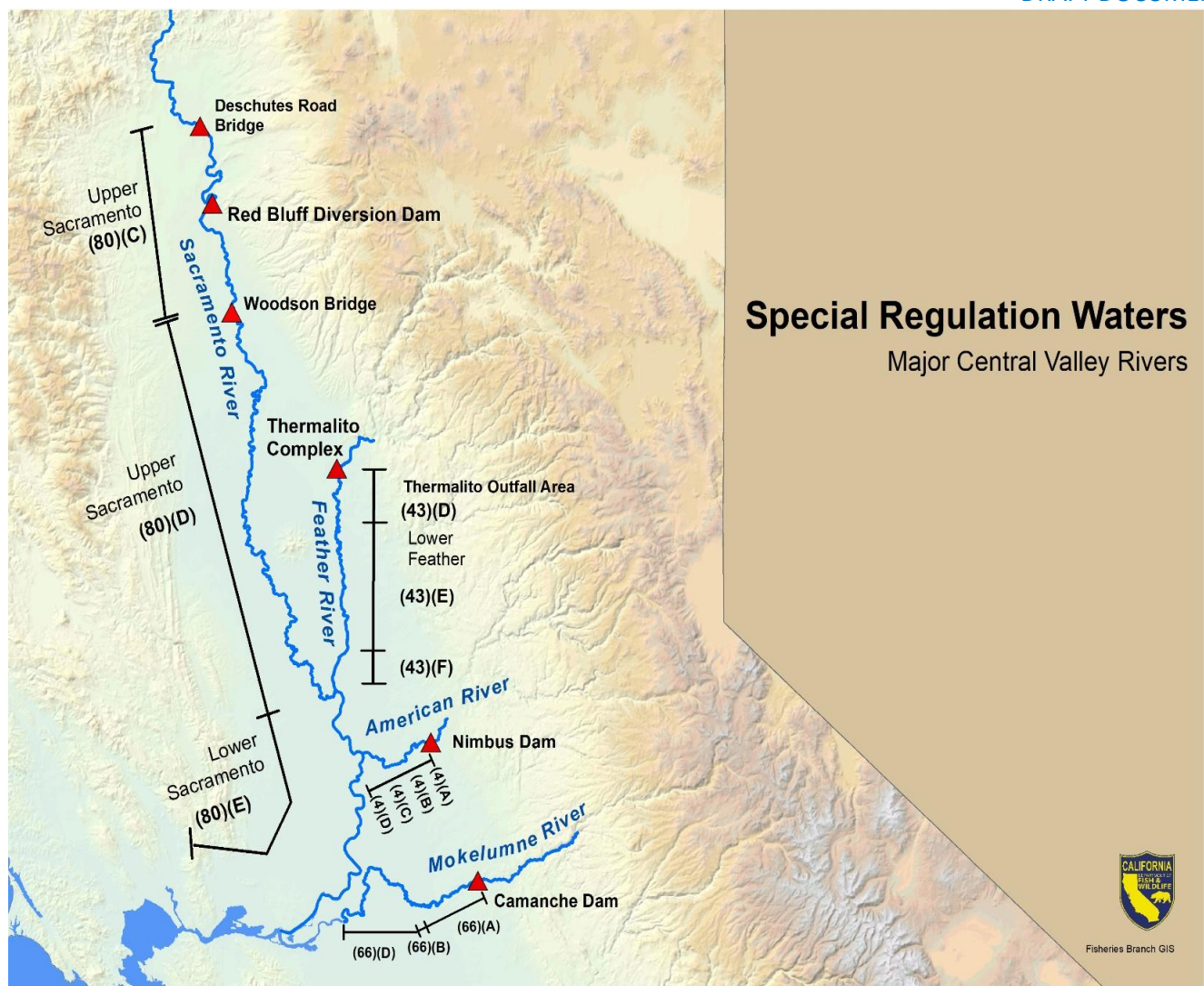
III. Description of Regulatory Action

(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).

Current regulations in subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 prescribe the 2026 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 current “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 2026 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2026 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2026 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, 2026 meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 6, 2026, meeting.

#### (b) Proposed Regulations

#### 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. In



recent years, low rivers flows, caused by low precipitation, and/or low salmon abundance estimates have forced the Commission 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 Commission needs the flexibility to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

To address this, annually the Department proposes 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 2026 meeting. Having this flexibility will allow the Commission and Department to provide fishing opportunity while still protecting salmon populations.

### **Separate Chinook Salmon Seasons from other Sport Fish Species Seasons**

Under existing regulations, the open fishing seasons for Chinook Salmon in the Central Valley are presented in the same row in the regulatory text table as other sport fish species including steelhead trout, Striped Bass, and Shad. The Commission's recent change of the Chinook Salmon fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates does not apply to other sport fish species. The existing fishing seasons for other sport fish species will remain unchanged. Therefore, it is necessary to uncouple the fishing seasons for these distinct fisheries throughout the regulatory text. The separated seasons are indicated in the Proposed Regulatory Language by having Chinook Salmon in a separate row in the table from the other sport fish species including hatchery steelhead and hatchery trout. This change does not alter the season for non-Chinook Salmon sport fish opportunities but rather combines and consolidates the season into one row in the table.

### **Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits**

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2026 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission's consideration to tailor 2026 Central Valley fishery management to target 2026 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 2026 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 Highway 99 bridge.

[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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – 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 Highway 99 bridge.

[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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [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 – 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 – 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.

[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 – 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 – 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 – 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 Highway 99 bridge.

[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 – 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 – 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 – 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 – October 31] through [August 1 – October 31], and [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 – 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 – 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 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.

### **Brown Trout Harvest Opportunity in Sections of the Sacramento River**

Non-native Brown Trout have occasionally been caught in the steelhead trout fishery on the Sacramento River, particularly in the reaches below Keswick Dam. Brown Trout are highly piscivorous and are known to prey upon juvenile Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and steelhead trout in locations where their presence overlaps, which can suppress native species recovery. The Department is proposing to allow the harvest of Brown Trout in the Sacramento River. This proposed change will reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead and align these regulations with existing regulations for Brown Trout in anadromous waters. The

proposed regulations add take for Brown Trout to Section 7.40, subsections (b)(80)(B)(1) and (2) and (C) with a bag limit of 5 fish per day and 10 fish in possession. A harvest of 5 Brown Trout is appropriate given the recent catch and observations by the Department.

(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 PPMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season.

The proposed regulations are also necessary to decouple the steelhead and proposed Brown Trout fishery season date ranges from that of Chinook Salmon in the regulatory text. As well as provide harvest opportunity on the non-native Brown Trout in the upper most reaches of the Sacramento River.

(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 Commission and 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. Ij88-03*. 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 11, 2025.

### 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 2025 fishing regulations in place. The current regulations provide limited fishing opportunities for SRFC in the Central Valley. The no change alternative would not allow for an increase in fishing opportunity for SRFC in 2026 even if the 2026 SRFC stock abundance forecast is sufficiently high to allow for additional 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.

The no change alternative would not allow for the decoupling the Chinook Salmon season date ranges from that of other sport fish in the regulatory text. As well as provide harvest opportunity on the non-native Brown Trout in the upper most reaches of the Sacramento River.

#### 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 reduction of up to 24 jobs from the historical baseline with Option 2, 47 jobs for Option 3, and 119 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 salmonid (steelhead/ Rainbow trout) and non-salmonid species for Option 4. Additionally, all options



represent a net gain in angler days from the 2025 season and could potentially result in gains of 55-174 jobs based on the selected option (see Table 1 below).

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 (2026\$) 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 2017-2025 seasons (the 2023 and 2024 salmon closure years are excluded in the baseline) for the Central Valley fishery experiences on average 174,192 sport salmon angler days in which anglers spend an average of \$118.84 (2026\$) per day contributing approximately \$29.1 million (2026\$) 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 approximately \$29.1 Million (2026\$), that supports up to 237 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. The impacts are measured by comparing the options with the economic impact from the 2025 season, which included approximately 46,646 angler days based on annual creel survey data.

**Table 1. Central Valley Fishery Projected Economic Impacts 2026**

| Regulation      | Angler Days                | Angler Expenditures         | Total Econ Impact           | Jobs                |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Option 1</b> | 174,192 <sup>1</sup>       | \$20,700,221                | \$29,107,692                | 237                 |
| <b>Option 2</b> | 156,773                    | \$18,630,199                | \$26,196,923                | 214                 |
| <b>Option 3</b> | 139,364                    | \$16,560,177                | \$23,286,154                | 190                 |
| <b>Option 4</b> | 87,096 <sup>2</sup>        | \$10,350,111                | \$14,553,846                | 119                 |
| Year            | Angler Days                | Angler Expenditures         | Total Econ Impact           | Jobs                |
| <b>2025</b>     | 46,646                     | \$5,543,208                 | \$7,794,603                 | 64                  |
| Regulation      | Angler Day Gains From 2025 | Expenditure Gains From 2025 | Total Impact Gain From 2025 | Job Gains From 2025 |
| <b>Option 1</b> | 127,546                    | \$15,157,013                | \$21,313,089                | 174                 |
| <b>Option 2</b> | 110,127                    | \$13,086,991                | \$18,402,320                | 150                 |
| <b>Option 3</b> | 92,708                     | \$11,016,969                | \$15,491,551                | 126                 |
| <b>Option 4</b> | 40,450                     | \$4,806,902                 | \$6,759,243                 | 55                  |

<sup>1</sup>The 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.

<sup>2</sup>Projected 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 (2026\$), 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 an historically (5-year average) typical number of angler days for the 2026 Chinook Salmon season on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Option 2 may result in declines in angler days of 17,419 below a typical year but still represent an increase of 110,127 angler days from the 2025 season. Option 3 may result in larger declines but with an increase of 92,708 angler days from the previous season. Option 4 is expected to result in a 50 percent decline from the historical average but an increase in 40,450 angler days from 2025.

A share (approximately 50% for all options) of anglers are assumed to continue pursuing other in-river sport fish aside from Chinook salmon, such as steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and catfish (*Ictalurus spp.*), and that may mitigate some adverse impacts from any reductions in salmon fishing. Additionally, the proposed regulations to increase the Brown Trout bag limit to five fish per day with 10 fish in possession should provide additional opportunities for anglers. 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 0-119 jobs statewide. However, all options represent a net gain in angler days from the 2025 season and could potentially result in gains of 55-174 jobs based on the selected option.

(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 2025 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. 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 2026 meeting and will adopt its final regulatory recommendations at its April 2026 meeting based on the PFMC salmon abundance estimates and recommendations for ocean harvest for the coming season. Based on the April 2026 recommendation by PFMC, the Department will recommend specific seasons and bag and possession limit regulations to the Commission at its April 16, 2026, meeting. The Commission will then consider adoption of the Central Valley sport fishing regulations at its May 6, 2026, meeting.

### Proposed Regulations

#### Chinook Salmon Bag and Possession Limits

The Department recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2026 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission’s consideration to tailor 2026 Central Valley fishery management to target 2026 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), (E), and (F).
- 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 2026 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 Chinook Salmon Seasons from other Sport Fish Species Seasons**

Under existing regulations, the open fishing seasons for Chinook Salmon in the Central Valley are presented in the same row in the regulatory text table as other sport fish species including steelhead trout, Striped Bass, and Shad. The Department's recent change of the Chinook Salmon fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a range of dates does not apply to other sportfish species. The existing fishing seasons for other sportfish species will remain unchanged. Therefore, it is necessary to uncouple the fishing seasons for these distinct fisheries throughout the regulatory text. The separated seasons are indicated in the Proposed Regulatory Language by having Chinook Salmon in a separate row in the table from the other sport fish species including hatchery steelhead and hatchery trout. This change does not alter the season for non-Chinook Salmon sport fish opportunities but rather combines and consolidates the season into one row in the table.

### **Brown Trout Harvest Opportunity in Sections of the Sacramento River**

Non-native Brown Trout have occasionally been caught in the steelhead trout fishery on the Sacramento River, particularly in the reaches below Keswick Dam. Brown Trout are highly piscivorous and are known to prey upon juvenile Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and steelhead trout in locations where their presence overlaps, which can suppress native species recovery. The Department is proposing to allow the harvest of Brown Trout in the Sacramento River. This proposed change will reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead and align these regulations with existing regulations for Brown Trout in anadromous waters. The proposed regulations add take for Brown Trout to Section 7.40, subsections (b)(80)(B)(1) and (2) and (C) with a bag limit of 5 fish per

day and 10 fish in possession. A harvest of 5 Brown Trout is appropriate given the recent catch and observations reported to the Department.

