



# 2026 Ocean Salmon Sport Regulations

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

[wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon](http://wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon)



## Spring/Summer Season Regulations

Minimum size limit: **24 inches** total length through May 15 and **20 inches** total length thereafter.

*Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching the area specific harvest guideline.*

### **OR/CA Border to the 40°10' Line (Klamath Management Zone/KMZ):**

June 13-July 19, August 1-31 - **Harvest Guideline: 3,900 Chinook**

### **40°10' Line to Point Arena (Fort Bragg):**

June 13-July 19, August 1-31 - **Harvest Guideline: 5,100 Chinook**

### **Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco):**

June 27-July 22, August 1-31 - **Harvest Guideline: 34,900 Chinook**

### **Pigeon Point to the U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey and south):**

April 11-August 31 - **Harvest Guideline: 21,800 Chinook**

## Fall Season Regulations

Fall harvest guideline (applicable across open areas): **20,000 Chinook**; Minimum size limit: **20 inches** total length.

*Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching the fall harvest guideline.*

### **38°02' N. lat. to Pigeon Point Subarea:**

September 1-October 31

### **Pigeon Point to the U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey and south):**

September 1-30

## **General Sport Regulations**

- **Daily bag limit (CCR T-14, §27.80):** 2 salmon of any species except coho (silver).
- **Possession limit:** No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit (CCR T-14, §27.80(e)).
- **Retention of coho (silver) salmon or steelhead trout prohibited in ocean fisheries (CCR T-14, §27.70(b) and §27.80(b)).**
- **Salmon may not be filleted on any boat or prior to being brought ashore (CCR T-14, §27.65(c)).**
- **Salmon may only be taken by angling as defined in CCR T-14, §1.05.** No sinkers or weights exceeding 4 lbs. may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line and the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked (CCR T-14, §27.80(a)).
- **Transit provisions:** No fishing gear may be deployed in an area where salmon fishing is closed and salmon are possessed. Coho may not be possessed on board in the KMZ, and Chinook may be possessed only when the season is open in this area.
- **Special Salmon Closures: (CCR T-14, §27.75)**
  - Smith River mouth – closed year-round
  - Klamath River mouth – closed year-round; closure expands in August (“Klamath Control Zone”)
  - Eel River mouth – closed in August and September only
- **North of Point Conception:** No more than two single-point, single-shank barbless hooks shall be used, and no more than one rod per angler when fishing for salmon or fishing from a boat with salmon on board (CCR T-14, §27.80(a)).
- **40°10' Line to Point Conception (CCR T-14, §27.80(a)):** When fishing with bait and angling by any means other than TROLLING<sup>1</sup>, no more than two single-point, single-shank barbless CIRCLE HOOKS<sup>2</sup> shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed 5 inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied). **NOTE: These special gear restrictions apply to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.**
  1. TROLLING is defined as angling from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions.
  2. A CIRCLE HOOK is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90-degree angle.
- **Recovery of coded-wire tag from salmon head:** Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag (CCR T-14, §1.73).

## OCEAN SALMON REGULATIONS HOTLINES

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE: (800) 662-9825**

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE: (707) 576-3429**