(a) 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.

## Proposed Regulatory Language

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)]...

*Note: Shading in grey shows the consolidation of the hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead seasons.*

| Body of Water  | Open Season and Special Restrictions  | Daily Bag and Possession Limit   |
|--|---|--|
| (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 <del>Oct. 31</del> . Only barbless hooks may be used.  | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.  |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>   |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 15 for Chinook Salmon.</del><br><u>[Jul. 16 – Oct. 31] through [Jul. 16 – Oct. 31].</u><br>Only barbless hooks may be used. | <del>1 Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><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>  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <b>Option 4:</b><br><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 <del>Dec. 31.</del>   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.  |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del><br><br>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon.<br><br><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 31] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 31].</u> | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del><br><br>1 Chinook Salmon.<br><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| (D) From the Jibboom Street bridge to the mouth. | Jan. 1 through Jul. <del>15</del> <u>Dec. 31</u> .   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead <sup>**</sup> .<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead <sup>**</sup> in possession.   |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>                             | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead<sup>**</sup>.<br/>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead<sup>**</sup> in possession.</del>  |
|  | Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon<br><br><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u> | Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.<br><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> |
|  | <del>Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead<sup>**</sup>.<br/>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead<sup>**</sup> in possession.</del>  |

. . . [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.<br>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<br><del>Dec. 31.</del>                                | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.   |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del> | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>  |
|  | <del>Jul. 16 through Sept. 15 for Chinook Salmon.</del>                      | <del>1 Chinook Salmon.</del>  |
|  | <u>[Jul. 16 – Oct. 31] through [Jul. 16 – Oct. 31].</u>                      | <b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><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>  |
|---|---|--|
|   | <del>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>   |
| (E) From 200 yards above Live Oak boat ramp to the Highway 99 bridge.                   | Jan. 1 through Jul. <del>45</del> <u>Dec. 31.</u>   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.   |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>   |
|   | <p><del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u></p> | <p>1 Chinook Salmon.</p> <p><b>Option 1:</b><br/><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br/><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p><b>Option 2:</b><br/><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br/><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><b>Option 3:</b><br/><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br/><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>Option 4:</b><br/><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> |
|   | <del>Dec. 17 to Dec. 31.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>   |
| (F) From the Highway 99 bridge to the mouth. For purposes of this subsection, the lower | Jan. 1 through Jul. <del>45</del> <u>Dec. 31.</u>   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| boundary is defined as a straight line drawn from the peninsula point on the west bank to the Verona Marina boat ramp. | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del><br><br><del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec.16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u> | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del><br><br><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> |
|  | <del>Dec. 17 to Dec. 31.</del>  | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>  |

. . . [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 <del>Oct. 15</del> .  | 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 15 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>                         | <del>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del>  |
|   | Jul. 16 through Sept. 15 for Chinook Salmon.<br><br>[Jul. 16 – Oct. 15] through [Jul. 16 – Oct. 15]. | 1 Chinook Salmon.<br><br><b>Option 1:</b><br>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.<br>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.<br><br><b>Option 2:</b><br>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.<br>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.<br><br><b>Option 3:</b><br>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.<br>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.<br><br><b>Option 4:</b><br>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. |
| (B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam including Lodi Lake. | Jan. 1 through Jul. 15 <del>Dec. 31</del> .  | 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>                         | <del>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del>  |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 15 for Chinook Salmon.</del>   | 1 Chinook Salmon.   |

| <i>Body of Water</i>  | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>  | <i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>   |
|---|--|---|
|   | <u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 31]</u><br><u>through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 31].</u>  | <b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> |
| (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 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. | Jan. 1 through <del>Jul. 15</del> <u>Dec. 31.</u>  | 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del><br><del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon.</del><br><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u><br><u>through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u> | <del>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>1 Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><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><br><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 4:</b><br><u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> |
|                      | <del>Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.</del>         | <del>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del>   |

. . . [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.  | Jan 1. through Mar. 31.<br>Only barbless hooks may be used. | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.<br><u>5 Brown Trout.</u><br><u>10 Brown Trout in possession.</u> |
|  | Closed to all fishing from Apr. 1 through Jul. 31.          |   |

| <i>Body of Water</i>   | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>   | <i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>   |
|--|---|---|
|  | Aug 1. through Dec. 31.<br>Only barbless hooks may be used.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.<br><u>5 Brown trout.</u><br><u>10 Brown trout in possession.</u>   |
| 2. Sacramento River from the Highway 44 bridge to the Deschutes Road bridge. | All year.<br>Only barbless hooks may be used.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.<br><u>5 Brown Trout.</u><br><u>10 Brown Trout in possession.</u>   |
| (C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.       | Jan. 1 through Jul. 31 <del>Dec. 31</del> .   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.<br>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.<br><u>5 Brown Trout.</u><br><u>10 Brown Trout in possession.</u>   |
|  | <del>Aug. 1 through Oct 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del>                              | <del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del><br><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del>  |
|  | Aug 1. through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon.<br><br><u>[Aug. 1 – Oct. 31] through [Aug. 1 – Oct. 31].</u> | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>Option 1:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u><br><br><b>Option 2:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u><br><br><b>Option 3:</b><br><u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> |

| Body of Water  | Open Season and Special Restrictions  | Daily Bag and Possession Limit   |
|--|---|--|
|  |   | <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>Option 4:</b><br/> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>   |
|  | <p><del>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del></p> <p><del>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 for Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><u>[Nov. 1 – Dec. 31] through [Nov. 1 – Dec.31].</u></p> | <p><del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del></p> <p><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del></p> <p><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><b>Option 1:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p><b>Option 2:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <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><b>Option 3:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>Option 4:</b><br/> <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. | <p>Jan. 1 through <del>Jul. 15</del><u>Dec. 31.</u></p>   | <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>  |



| Body of Water   | Open Season and Special Restrictions   | Daily Bag and Possession Limit  |
|---|--|---|
|   | <p><del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del></p> <p><del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16].</u></p> | <p><del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del></p> <p><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del></p> <p><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><b>Option 1:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p><b>Option 2:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <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><b>Option 3:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>Option 4:</b><br/> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> |
|   | <p><del>Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.</del></p>   | <p><del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del></p> <p><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del></p>   |
| (E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge | <p>Jan. 1 through <del>Jul. 15</del><u>Dec. 31.</u></p>  | <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>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>  |
|---|---|--|
| (includes Suisun Bay, Grizzly Bay and all tributary sloughs west of Highway 160). | <p><del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del></p> <p><del>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u></p> | <p><del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del></p> <p><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del></p> <p><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><b>Option 1:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p><b>Option 2:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <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><b>Option 3:</b><br/> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u><br/> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>Option 4:</b><br/> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> |
|   | <del>Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.</del>   | <p><del>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del></p> <p><del>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</del></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.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

DRAFT DOCUMENT

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| DEPARTMENT NAME<br><b>Fish and Game Commission</b>  | CONTACT PERSON<br><b>David Thesell</b> | EMAIL ADDRESS<br><b>fgc@fgc.ca.gov</b> | TELEPHONE NUMBER<br><b>916 902-9291</b> |
| DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400<br><b>Amend Subsections(b)(4),(b)(43),(b)(66),Section7.40(b)(80),Title14,CCR Re:Central Valley Sport Fishing Regs.</b> |  |  | NOTICE FILE NUMBER<br><b>Z</b>          |

**A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Impacts business and/or employees | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Imposes reporting requirements              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Impacts small businesses          | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Impacts jobs or occupations       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Impacts individuals              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Impacts California competitiveness           | <input type="checkbox"/> h. None of the above (Explain below):          |

*If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.**If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.*2. The **Fish and Game Commission** estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:  
(Agency/Department)

- ☒ Below \$10 million
- ☐ Between \$10 and \$25 million
- ☐ Between \$25 and \$50 million
- ☐ Over \$50 million *[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]*

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: **100-200**Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): **Fishing boat owners, tackle stores, guides, food, fuel, lodging, campground vendors**Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: **80%**4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: **none** eliminated: **none**Explain: **Anticipated changes in fishing activity are not expected to be large enough to induce business loss/creation.**5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☐ Statewide  
☒ Local or regional (List areas): **American, Feather, Mokelumne, & Sacramento river**6. Enter the number of jobs created: **0** and eliminated: **0**Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: **Fishing guide, retail salesclerks in sport fishing serving businesses, such as:  
tackle stores, food, fuel, lodging, and campground vendors.**7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If YES, explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

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**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)****B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ N/A\*
- a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: N/A. \*This action will set Central Valley sportfishing regulations with no new compliance costs. See Addendum.
2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: N/A
3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements. Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? ☐ YES ☒ NO  
If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of units: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? ☐ YES ☒ NO  
Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: Fish and Game Code (FGC) sections 200 and 205, and to ensure consistency with federal salmon sport fishing allocations adopted by the PFMC.  
Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ 0

**C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS** *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the This action is intended to support the continued health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: sustainability of the salmon and other sport fisheries that benefit sport anglers, the health and welfare of California residents, the State's environment and businesses that support sport fishing activities.
2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☒ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?  
Explain: Statute provides Fish & Game Commission the authority to establish sport fishing regulations (FGC sec. 200, 205).
3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ \$6.8 - 21.3 M annually
4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: Proposed action is anticipated to maintain historically average levels of fishing activity that is not expected to be enough to induce the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State.

**D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: Regulation: Option 1) Any size Chinook Salmon; Alt 1: Option 2) Limited numbers of Adult Salmon and Grilse take; Alt 2: Option 3) Grilse take only; Alt 3: Option 4) No Adult or Grilse Salmon take or possession or catch and release.

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**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

|                |             |               |          |          |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| Regulation:    | Benefit: \$ | <u>21.3 M</u> | Cost: \$ | <u>0</u> |
| Alternative 1: | Benefit: \$ | <u>18.4 M</u> | Cost: \$ | <u>0</u> |
| Alternative 2: | Benefit: \$ | <u>15.5 M</u> | Cost: \$ | <u>0</u> |

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives:

Benefits & costs are only monetary or market values. "Regulation" is Option 1 in ISOR; "Alternative 1" is Option 2; "Alternative 2" is Option 3; another Alt 3 is Option 4 & shown in Addendum.

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs?

☐ YES☒ NOExplain: Fisheries management regulations traditionally involve setting harvest quotas, seasons, bag and possession limits.**E. MAJOR REGULATIONS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

***California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***

1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises exceed \$10 million? ☐ YES ☒ NO*If YES, complete E2. and E3**If NO, skip to E4*

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)*

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

☐ YES☒ NO

*If YES, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment \(SRIA\)](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: No impact on level of investment in the State.The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: No impact on level of innovation in the State.The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: Regulation benefits areconsistency w/federal fishery management goals, management of the CV fishery, health of residents & rec. businesses.

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT****A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

- ☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ a. Funding provided in \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_ or Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Statutes of \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:*

- ☐ a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the \_\_\_\_\_ Court.

Case of: \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by Section: \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Code;

- ☐ f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

- ☐ g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

- ☒ 5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

- ☐ 6. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)****B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*It is anticipated that State agencies will:*☐ a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.☐ b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

*The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.*

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE

## **Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement**

### **STD. 399 Addendum**

#### **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**

### **Background**

The proposed regulatory amendments of subsections (b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66), and (b)(80) of Section 7.40 will revise the 2025 sport fishing regulations for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) in the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers, respectively, for consistency with Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) in-river harvest projections. Collectively, these four rivers constitute the “Central Valley fishery” for SRFC for the purposes of this document.

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 river flows, caused by low precipitation, and/or low salmon abundance estimates have forced the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) 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 Commission needs the flexibility to annually adjust the SRFC fishing season lengths on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers. Having this flexibility will allow the Commission to provide fishing opportunity while still protecting salmon populations.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recognizes the uncertainty of SRFC in-river harvest projections. Therefore, for the 2026 Central Valley fishery, the Department is presenting four regulatory options for the Commission’s consideration to tailor 2026 Central Valley fishery management to target 2026 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 limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].
- 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 limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].

- Option 3 is a more conservative option and allows for a grilse-only Chinook Salmon fishery up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12]. Take of adult Chinook Salmon would not be allowed.
- 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. This option prohibits all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option will allow take of other species.

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 changes to the regulations are unlikely to be substantial enough to significantly impact the demand for goods and services associated with sport fishing. Sport fishing opportunities for other non-salmonid species would remain in regulation (including for Option 4).

Additionally, the current proposed regulations include provisions for brown trout sportfishing. Non-native brown trout have occasionally been caught in the steelhead trout fishery on the Sacramento River, particularly in the reaches below Keswick Dam. Brown trout are highly piscivorous and are known to prey upon juvenile Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and steelhead trout in locations where their presence overlaps, which can suppress native species recovery. The Department is proposing increasing the Brown Trout bag limit to five fish per day with 10 fish in possession. This proposed change will reduce predation on juvenile salmon and steelhead and align these regulations with existing regulations for brown trout in anadromous waters. The proposed regulations add take for Brown Trout to 7.40(b)(80)(B)(1) and (2) and (C). A harvest of 5 brown trout is appropriate given the recent catch and observations by the Department.

## **Economic Impact Statement**

### ***Section A***

#### **Question 6. Number of jobs created and eliminated.**

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 sport fish and/or activities in the affected areas the reduction in angler spending could reduce the support for an estimated 0-119 jobs statewide (refer to Section C, question 3 Table 1, below). Additionally, the proposed changes to brown trout angling are expected to benefit anglers by increasing opportunity to fish for them, though it should be noted that brown trout are rarely caught and the expansion of opportunity is not expected to materially increase the demand for guides or bait, lures, or equipment in a way that would create employment opportunities.

## **Section B**

### **Question 1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime?**

\$0. The regulations under consideration seek to maintain SRFC sport fishing opportunities with no new compliance costs. The proposed bag and possession limits, body of water, and season length shifts do not prescribe any particular equipment or methods.

## **Section C**

### **Question 1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation.**

Adopting scientifically-based SRFC bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of Chinook salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of the SRFC fishery, general health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport fishing in the Central Valley.

### **Question 3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime?**

The total economic impact of the continued level of activity throughout the Central Valley fishery is reported as the “benefit” of this regulation while the incremental change introduced by this proposed regulation is reported as the “costs.” Approximately \$14.6 – 29.1 million (2026\$) is the total economic impact annually. The 2023 and 2024 seasons were closed to salmon fishing which induced an atypical drop in sportfishing visits, while the previous 2025 season had a partial closure that resulted in approximately 46,646 angler days, which was below the projection for Option 4. The five-year average over the more historically typical 2017-2021 seasons are used for calibrating the historical conditions in which the Central Valley fishery experiences about 174,192 sport salmon angler days where anglers spend an average of \$118.84 (2026\$) per day, contributing a total of \$20.7 million (2026\$) 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 result in an estimated total economic impact of \$29.1 million (2026\$), that supports up to 237 jobs throughout the state. However, the impacts of the regulations are measured against the 2025 season.

The proposed amendments to regulations are expected to support fishing within the five-year average historical range such that the difference or “cost” is \$0. Options 1, 2, or 3 are expected to sustain fishery activity within the range of the 2017-2021 historically typical seasons. Option 4 is projected to more substantially decrease angler days, resulting in an estimated 50 percent of the average historical level of sport fishing economic stimulus. The proposed regulatory options are presented to the Commission so that a choice may be implemented in order to align with the PFMC status report on Chinook salmon and recommended management limits.

There is always the possibility that PFMC could recommend a full closure to salmon fishing. The potential economic impact between the 2025 season, which resulted in approximately 46,646 angler days based on Creel Survey data, and the options under consideration range from \$6.8 - \$21.3 million (2026\$) depending on the option chosen as shown in Table 1.

The regional and statewide economic impacts factor into the effort to balance the maintenance of the sport fishery with resource preservation, while complying with PFMC recommendations. 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 angler days, and thus area spending. However, the anticipated economic impacts may vary a bit more or less than the consequences of 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.

**Table 1. Central Valley Fishery Projected Economic Impacts 2026**

| Regulation      | Angler Days                | Angler Expenditures         | Total Econ Impact           | Jobs                |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Option 1</b> | 174,192 <sup>1</sup>       | \$20,700,221                | \$29,107,692                | 237                 |
| <b>Option 2</b> | 156,773                    | \$18,630,199                | \$26,196,923                | 214                 |
| <b>Option 3</b> | 139,364                    | \$16,560,177                | \$23,286,154                | 190                 |
| <b>Option 4</b> | 87,096 <sup>2</sup>        | \$10,350,111                | \$14,553,846                | 119                 |
|                 |                            |                             |                             |                     |
| Year            | Angler Days                | Angler Expenditures         | Total Econ Impact           | Jobs                |
| <b>2025</b>     | 46,646                     | \$5,543,208                 | \$7,794,603                 | 64                  |
|                 |                            |                             |                             |                     |
| Regulation      | Angler Day Gains From 2025 | Expenditure Gains From 2025 | Total Impact Gain From 2025 | Job Gains From 2025 |
| <b>Option 1</b> | 127,546                    | \$15,157,013                | \$21,313,089                | 174                 |
| <b>Option 2</b> | 110,127                    | \$13,086,991                | \$18,402,320                | 150                 |
| <b>Option 3</b> | 92,708                     | \$11,016,969                | \$15,491,551                | 126                 |
| <b>Option 4</b> | 40,450                     | \$4,806,902                 | \$6,759,243                 | 55                  |

<sup>1</sup> Base year used for angler days is the five-year average of 2017–2021 (years with no emergency closure) annual creel survey data.

<sup>2</sup> Projected 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 (2026\$), 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 an historically (5-year average) typical number of angler days for the 2026 Chinook Salmon season on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers.

Option 2 may result in declines in angler days of 17,419 below a typical year, but still represent an increase of 110,127 angler days from the 2025 season. Option 3 may result in larger declines but with an increase of 92,708 angler days from the previous season. Option 4 is expected to result in a 50 percent decline from the historical average but an increase in 40,450 angler days from 2025. Together, the proposed options represent a potential gain of \$6.8 to \$21.3 million in total economic activity for the region.

A share (approximately 50% for all options) of anglers are assumed to continue pursuing other in-river sport fish aside from Chinook salmon, such as steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and catfish (*Ictalurus spp.*), and that may mitigate some adverse impacts from any reductions in salmon fishing. Additionally, the proposed regulations to increase the Brown Trout bag limit to five fish per day with 10 fish in possession should provide additional opportunities for anglers. 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.

**Question 4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation.**

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 anglers. The number of fishing trips and angler economic contributions are expected to remain within the range of historical averages.

**Section D**

**Question 1. Alternatives to the Regulation**

The “Regulation” is specified in the initial statement of reasons (ISOR) as **Option 1** which would allow anglers to take any size Chinook salmon up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12] (most liberal option).

Alternative 1 is specified in the ISOR as **Option 2** which would allow for take of a limited number of adult Chinook salmon, with grilse Chinook salmon making up the remainder of the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12].

Alternative 2 is specified in the ISOR as **Option 3** which is the more conservative option and allows for take of only grilse Chinook salmon up to the daily bag limit [0-4] and possession limit [0-12]. Take of adult Chinook salmon would not be allowed.

Alternative 3 is specified in the ISOR as **Option 4** would prohibit all methods of targeting salmon including catch and release fishing. Unless otherwise noted, this option would allow take of other species.

**Question 2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:**

**Table 2. Regulation and Alternatives Total Statewide Benefits and Costs (2026\$)**

| Regulation or Alternative | Benefit (Millions) | Cost (Millions) |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Regulation: Option 1      | \$21.3             | \$0             |
| Alternative 1: Option 2   | \$18.4             | \$0             |
| Alternative 2: Option 3   | \$15.5             | \$0             |
| Alternative 3: Option 4   | \$6.8              | \$0             |

## Fiscal Impact Statement

### A. Fiscal Effect on Local Government

**Answer 5.** No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

### B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

**Answer 3.** No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program. The Commission does not anticipate additional Department costs to oversee inland sport fishing in the affected areas over what is currently in place.

### C. Fiscal Effect on Federal Funding of State Programs

**Answer 3.** No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.



# CENTRAL VALLEY CHINOOK SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

## PRESENTATION TO THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION



February 11-12, 2026

Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries Program Manager

Fisheries Branch

# Presentation Overview

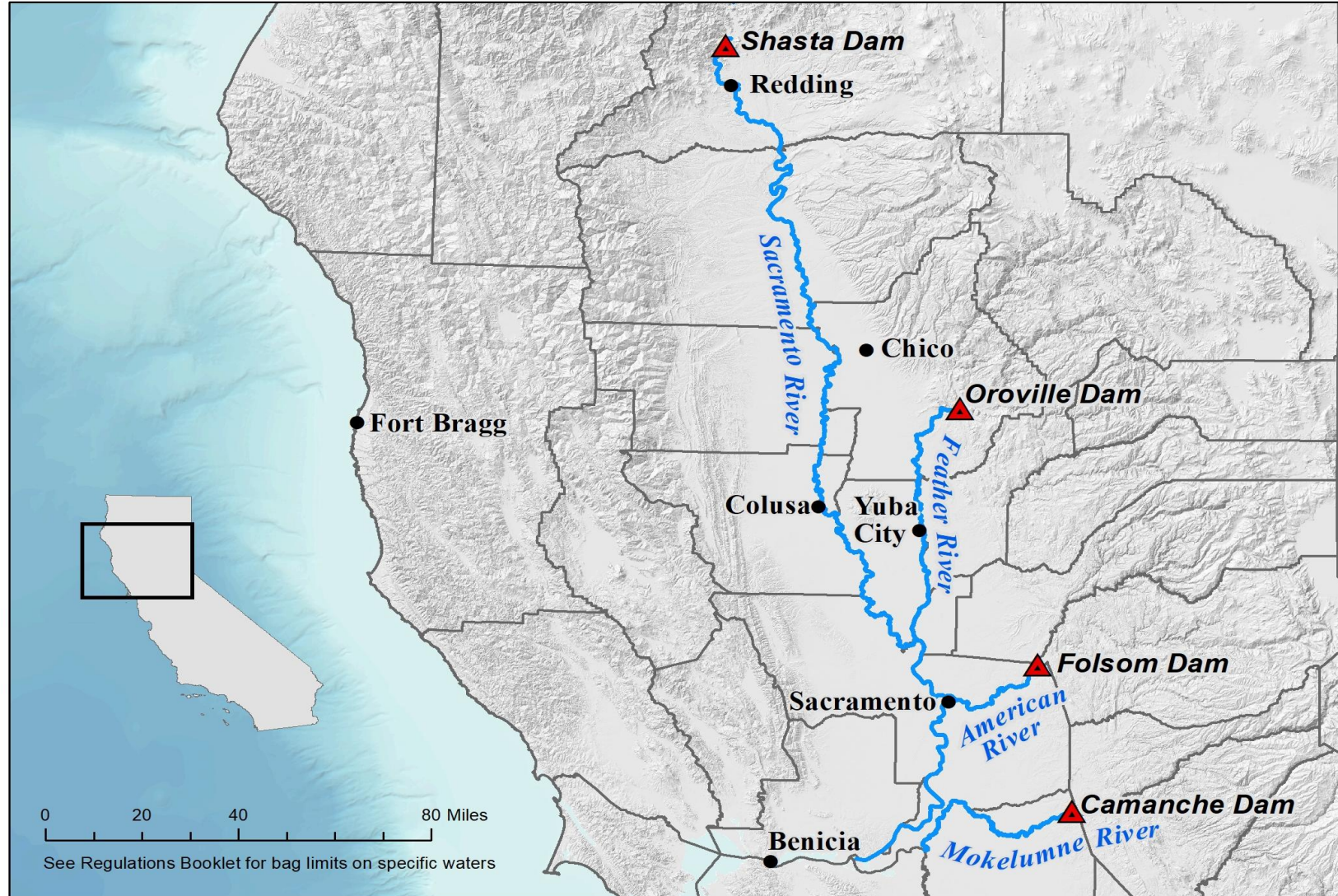
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- Map of major Central Valley rivers
- Map of Sacramento fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) special regulations waters
- 2025 SRFC sport fishing regulations
- Proposed SRFC regulatory options for 2026
- Proposed Brown Trout Harvest on Sacramento River
- Proposed updates to 7.40 Regulation Table for CV Salmon Seasons
- Timeline

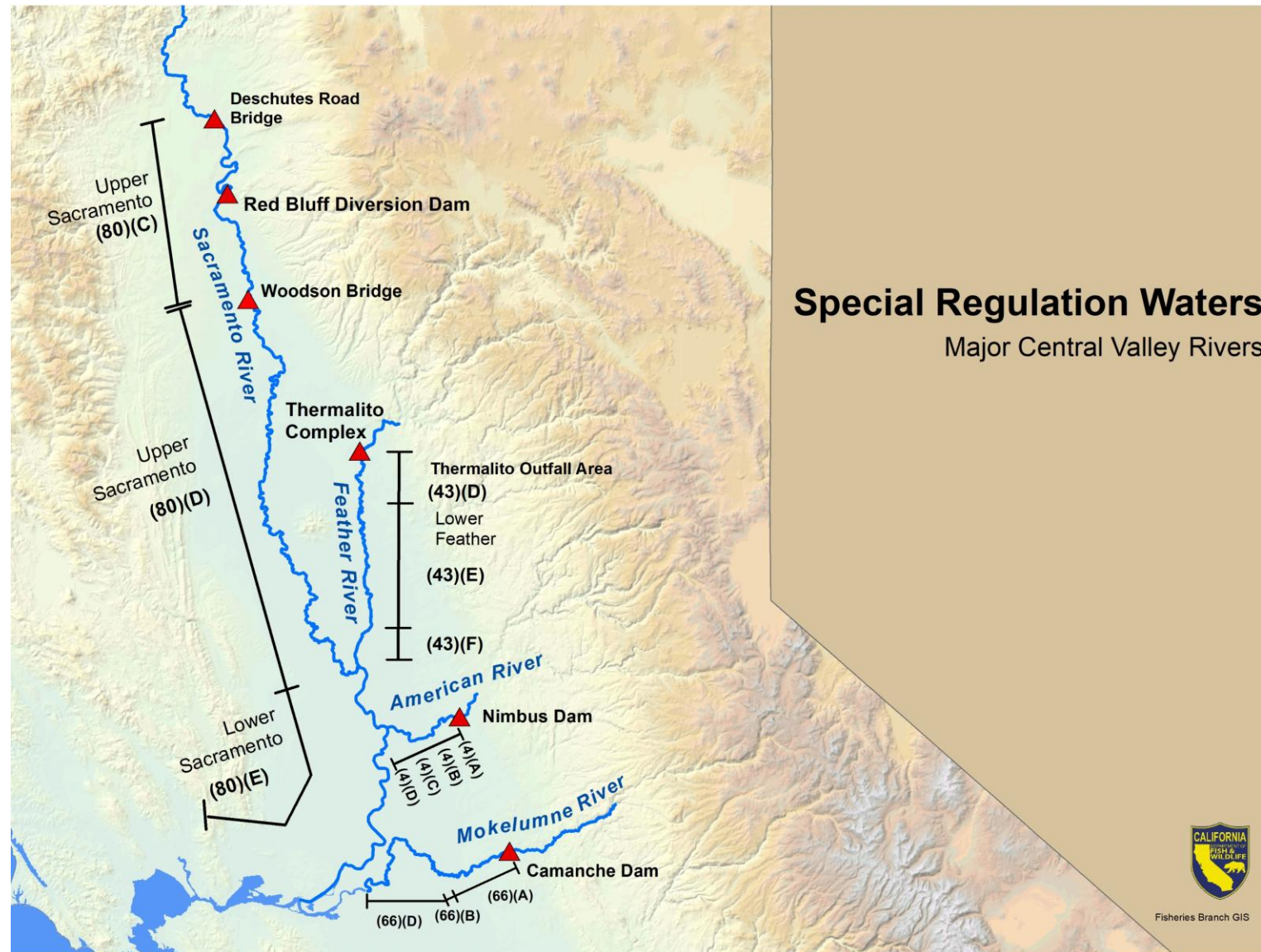


# Map of Major Central Valley Rivers





# SRFC Special Regulation Waters



# 2025 SRFC Sport Fishing Regulations



- **Sacramento River – [80(c),(d),(e)]**
  - All sections: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon
- **Feather River – [43(d),(e),(f)]**
  - (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 – [4(b),(c),(d)]**
  - (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 – [66(a),(b),(d)]**
  - (a), (b) and (d): shortened season; daily bag limit and possession limit of 1

# Proposed SRFC Regulatory Options for 2026



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

# Proposed Brown Trout Harvest Regulations



The Department proposes adding harvest of Brown Trout to Sacramento River sections 7.40 80(B)(1)(2),(C)

- Brown Trout currently do not have established populations in CV anadromous rivers; however, anglers are occasionally catching them on the Sacramento River, particularly in the reaches below Keswick Dam
- Brown Trout are highly piscivorous and are known to prey upon juvenile salmonids
- Current regulations do not allow for harvest in these sections
- Propose adding 5 fish bag daily limit, 10 fish possession limit
- This change can help reduce potential predation on juvenile salmonids and limit expansion/growth of the population into CV anadromous rivers

# Proposed Update to 7.40 Regulation Table



The Department proposes separating SRFC seasons from other Sport Fish species in the 7.40 Regulation Table

- Currently, the open fishing seasons for SRFC in the Central Valley are presented in the same row in the regulatory text table as other sport fish species such as Steelhead and Striped Bass
- The recent change of the SRFC fishing seasons from a static, uniform date range to a varying range of dates does not apply to other sport fish species seasons
- To improve clarification and remove redundant text it is necessary to uncouple the fishing seasons for these distinct fisheries throughout the regulatory text
- The separated seasons are indicated in the Proposed Regulatory Language by having Chinook Salmon in a separate row in the table from the other sport fish species



# Example of Update to 7.40 Regulation Table



| Body of Water                           | Open Season and Special Restrictions                              | Daily Bag and Possession Limit            |
|---|---|---|
| (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 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead. | 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |
|   | Jul. 16 through Sept. 15 for Chinook Salmon.                      | 1 Chinook Salmon.                         |

| Body of Water                           | Open Season and Special Restrictions   | Daily Bag and Possession Limit                       |
|---|--|--|
| (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 <del>Jul. 15</del> <u>Oct 15</u> .                | 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.            |
|   | <del>Jul. 16 through Oct. 15 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</del> | <del>1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</del> |
|   | Jul. 16 through Sept. 15 for Chinook Salmon.                                 | 1 Chinook Salmon.                                    |

# Timeline – 2026



- February 12<sup>th</sup> – Notice hearing
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Discussion hearing (post PFMC recommendation)
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Adoption Hearing (teleconference)
- New regulations go into effect July 16<sup>th</sup>



# Questions | Contact



Jonathan Nelson  
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Fisheries Branch

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*Photo credit: CDFW*

## Memorandum

**Date:** January 5, 2026

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

**From:** Valerie Termini  
Acting Director

**Subject:** **Submittal of Initial Statement of Reasons to Amend Subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, (Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations 2026) for the February 11-12 2026 Fish and Game Commission Meeting**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) authorize publishing notice of its intent to amend subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, for sport fishing regulations in the Klamath River Basin (KRB).

As in prior years, the Department is proposing a range for the adult harvest quota, daily bag and possession limits, and size limits for the Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) in-river sport fishery in the KRB (KRFC Option 1 in the enclosed documents). The Department is also proposing a range of bag and possession limits for the Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (KRSC) in-river sport fishery in the KRB (KRSC Option 1 in the enclosed documents). KRFC Option 2 is described in the enclosed documents to provide protection to KRFC should a reduction to the stock be indicated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) abundance projections. KRSC Option 2 is described in the enclosed documents to provide protection to KRSC given the history of closing the KRSC sport fishery multiple times in recent past. The proposed ranges allow the Commission to make adjustments during the 2026 regulatory cycle.

The 2026 KRB allocation of adult KRFC will be recommended by PFMC in April 2026, following a federal review of west coast salmon stocks and fishery allocation proposals. After PFMC adopts its final recommendations, the Department will present recommendations for amendments to subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40 at the Commission's April 16, 2026 meeting.

The draft negative declaration for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act will be provided to the Commission prior to the April 2026 discussion hearing.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission  
January 5, 2026  
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If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Jay Rowan, Fisheries Branch Chief or Karen Mitchell, Senior Environmental Scientist, at [Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).

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State of California  
Fish and Game Commission  
Initial 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 2026

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: November 13, 2025

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: February 12, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: April 16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: May 6, 2026

Location: 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.

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-area spawning escapement goals are established by PPMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

### *PPMC Overfishing Review*

KRFC stocks have been designated as “overfished” by PPMC. This designation is the result of not meeting conservation objectives for these stocks. Management objectives and criteria for KRFC are defined in the PPMC 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 24,0324 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 27,962 is still less than the required 40,700 natural area adult spawners conservation threshold, therefore the KRFC are still considered 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, PPMC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), and tribal entities, was submitted to PPMC in February 2019, adopted by PPMC 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 PPMC. 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 PPMC allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest is normally a minimum of 15 percent of the non-tribal PPMC harvest allocation of KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2026 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from PPMC until March 2026. The 2026 basin allocation will be recommended by PPMC in April 2026. 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 2026 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 2026 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).

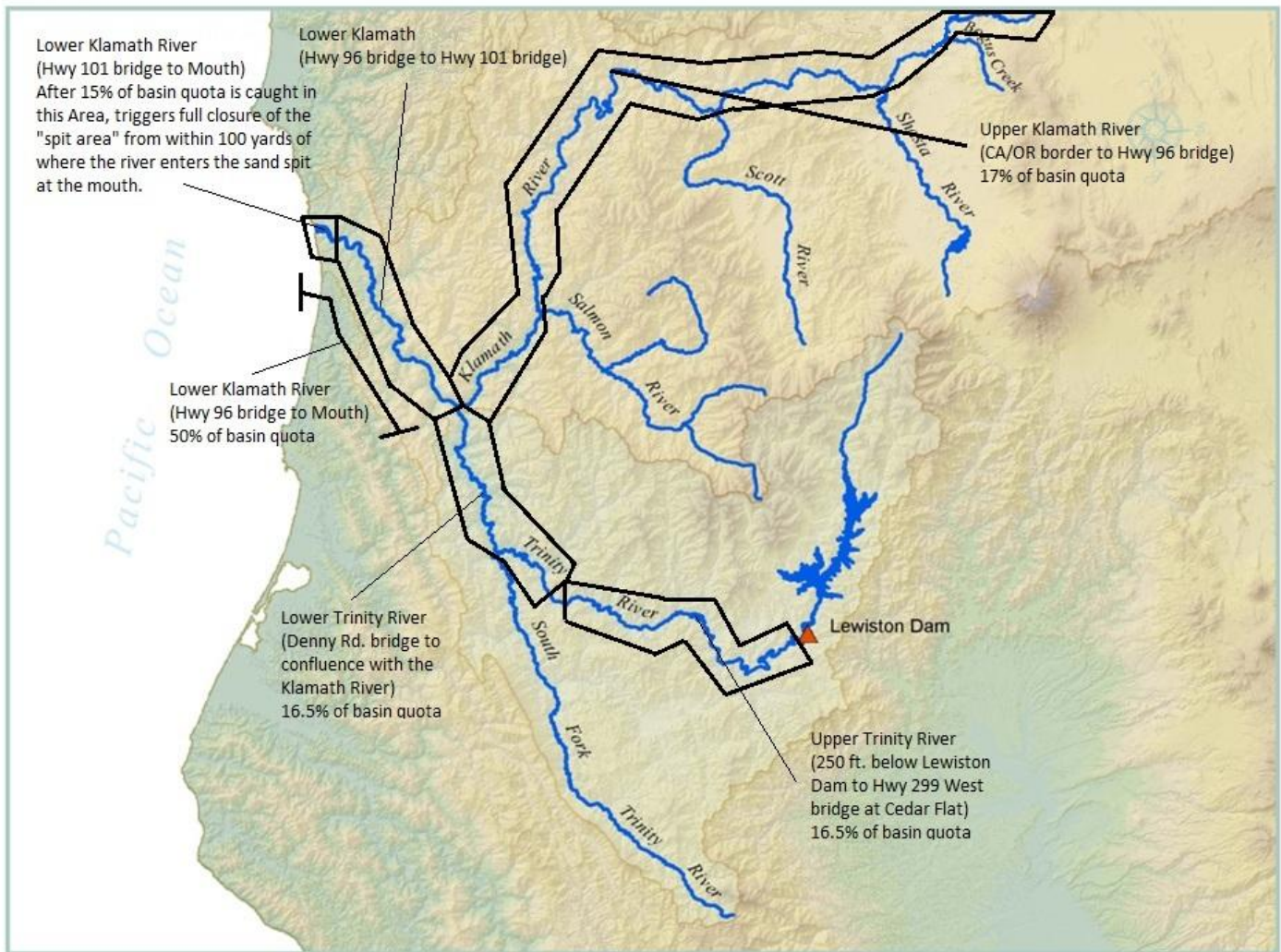
The in-river sport subquota percentages are shown in Figure 1, and are as follows:

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.





**Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquota areas of the Trinity and Klamath rivers.**

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.

Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.a. through 2.e. specify bag limits for KRFC and KRSC stocks in the Klamath River. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b., e., and f. specify bag limits for KRFC and KRSC stocks in the Trinity River. Current regulations in subsections 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)*

As in prior years, the Department proposes a range for the quota, daily bag and possession limits, and size limits for KRFC.

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 the Commission to make adjustments during the 2026 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

### **KRFC Option 1: 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 2026 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 [0-12] 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 regulations 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 2026 size cutoff. The 2026 proposed adult cutoff size will be presented at the April 2026 Commission meeting.

### **KRFC 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 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**

KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by PPMC. This in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. The KRSC sport fishery is now incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process to allow for adaptive management of stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort.

Seasons:

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

**KRSC 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 2026 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

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

**KRSC 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 predict a large shift in effort due to widespread salmon closures in other areas of the state. In any year, should the PPMC recommend a complete or near complete closure of the ocean recreational salmon fishery and/or an allocation of 0 (zero) adult KRSC 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.

**Other Changes for Clarity**

Language referencing the size of an adult fish is removed from subsection (50)(E)2.e. in the second column as the size is already included in the following column as a range in the options provided. This change is necessary for consistency and clarity. Also, in subsections (50)(C)2., (50)(D)2.b., and (50)(E)2.e the words “to the mouth” have been added. This is necessary to clarify the lower boundary of this stretch of the Klamath River to be the mouth of the river as it meets the ocean for enforcement purposes, and consistency in how the lower boundary of other river reaches are described.

**(b) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation**

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 scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

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.

(c) 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

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change

None.

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change

*In-River Sport Fishing Economics Technical Report*, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, September 2011. Available from:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=164441&inline>

(f) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication

The Department discussed the proposed amendments to the annual Klamath River Basin regulations at the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee meeting on September 11, 2025.

#### 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

The No Change Alternative would leave the existing salmon fishing closure in the Klamath River Basin in place for both KRFC and KRSC. This would not allow the Commission to re-open salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin in 2026 should PFMC preseason stock projections of 2026 adult KRFC be sufficient to allow an in-river sport fishery in 2026.

(c) Description of Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business

None identified.

#### V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no significant adverse effect on the environment, and 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 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. Additionally, the in-river harvest is almost exclusively for KRFC, therefore no significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed changes to the KRSC regulations. If the 2026 KRFC quota is reduced, visitor spending may correspondingly be reduced, and in the absence of alternative visitor activities, the drop in spending could induce some business contraction, but this would match the conditions of the current closure that has persisted since 2023. If the 2026 KRFC quota remains similar to the KRFC quotas allocated in previous years, then local economic impacts are expected to be beneficial as anglers return to the fishery. Neither scenario is 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 the final KRFC quota. The impacts range from no impact (Projection 1 under the Economic Impact Assessment (EIA), below) to small adverse impacts (Projection 3, EIA, below).

Depending on the final KRFC quota, 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 to the loss of 14 jobs. Under all alternatives, due to the limited 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 possibility of growth of businesses to serve alternative recreational activities exists. Adverse impacts to jobs and/or businesses would be less if fishing of other species and grilse KRFC is permitted, than under a complete closure to all 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. Finally, the in-river harvest is almost exclusively for KRFC, therefore no significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed changes to the KRSC regulations.

The proposed regulations will benefit the health and welfare of California residents and the

state's environment by responsibly managing KRFC and KRSC populations and facilitating outdoor recreational opportunities associated with them now and in the future. The regulations are not expected to affect worker safety.

(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

The proposed amendments under consideration will set the 2026 Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations to conform to the PFMC KRFC allocation and will set the regulations for the KRSC as well. If the Klamath River Basin is opened for salmon sport fishing levels could be similar to the levels in the 2022 sport fishing season (the last year where salmon fishing was open – no closure year). Ocean closures may in turn result in PFMC recommendations for Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishery closures for the take of adult KRFC. Adverse or positive impacts to jobs and businesses will depend on the 2026 KRFC allocation ultimately adopted by the PFMC, and the specific regulations promulgated by the Commission, in conjunction with the Department. The in-river harvest is almost exclusively for KRFC, therefore no significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed changes to the KRSC regulations.

The proposed quota of 0 to 67,600 adult KRFC in 2026 represents a range from 0 percent or no salmon fishing on adult KRFC to greater than 100 percent of the 2022 Klamath River Basin KRFC quota. Under all scenarios, sport fishing may be allowed for other sport fish species and most likely for grilse KRFC, regardless of PFMC allocation. Thus, any adverse impacts to businesses could be less severe than under a complete closure of fishing.

The preservation of Klamath River salmon stocks is vital for the ongoing success of Klamath River Basin businesses that provide goods and services related to sportfishing. Scientifically-based

KRFC allocations are necessary for the continued preservation of the resource, and therefore the prevention of adverse economic impacts.

A 2011 NMFS report (*In-River Sport Fishing Economics Technical Report*), reports that non-resident (outside the Eureka/Crescent City area) salmon or steelhead angler average expenditures are estimated to be \$136.56 (2025\$) per angler day (for lodging, food, gasoline, fishing gear, boat fuel, and guide fees). The projections do not distinguish between spring and fall runs, however, the report states that the in-river harvest is almost exclusively fall-run. The NMFS report also excluded the Trinity River, the largest tributary to the Klamath. Since the Trinity River is allocated 33 percent of the KRFC total quota, this share is used to expand salmon and steelhead angler effort, and thus impacts on associated businesses that support anglers.

In a normal year, the total non-resident angler contribution to the entire Klamath River Basin (including the Trinity River) is estimated to be about \$1,380,464 (2025\$) in direct expenditures, resulting in about \$2,422,280 (2025\$) in total economic output that supports an estimated 28 jobs throughout the state. This is a conservative estimate of total economic impact as it counts only non-resident angler expenditures. The total impact of non-resident angler direct expenditures on labor income, total economic output, and jobs are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Klamath River Basin\* Salmon and Steelhead Economic Impact 2022 (2025\$)

| Klamath Sportfishing  | Salmon      | Steelhead | Total Impact |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Expenditures          | \$1,365,600 | \$3,730   | \$1,380,464  |
| Labor Income          | \$764,144   | \$2,087   | \$766,231    |
| Total Economic Impact | \$2,415,682 | \$6,598   | \$2,422,280  |
| Total Jobs Impact     | 28.1        | 0.1       | 28.2         |

Sources: Department Northern Region Creel 2022 surveys, *In-River Sport Fishing Economics Technical Report*, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, September 2011. \* Lower Klamath and Trinity Rivers.

Local resident average expenditures per angler day are estimated to be 60 percent less (markedly reduced lodging, gasoline, and food expenditures), which yields an estimate of \$53.08 (2024\$) per angler day. Creel surveys in the Department's Northern Region (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties) reveal that local resident (Eureka/Crescent City) anglers comprise about 22 percent of Klamath River Basin anglers, with a majority (78%) of anglers coming from outside the immediate locale. Any decreases to expenditures by resident anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. Thus, the economic impact analysis focuses on non-resident angler expenditures which represent new money whose injection serves to stimulate the local economy.

#### Economic Impact Projections

To demonstrate the potential economic impacts that may result from a quota anywhere within the range of 0-67,600 KRFC, three adult salmon catch projections are as follows: 100 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit; 50 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit; and 0 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit.



## (a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

Projection 1: 100 percent of the proposed adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, as the quotas would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas, as it would be an increase from the 2025 complete closure.

Projection 2: 50 percent of the proposed adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission anticipates some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs, which may be partially offset. The decline in visits may result in some decline in business activity, but the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses directly related to fishing activities, as this would represent a net increase in visits from the 2025 complete closure of the fishery. However, with less effort being expended on salmon fishing, the possibility of alternative activities and the growth of businesses to serve those activities exists.

Projection 3: A KRFC closure or 0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure: In the event of fisheries closures for adult KRFC in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission anticipates less than 50 percent reduction in fishery-related jobs. As mentioned above, sport fishing for other species and grilse KRFC may still be allowed, thus mitigating potential job losses. A closure on the take of all KRFC was instituted in 2017, and only steelhead could be legally harvested during the fall season. The 2017 closure resulted in nearly a 50 percent drop in angler days. However, job creation or elimination tends to lag in response to short-term changes in consumer demand. The Commission anticipates a decline in regional spending and thus reduced revenues to the approximately 30 to 50 businesses that directly and indirectly serve sport fishing activities as compared to Projection 1, with unknown impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses. However, adverse impacts may be mitigated by the continued opportunity to harvest other sport fish and the potential for the substitution of salmon fishing with other recreational activities. Additionally, the long-term intent of the regulatory action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses. Finally, it should be noted that Projection 3 is the current state of the fishery since the closure began in 2023.

## (b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

Projection 1: 100 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses, as the quotas would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

Projection 2: 50 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission anticipates a decline in visits to the fishery areas of less than 50 percent due to the continued sport fishing allowed for other species and grilse KRFC. This may result in some decline in business activity, but the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new businesses, or the elimination of existing businesses directly related to fishing activities. However, with less effort being expended on salmon fishing, the possibility of alternative sportfishing activities and the growth of businesses to serve those activities exists.

Projection 3: 0 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit (0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure): In the event of salmon fisheries closures for adult KRFC in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission anticipates a decline in regional spending and thus reduced revenues to the approximately 30 to 50 businesses that directly and indirectly serve sport fishing activities with unknown impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses. However, adverse impacts may be mitigated by the continued opportunity to harvest other sportfish and the potential for take of grilse KRFC. 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.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State

Projection 1: 100 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California as the quotas would not increase effort nor increase the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

Projection 2: 50 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State. Decreases in expenditures by resident anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. For non-resident anglers, however, decreases in local expenditures associated with decreases in local fishing opportunities may result in increases in other expenditures outside the Klamath River Basin area.

Projection 3: 0 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit (0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure): In the event of salmon fisheries closures for adult KRFC in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission does not anticipate any expansion of businesses in California. Decreases in expenditures by anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be partially offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services as anglers pursue other sportfish, potentially including grilse KRFC, or the substitution of salmon fishing with other recreational activities.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishery and other sport fisheries encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of a 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 the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

Under all projections, the Commission does not anticipate benefits to worker safety because the proposed regulations will not impact working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Klamath River Basin salmonid 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 scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

Consistency with Federal Fishery Management Goals: California's salmon sport fishing regulations need to align with the new Federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California. The PFMC annually reviews the status of west coast salmon populations. As part of that process, it recommends west coast adult salmon fisheries regulations aimed at meeting biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP. These recommendations coordinate west coast management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, and California inland salmon sport fisheries. These recommendations are subsequently implemented as ocean fishing regulations by the NMFS, and as salmon sport regulations for State marine and inland waters by the Commission.

## 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 27,962 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 2026 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from PFMC until March 2026. The 2026 basin allocation will be recommended by PFMC in April 2026. 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 2026 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 2026 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.

Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.a. through 2.e. specify bag limits for KRFC and KRSC stocks in the Klamath River. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b., e., and f. specify bag limits for KRFC and KRSC stocks in the Trinity River. Current regulations in subsections 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 the PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2026 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

#### KRFC Option 1: 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 2026 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 regulations 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 2026 size cutoff. The 2026 proposed adult cutoff will be presented at the April 2026 Commission meeting.

*KRFC Option 2: 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*

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. The KRSC sport fishery has been incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process to allow for adaptive management of stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort.

Seasons:

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

*KRSC 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 2026 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

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

*KRSC Option 2: 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.

*Other Changes for Clarity*

Language referencing the size of an adult fish is removed from subsection (50)(E)2.e. in the second column as the size is already included in the following column as a range in the options provided. This change is necessary for consistency and clarity. Also, in subsections (50)(C)2., (50)(D)2.b., and (50)(E)2.e the words “to the mouth” have been added to clarify the lower boundary of this stretch of the Klamath River to be the mouth of the river as it meets the ocean.

*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.

## Proposed Regulatory Language

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)(49)] . . .*

#### **(50) Klamath River Basin Regulations.**

All anadromous Waters of the Klamath River Basin and Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam. This subsection applies only to waters of the Klamath River Basin that are accessible to anadromous salmonids. This subsection does not apply to waters of the Klamath River Basin that are inaccessible to anadromous salmon and trout, portions of the Trinity River system upstream of Lewiston Dam, and the Shasta River and tributaries upstream of Dwinell Dam.

#### **(A) Restrictions and Requirements.**

1. Only barbless hooks may be used. (For definitions regarding legal hook types, hook gaps and rigging see Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2.10.)
2. During closures to the take of adult salmon, it shall be unlawful to remove any adult Chinook Salmon from the water by any means.
3. See Section 1.74 for sport fish report card requirements.

#### **(B) General Area Closures.**

1. No fishing is allowed within 750 feet of any department fish-counting weir.
2. No fishing is allowed from the Ishi Pishi Road bridge upstream to and including Ishi Pishi Falls from Aug. 15 through Dec. 31. Exception: members of the Karuk Tribe listed on the current Karuk Tribal Roll may fish at Ishi Pishi Falls using hand-held dip nets.
3. No fishing is allowed from Sep. 15 through Dec. 31 in the Klamath River within 500 feet of the mouths of the Salmon, Shasta and Scott rivers and Blue, Bogus, Fall and Shovel creeks.
4. No fishing is allowed from Jun. 15 through Sep. 14 in the Klamath River from 500 feet above the mouth of Blue Creek to 500 feet downstream of the mouth of Blue Creek.

#### **(C) Klamath River Basin Possession Limits.**

1. Trout Possession Limits.
  - a. The Brown Trout possession limit is 20.
  - b. The hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead possession limits are as follows:
    - (i) Klamath River: 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.
    - (ii) Trinity River: 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.
2. Chinook Salmon Possession Limits.

**KRSC Option 1:** a. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth from Jul. 1 through Aug. 14 and the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence of the South Fork Trinity River from Jul. 1 through Aug. 31: ~~Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.~~ [0-2] Chinook Salmon.

**KRSC Option 2:** a. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth from Jul. 1 through Aug. 14 and the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence of the South Fork Trinity River from Jul. 1 through Aug. 31: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.

**KRFC Option 1:** b. Klamath River from Aug. 15 to Dec. 31 and Trinity River from Sep. 1 to Dec. 31: ~~Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.~~ [0-12] Chinook Salmon. No more than [0-4] Chinook Salmon over [20-24] inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over [20-24] inches total length is allowed.

**KRFC Option 2:** b. Klamath River from Aug. 15 to Dec. 31 and Trinity River from Sep. 1 to Dec. 31: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.

(D) Klamath River Basin Chinook Salmon Quotas.

Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon take is regulated using quotas. Accounting of the tribal and non-tribal harvest is closely monitored from Aug. 15 through Dec. 31 each year. Quota areas are noted in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E) with “Fall-run Quota” in the *Open Season and Special Restrictions* column.

1. Quota for Entire Basin.

The ~~2025~~2026 Klamath River Basin quota is ~~0~~[0-67,600] Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon. The department shall inform the commission, and the public via the news media, prior to any implementation of restrictions triggered by the quotas. (Note: A department status report on progress toward the quotas for the various river sections is updated weekly, and available by calling 1-800-564-6479.)

2. Subquota Percentages.

- a. The subquota for the Klamath River upstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec and the Trinity River is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
  - (i) The subquota for the Klamath River from the California-Oregon border to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec is 17% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
  - (ii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
  - (iii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
- b. The subquota for the lower Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
  - (i) The Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) will close when 15% of the total Klamath River Basin quota is taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

(E) Klamath River Basin Open Seasons and Bag Limits.

All anadromous waters of the Klamath River Basin are closed to all fishing all year except those areas listed in the following table. Bag limits are for trout and Chinook Salmon in combination unless otherwise specified.

| <i>Body of Water</i>  | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>  | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Bogus Creek and tributaries.   | All anadromous portions of Bogus Creek. Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |
| 2. Klamath River main stem from the California-Oregon state line to the mouth.                                    |  |   |
| a. Klamath River from California-Oregon state line to Copco Road bridge at Copco.                                 | Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 and fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31.<br><br>Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. | Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.<br><br>0 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |
| (i) Shovel Creek main stem downstream of barrier located approximately 2.75 miles upstream from Ager Beswick Road | All anadromous portions of tributaries. Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |
| b. Klamath River from Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate.                          | Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |
| (i) Fall Creek downstream of barrier located approximately 1 mile upstream from Copco Road                        | All anadromous portions of tributaries. Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |
| (ii) Jenny Creek downstream of barrier located approximately 2 miles upstream from Copco Road                     | All anadromous portions of tributaries. Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |
| (iii) Scotch Creek main stem downstream of barrier located approximately 3/4 mile upstream from Copco Road        | All anadromous portions of tributaries. Closed to all fishing all year.  |   |

| <i>Body of Water</i>  | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>  | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>  |
|---|--|---|
| c. Klamath River from Lakeview Road Bridge near Iron Gate to Interstate 5 bridge. | Jan. 1 to Aug. 14.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | Fall-run Quota: 0 <del>[0-11,492]</del> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 to Dec. 31, <del>2025</del> <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 2.c. and 2.d.      | <p><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> |
| d. Klamath River from Interstate 5 bridge to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.  | Jan. 1 through Aug. 14.  | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | Fall-run Quota: 0 <del>[0-11,492]</del> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 through Dec. 31, <del>2025</del> <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 2.c. and 2.d. | <p><del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del></p> <p><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.</u></p> <p><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> |

| <i>Body of Water</i>   | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>   | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>   |
|--|---|--|
| e. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.  | Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|  | Jul. 1 through Aug. 14.   | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>KRSC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><b>KRSC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|  | Fall-run Quota: <del>0</del> <u>[0-33,800]</u> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 through Dec. 31, <del>2025</del> <u>2026</u> .<br><br>Fall-run Quota Exception: Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth). This area will be closed to all fishing after 15% of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Hwy 101 bridge.<br><br>All legally caught Chinook Salmon must be retained. Once the adult ( <del>greater than 23 inches</del> ) component of the total daily bag limit has been retained, anglers must cease fishing in the spit area. | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.</u><br><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |
| 3. Salmon River main stem, main stem of North Fork downstream of Sawyer's Bar bridge, and main stem of South Fork downstream of the confluence of the East Fork of the South Fork. | Nov. 1 through Feb. 28.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |

| <i>Body of Water</i>   | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>                                       | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>  |
|--|---|---|
| 4. Scott River main stem downstream of the Fort Jones-Greenview bridge to the confluence with the Klamath River.                 | Fourth Sat. in May through Feb. 28.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
| 5. Shasta River main stem downstream of the Interstate Highway 5 bridge north of Yreka to the confluence with the Klamath River. | Fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31 and Nov. 16 through Feb. 28.                   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
| 6. Trinity River and tributaries.  |   |   |
| a. Trinity River main stem from 250 feet downstream of Lewiston Dam to the Old Lewiston Bridge.                                  | Apr. 1 through Sep. 15.<br>Only artificial flies with barbless hooks may be used. | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.   |
| b. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat.                   | Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.   | 10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|  | Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.   | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>KRSC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon</u><br><br><b>KRSC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br><br>10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |



| <i>Body of Water</i>  | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>   | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>  |
|---|---|---|
|   | Fall-run Quota: 0[0-11,154]<br>Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through<br>Dec. 31, 2025 <u>2026</u> . | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> [0-4]<br>Chinook Salmon – no<br>more than [0-4] fish over<br>[20-24] inches total length<br>until subquota is met, then<br>0 fish over [20-24] inches<br>total length.<br><br><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br><br>10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or<br>hatchery steelhead**. |
| c. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat to the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar. | Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.   | 10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or<br>hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.   | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>KRSC Option 1:</b> [0-1]<br>Chinook Salmon.<br><br><b>KRSC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br><br>10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or<br>hatchery steelhead**.   |
|   | Sep. 1 through Dec. 31.   | Closed to all fishing.  |
| d. New River main stem downstream of the confluence of the East Fork to the confluence with the Trinity River.              | Sep. 15 through Nov. 15.<br>Only artificial lures with<br>barbless hooks may be used.       | 2 hatchery trout or<br>hatchery steelhead**.  |

| <i>Body of Water</i>  | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>   | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>  |
|---|---|---|
| e. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River. | Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.   | 10 Brown Trout.<br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|   | Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.   | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>KRSC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon.</u><br><b>KRSC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br>10 Brown Trout.<br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|   | Fall-run Quota: <del>0</del> <u>[0-11,154]</u> Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through Dec. 31, <del>2025</del> <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table. | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.</u><br><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br>10 Brown Trout.<br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |
| f. Trinity River main stem downstream of the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River  | Jan. 1 through Aug. 31.   | 10 Brown Trout.<br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |

| <i>Body of Water</i>   | <i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>  | <i>Daily Bag Limit</i>   |
|--|--|--|
| to the confluence with the Klamath River.  | Fall-run Quota: 0[0-11,154] Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through Dec. 31, 20252026. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table. | <del>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</del><br><br><b>KRFC Option 1:</b> [0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.<br><br><b>KRFC Option 2:</b> <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u><br><br>10 Brown Trout.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. |
| g. Hayfork Creek main stem downstream of the Highway 3 bridge in Hayfork to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.                                  | Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
| h. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the confluence with the East Fork of the South Fork Trinity River to the South Fork Trinity River bridge by Hyampom. | Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.   | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
| i. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the South Fork Trinity River bridge at Hyampom to the confluence with the Trinity River.                             | Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.  | Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.<br><br>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |
|  | Jan. 1 through Mar. 31.  | 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.  |

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(51) 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.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

DRAFT DOCUMENT

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| DEPARTMENT NAME<br><b>California Fish and Game Commission</b>   | CONTACT PERSON<br><b>David Thesell</b> | EMAIL ADDRESS<br><b>fgc@fgc.ca.gov</b> | TELEPHONE NUMBER<br><b>916-201-6201</b> |
| DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400<br><b>Amend Section 7.40 Title 14, CCR, Re: Klamath River Basin 2026 Sport Fishing</b> |  |  | NOTICE FILE NUMBER<br><b>Z</b>          |

**A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. Impacts business and/or employees | <input type="checkbox"/> e. Imposes reporting requirements              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. Impacts small businesses          | <input type="checkbox"/> f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c. Impacts jobs or occupations       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> g. Impacts individuals              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> d. Impacts California competitiveness           | <input type="checkbox"/> h. None of the above (Explain below):          |

*If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.**If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.*2. The California Fish and Game Commission estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:  
(Agency/Department)

- ☒ Below \$10 million
- ☐ Between \$10 and \$25 million
- ☐ Between \$25 and \$50 million
- ☐ Over \$50 million *[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]*

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: 30-50Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): Fishing boat owners, tackle stores, guides, food, fuel, lodging, campgroundsEnter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: 80%4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: 0 eliminated: 0Explain: Anticipated Changes in fishing activity are not expected to be extensive enough to induce business loss or creation5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☐ Statewide  
☒ Local or regional (List areas): Siskiyou, Trinity, Del Norte, and Humboldt counties6. Enter the number of jobs created: 0-28 and eliminated: 0Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: Fishing guides, retail sales clerks in sport fishing-serving businesses, such as: tackle stores, food, fuel, lodging, and camping vendors.7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If YES, explain briefly:

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
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**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)****B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ 0
- a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
- b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
- c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
- d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: N/A. The action will set Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon (KRFC) and Klamath River spring-run Chinook salmon (KRSC) bag and possession limits with no new compliance costs. See addendum.
2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: N/A
3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements. *Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted.* \$ N/A
4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of units: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? ☐ YES ☒ NO  
Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: The Pacific Fishery Management Council annually recommends fishery allocations; state regulations are adopted for consistency with federal actions.
- Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ 0

**C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS** *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: This temporary closure is only taken to ensure the continued sustainability of the salmon and other sport fisheries that benefit sport anglers, and the area businesses involved in sport fishing activities. See addendum
2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☒ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?  
Explain: Statute provides Fish & Game Commission the authority to establish sport fishing regulations (FGC sec. 200, 205)
3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ 0(\$2.42M if open; see add.)
4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: Any changes in fishing activity levels are not expected to be sufficient enough to induce the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State. See addendum.

**D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: No alternatives were identified that would have the same desired regulatory effect. See initial statement of reasons and the addendum.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
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**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

|                |             |              |          |                        |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|----------|------------------------|
| Regulation:    | Benefit: \$ | <u>2.42M</u> | Cost: \$ | <u>1.3M (closure)*</u> |
| Alternative 1: | Benefit: \$ | <u>N/A</u>   | Cost: \$ | <u>N/A</u>             |
| Alternative 2: | Benefit: \$ | <u>N/A</u>   | Cost: \$ | <u>N/A</u>             |

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives:

Benefit=typical recreational fishing impact. \*Costs=temporaryloss of KRFC and KRSC fishing expenditures to avoid long-run overfishing costs. However, prolonged closure has made the "costs" the new baseline equilibrium, see addendum.

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs?

☐ YES☒ NOExplain: Fisheries management regulations traditionally involve setting harvest quotas, seasons, and bag and possession limits.**E. MAJOR REGULATIONS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.****California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises **exceed \$10 million?** ☐ YES ☐ NO***If YES, complete E2. and E3******If NO, skip to E4***

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)*

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

☐ YES☒ NO*If YES, agencies are required to submit a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment (SRIA) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: No effect on the level of investment in the State.The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: No effect on the incentive for innovation in products, materials, or processes.The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: Benefits to the state's environment and quality of life, recreational angling, and the businesses that serve them.



**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT****A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

- ☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ a. Funding provided in \_\_\_\_\_  
Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_ or Chapter \_\_\_\_\_, Statutes of \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of \_\_\_\_\_  
Fiscal Year: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)  
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:*

- ☐ a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the \_\_\_\_\_ Court.

Case of: \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized by Section: \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Code;

- ☐ f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

- ☐ g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

- ☐ 5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

- ☒ 6. Other. Explain The adopted closure may result in reduced local sales tax (\$11,949 to \$17,070) and reduced transient occupancy tax (\$20,680 to \$29,543). See addendum.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)****B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*It is anticipated that State agencies will:*☐ a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.☐ b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.☒ 4. Other. Explain With the closure, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife may see decline in salmon report card revenue (~\$105k). State sales tax may decline (\$69,304 to \$99,006 ) in the unlikely event that no alternate state fishing or recreation trips taken. See addendum**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

*The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.*

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE

## **STD. 399 Addendum**

### **Amend Subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations Regarding Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing 2026**

#### **Background**

Amendments to Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) every year, sets the 2026 Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations for consistency with the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) recommendation for the Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon (KRFC) allocation; the Commission will also adopt regulations for Klamath River spring Chinook salmon (KRSC). The 2022 sport fishing season was the most recent season without a full closure, which represents for purposes of this analysis, the baseline for comparison for the 2026 anticipated impacts.

#### ***KRFC Adult Stocks***

Preserving Klamath River Basin salmon stocks is vital for the ongoing success of Klamath River Basin businesses, which provide goods and services related to fishing. Scientifically-based KRFC allocations are necessary for the continued conservation of the resource and, therefore, preventing adverse economic impacts.

The Klamath River Basin in-river sport salmon fishery is managed using adult quotas, which is the maximum number of adult fish that can be harvested. For the 2026 regulatory cycle, the Department recommends that 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 2026 regulatory cycle.

The Department also recommends a size limit cutoff range between grilse and adult Chinook Salmon of 20 to 24 inches total length for adult salmon to allow for annual variation in size cut-offs, as informed by previous year(s) data to manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota more effectively. The Department conducts a post-season assessment of KRFC length and age data which will be used to help determine the proposed 2026 size cutoff, and will be presented at the April Commission meeting. Based on creel surveys over seasons in which grilse size had been changed, change in size specification for grilse is not anticipated to impact the number or length of angler trips and, thus, expenditures in the fishery areas.

Under the 2022 season regulations, the quota was 2,119 KRFC and the cutoff for adult salmon was 23 inches total length (ages three through five). Salmon less than or equal to 24 inches total length were defined as grilse salmon (age two) for the 2022 season. Once the area quota had been attained for the 2022 season, the fishery for adult-sized KRFC was closed, but angling was still allowed for grilse salmon. Regardless of limitations on salmon fishing, angling was still allowed for other sport fish species (e.g. hatchery trout or steelhead) under state regulations.

## **KRSC Adult Stocks**

The KRSC recreational sport fishery is managed by the Department outside the PFMC process, but had 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 is now incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process.

## **Assessment**

Based on a 2011 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report (*In-River Sport Fishing Economics of the Klamath River*), and adding a 33 percent increase to account for the Trinity River<sup>1</sup>, non-resident (outside the immediate locale) salmon or steelhead angler average expenditures are estimated to be \$136.56 (2025\$) per angler day (for lodging, food, gasoline, fishing gear, boat fuel, and guide fees). The projection does not distinguish between spring and fall-runs; however, the in-river harvest is almost exclusively fall-run.

Local resident average expenditures per angler day are estimated to be 60 percent less (markedly reduced lodging, gasoline, and food expenditures), or approximately \$54.62 per angler day. Any decreases to expenditures by resident anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. Thus, the economic impact analysis focuses on nonresident angler expenditures, which represents new money that serves to stimulate the local economy.

Creel surveys in the Department's Northern Region (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties) reveal that local resident (Eureka and Crescent City) anglers comprise about 22 percent of Klamath River Basin anglers, meaning that a majority (78%) of anglers come from outside the immediate locale.

In a representative non-closure year, the total non-resident angler contribution to the Klamath River Basin (including the Trinity River) is estimated to be \$1,365,600 (2025\$) in direct expenditures from an assumed 10,000 angler days, resulting in about \$2,415,682 (2025\$) in total economic output that supports an estimated 28 jobs throughout the state. This is a conservative estimate of total economic impact as it counts only non-resident angler expenditures. The impact of non-resident angler direct expenditures on labor income, total economic output, and jobs is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Klamath River Basin\* Salmon & Steelhead Sportfish Economic Impact: 2024**

|              | <b>Salmon</b> | <b>Steelhead</b> | <b>Total Impact</b> |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Expenditures | \$1,365,600   | \$3,730          | \$1,380,464         |

<sup>1</sup> The NMFS study excluded the Trinity River, the largest tributary to the Klamath River. The Trinity River is allocated 33 percent of the KRSC total quota.

|                              |             |         |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Labor Income                 | \$764,144   | \$2,087 | \$766,231   |
| <b>Total Economic Impact</b> | \$2,415,682 | \$6,598 | \$2,422,280 |
| <b>Total Jobs Impact</b>     | 28.1        | 0.1     | 28.2        |

*Sources: Department Fisheries Branch Northern Region Creel 2022 surveys, In-River Sport Fishing Economics Technical Report, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, September 2011. \* Lower Klamath and Trinity Rivers. Adjusted for 2025\$ from 2022\$.*

### **Economic Impact Projections**

Using adjusted non-resident Klamath River Basin salmon and steelhead sport fishing economic impacts from 2022 (Table 1) as a baseline, the initial economic and fiscal impact analysis evaluated three options: Adopting regulations for 100 percent of the proposed 2026 KRFC quota (0-67,000), 50 percent of the proposed 2026 KRFC quota, and a KRFC closure or 0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure. Additionally, the in-river harvest is almost exclusively for KRFC, therefore no significant impacts are anticipated from the proposed changes to the KRSC regulations. If the 2026 KRFC quota remains similar to the KRFC quotas allocated in previous years, then local economic impacts are expected to be beneficial as anglers return to the fishery. Neither scenario is expected to directly affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

### **Economic Impact Statement**

#### **Section A. Estimated Private Sector Cost Impacts**

##### **Question 4. Number of businesses that will be created or eliminated.**

*Projection 1:* 100 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota range, which realistically includes the KRSC quota if that fishery is to reopen (similar to KRFC and KRSC Option 1 described in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR)). The Commission does not anticipate any adverse impacts on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses. The quota would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fishery's areas, as it would be an increase from the 2025 complete closure.

*Projection 2:* 50 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota. In comparison to Projection 1, the Commission anticipates a decline in visits to the fishery areas of less than 50 percent due to the continued sport fishing allowed for other species and grilse KRFC. The decline in visits may result in some decline in business activity, but the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses directly related to fishing activities, as this would represent a net increase in visits from the 2025 complete closure of the fishery. However, with less effort being expended on salmon fishing, the possibility of alternative activities and the growth of businesses to serve those activities exists.

*Projection 3:* A KRFC closure or 0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure (similar to KRFC and KRSC Option 2 described in the ISOR). The Commission anticipates a decline in regional spending and thus reduced revenues to the approximately 30

to 50 businesses that directly and indirectly serve sport fishing activities as compared to Projection 1, with unknown impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses. However, adverse impacts may be mitigated by the continued opportunity to harvest other sport fish and the potential for the substitution of salmon fishing with other recreational activities. Additionally, the long-term intent of the regulatory action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses. Finally, it should be noted that Projection 3 is the current state of the fishery since the closure began in 2023.

**Question 6. Number of jobs that will be created or eliminated.**

*Projection 1:* 100 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota range, which realistically includes the KRSC quota if that fishery is to reopen. The Commission does not anticipate any impact on the creation or elimination of jobs, as the quota would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fishery's areas.

*Projection 2:* 50 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota. The Commission anticipates some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs, which may be partially offset by the potential for continued sport fishing allowed for other sport fish and grilse KRFC. A 50 percent salmon catch limit reduction, in comparison to Projection 1, will likely reduce visitor spending by slightly less than 50 percent, given price elasticities of demand for salmon fishing activity of less than one. As the "price" of fishing per unit catch increases, the demand for fishing trips declines by a lesser extent, particularly in the short run. While difficult to predict, job losses associated with a 50 percent reduction in the adult KRFC catch limit would be expected to be less than half of the 28 estimated total jobs supported by salmon angler visits based on the historical averages seen in Table 1 (i.e. fewer than 14 jobs) if a closure occurred after a previously open season. However, it should be noted that these job losses may have already occurred during the current closure period that began after the 2022 season as there has been sufficient time for adjustment lags to have set in from changed angler behavior, so the change from baseline closure conditions could potentially result in a net gain of 14 jobs added due to the fishery reopening. Additionally, with less effort being expended on salmon fishing the possibility of alternative activities and the growth of businesses to serve those activities exists.

*Projection 3:* A KRFC closure or 0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC quota and KRSC closure. The Commission anticipates less than 50 percent reduction in fishery-related jobs, as compared to Projection 1. As mentioned above, this is currently the state of the fishery since the closure in 2023, and the continued allowance of sportfishing for other species may mitigate potential job losses.

Closures on the take of all KRFC were instituted in 2017, 2023, 2024, and 2025, while closures for the KRSC were instituted in 2023 through 2025 - only steelhead could be legally harvested during those years. The 2017 closure resulted in nearly a 50 percent drop in angler days. However, job creation or elimination tends to lag in response to short-term changes in consumer demand. Thus, the potential impacts of a 2026 closure on the take of adult KRFC and KRSC are estimated to result in the loss of less than 14 jobs due to adjustment lags, and the continued sport fishing allowed for other species.



## ***Section B. Estimated Costs***

### **Question 1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime?**

\$0. The regulations seek to manage the Klamath River Basin fall-run Chinook Salmon fishery with no new compliance costs. The adopted bag and possession limits do not prescribe any particular equipment or methods.

## ***Section C. Estimated Benefits***

### **Question 1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation.**

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Conserving fish populations for the Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishery and preserving other existing sport fisheries encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of nutritious food for anglers. Sport fishing also contributes to the 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 the future stewards of California's natural resources.

The Commission does not anticipate benefits to worker safety because the proposed regulations will not impact working conditions.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Klamath River Basin salmonid 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 scientifically based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits are intended to provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

Consistency with federal fishery management goals: California's salmon sport fishing regulations need to align with the new federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California. PFMC annually reviews the status of west coast salmon populations. As part of the review process, PFMC recommends west coast adult salmon fisheries regulations aimed at meeting biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The recommendations coordinate west coast management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, and California inland salmon sport fisheries. The recommendations are subsequently implemented as ocean fishing regulations by NMFS, and as salmon sport fishing regulations for California marine and inland waters by the Commission.

**Question 3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime?**

Approximately \$2.42 million annually.

A typical non-closure season for the Klamath River Basin (including the Trinity River) experiences about 10,082 non-resident sport salmon angler days in which anglers contribute an estimated \$1.365 million (2025\$) 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 result in an estimated total economic impact of about \$2.42 million (2025\$) and support up to 28 jobs (see Table 1).

The total economic impact of continued levels of typical, non-closure activity throughout the Klamath River Basin fishery is reported as the “benefit” of this regulation, while the incremental change introduced by this adopted closure is reported as the “costs.” The costs are the adverse impact of the adopted complete KRFC and KRSC closure and are estimated to be \$1,338,009 in reduced sportfishing expenditures (see Table 1). These estimated losses of spending assume that the fishers who typically pursue KRFC salmon do not pursue other sportfish or other Klamath Basin recreation. Thus, they are conservative estimates with no mitigating substitutions toward alternative visitor activities, such as fishing for steelhead, kayaking, boating, or wildlife watching. Curiosity about the Klamath River Basin dam removals, watershed restoration, Native American festivals, whitewater rafting, or other activities could increase out-of-town visitors and local expenditures whether salmon are running or not. The long-term intent of the proposed regulatory action is to increase sustainability of fishable salmon stocks and consequently, promote the long-term viability of businesses that support sportfishing.

**Question 4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation.**

*Projection 1:* 100 percent of the proposed adult KRFC catch limit. The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California as the quota would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

*Projection 2:* 50 percent of the proposed adult KRFC catch limit. The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State. As compared to the economic impacts of salmon angler visits (Table 1), decreases in expenditures by resident anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. For non-resident anglers, however, decreases in local expenditures associated with decreases in local fishing opportunities may result in increases in other expenditures outside the Klamath River Basin area.

*Projection 3:* A KRFC closure or 0 percent of the proposed adult KRFC catch limit, representing the current state of the fishery since the closure in 2023. The Commission does not anticipate any expansion of businesses in California. As compared to the economic impacts of salmon angler visits (Table 1), decreases in expenditures by anglers associated

with reduced fishing opportunities may be partially offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services as visitors fish for other sport fish or substitute salmon fishing with other recreational activities.

### ***Section D. Alternatives to the Regulation***

**Question 1. List all alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not:**

*Alternative 1:* No other alternatives were identified by or brought to the attention of the Commission that would have the same desired regulatory effect.

The use of more liberal regulations for the KRFC quota, and for KRSC and KRFC bag limits, possession limits, and minimum adult salmon size would be less desirable than those proposed. More liberal regulations for KRFC bag limits, possession limits, and minimum adult salmon size could create the risk of an intense fishery in which the quota is reached or exceeded in a very short time. Reaching the quota in a very short time could be damaging to the local economy and exceeding the quota or setting a higher quota could damage KRFC stocks. More liberal regulations for KRSC bag limits, possession limits, and minimum adult salmon size could create the risk could damage KRSC stocks.

*Alternative 2:* The “no change” alternative would leave the existing salmon fishing closure in the Klamath River Basin in place; this would not allow the Commission to re-open salmon fishing the Klamath River Basin in 2026 should PFMC preseason stock projections of adult KRFC be sufficient to allow in-river sport fishing. The no change alternative would also not allow the Commission to provide protection to KRSC in tandem with KRFC.

### **Fiscal Impact Statement**

#### **Section A. Fiscal Effect on Local Government**

**Answer: 6.** Other. With a closure of the KRFC and KRSC fisheries, there is a potential for drops in local sales tax (~ \$11,949 to \$17,070) and transient occupancy tax (~ \$20,680 to \$29,543) revenue to local governments in the north coast fishery areas. These estimates are the worst case, in that the assumption is that the drop in salmon fishing opportunity will cause the historic number of salmon anglers to not visit the Klamath River Basin for any other outdoor activity.

##### ***a. Local Sales Tax***

The potential closure of the KRFC in-river recreational fishery was evaluated as to what extent it would impact visits to the fishery area and length of stay in the area. Fishing visits involve expenditures in the retail, food and accommodations, automotive service and fuel, sporting equipment sales/rent/lease, and recreational services sectors. The direct expenditures generate local sales and transient occupancy taxes for the fishery area local governments. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration reports city and county sales tax rates. Local sales tax rates in Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou and Trinity counties range from 1.0% to 1.5% (State sales tax is 7.25%). Reduced spending due to reduced numbers of visits and reductions in the length of stay resulting from a complete closure of the KRFC fishery

(Projection 3) could result in local sales tax revenue losses that range from \$11,949 to \$17,070 over the season.

***b. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)***

Nonresident fishery participants are those who travel a greater distance to the fishery area and are more likely to stay overnight in the area. Overnight stays are often at private campgrounds, motels, and hotels, all of which collect TOTs. County treasurer tax collectors report the county TOTs, with rates in Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou and Trinity counties ranging from 5% to 10%; RV parks may have rates as low as 2%. The projected loss in overnight stays ranges from 7,000 to 10,000 fewer nights in campgrounds, cabins, and hotels which could result in estimated losses in local TOT revenues to local governments from \$20,680 to \$29,543 over the season.

**Section B. Fiscal Effect on State Government**

**Answer: 4.** Other. There would be no fiscal impact to any state agency or program if 50 to 100 percent of the proposed adult KRFC adult catch limit is adopted. However, if a closure to the KRFC fishery adopted, the Commission anticipates impacts to license revenue (~\$105,225) to the Department as North Coast Salmon Report Card sales are anticipated to fall below historic levels as seen in 2016-2022. The North Coast Salmon Report Card is required for any person taking salmon in the Smith River or Klamath and Trinity rivers. State sales tax revenue may decline by about \$69,304 to \$99,006 during a closure period.

***a. Department Revenue***

The seven-year (2016-2022) average number of report cards sold is 18,411, with 18,254 sold in 2022, the most recent year with no closure. Report card sales from 2025 with the closure was 4,028, representing a shortfall of 12,012 cards from the 2016-2022 average. The expected revenue generated from the 2026 card fee is \$8.76; if the shortfall in cards for the 2026 season remains at a decline of 12,012 cards from the 2016-2022 average, the closure would result in a \$105,225.12 decline in Department revenue. Department revenues for the next two fiscal years are unknown because the regulations adopted this year may not be in effect in the years ahead.

The Department has determined that the proposed salmon regulations will not affect the already existing level of monitoring and enforcement activities.

No other state agencies would be affected by this regulatory action.

***b. State Sales Tax***

There would be no fiscal impact to any state sales tax revenue if 50 to 100 percent of the 2022 adult KRFC catch limit is adopted. However, should a closure to the KRFC and KRSC fisheries be adopted (Projection 3), state sales tax revenue may decline by an estimated \$69,304 to \$99,006 during the closure period, as compared to 2022. This estimate is the worst case in that it assumes the drop in salmon fishing opportunity will cause the historic number of salmon anglers to not visit the Klamath River Basin for any other outdoor activity, such as

kayaking, hiking, fishing for steelhead, or other activities, nor spend discretionary dollars (i.e., vacation, recreational) in any other part of the state.

**Section C. Fiscal Effect on Federal Funding of State Programs**

**Answer: 3.** No fiscal impact.

The proposed regulatory action will not have the potential for a fiscal effect on the federal funding of state programs.





*Photo Credit: CDFW*

# **KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS**

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

February 11-12, 2026

Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries Program Manager

Fisheries Branch





# Presentation Overview

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- Management of Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) and Spring Chinook (KRSC) Salmon in the Klamath River Basin
- Map of Klamath River Basin sub-quota areas
- Current Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations
- Proposed regulatory options for KRFC and KRSC fishery
- Timeline

# KRFC and KRSC Management



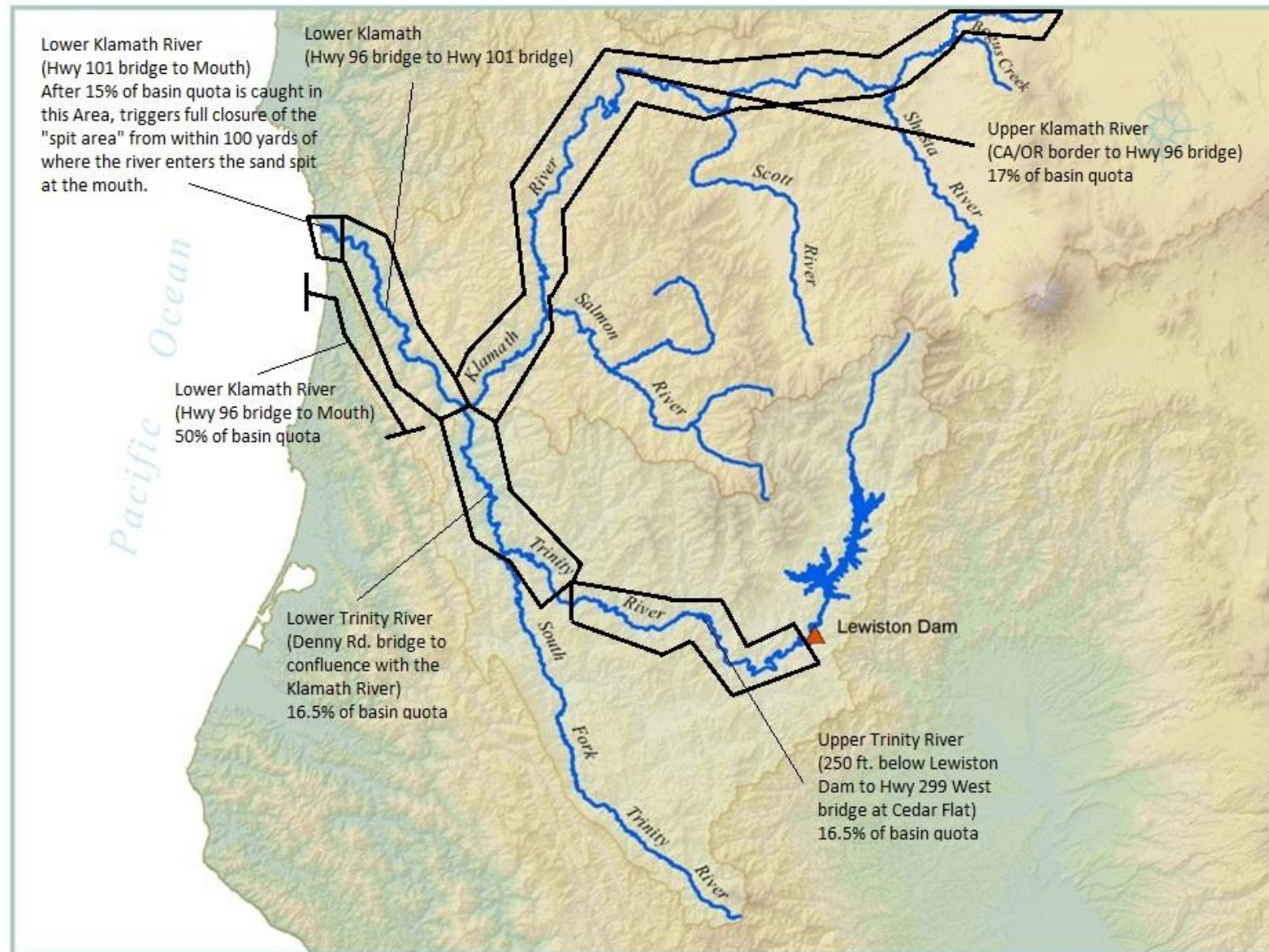
## Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

- The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) establishes annual harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals for adult KRFC
- The PFMC makes an annual recommendation for the KRFC recreational fishery allocation in April
- KRFC recreational fishery quota allocation typically conforms to PFMC recommendations (minimum of 15% of non-tribal allocation)
- CDFW makes annual recommendations for KRFC season, bag, and possession limits based on status of stock and/or quota

## Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

- As of 2025, CDFW makes **annual recommendations** for the KRSC season, bag, and possession limits based on stock status, environmental conditions, and fisheries management outcomes for the KRFC fishery

# Klamath River Basin Sub-Quota Areas



# Current Sport Fishing Regulations



Photo credit: CDFW

- The Klamath River Basin is closed to the take and possession of both KRSC and KRFC



# KRFC Proposed Regulatory Options for 2026



## Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

### Option 1:

#### Seasons:

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

KRFC quota range: 0-67,600 adult fish

Daily Bag and Possession limit range: 0-4 bag limit; 0-12 possession limit

Adult/Grilse size cutoff range: 20-24 inches

### Option 2:

- Closed to the take and possession of KRFC

# KRSC Proposed Regulatory Options for 2026



## Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

### Option 1:

#### Seasons:

- July 1- August 14 - Klamath River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.e]
- July 1- August 31 - Trinity River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E) 6.b, 6.c, 6.e]

#### Daily Bag and Possession limit range:

- 0-1 bag limit, 0-2 possession limit

### Option 2

- Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon

# Timeline – 2026



- February 12th – Notice hearing
- April 16th – Discussion hearing
  - Post PFMC recommendation
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Adoption Hearing
  - Teleconference
- New regulations go into effect
  - July 1, 2026 – KRSC
  - August 15, 2026 – KRFC



Photo credit: CDFW



# Questions | Contact



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