

Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

19. Inland Sport Fishing**Today's Item****Information** **Action** **(A) Central Valley sport fishing (annual)**

Discuss proposed amendments to Central Valley sport fishing regulations.

(B) Klamath River Basin sport fishing (annual)

Discuss proposed amendments to Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations related to Chinook salmon.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions**(A) Central Valley sport fishing**

- Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting September 11, 2025; WRC
- Notice hearing February 11-12, 2026
- **Today's discussion hearing April 15-16, 2026**
- Adoption hearing May 6, 2026

(B) Klamath River Basin sport fishing

- WRC vetting September 11, 2025; WRC
- Notice hearing February 11-12, 2026
- **Today's discussion hearing April 15-16, 2026**
- Adoption hearing May 6, 2026

Background

At its February 2026 meeting, the Commission authorized publication of notice of its intent to amend sport fishing regulations on the American, Feather, Mokelumne, and Sacramento rivers and on the Klamath and Trinity rivers (referred to as the Klamath River Basin). The notices appeared in the California Regulatory Notice Register on March 20, 2026. Further background on the regulatory options noticed by the Commission for both areas can be found in Exhibit 1 and the initial statements of reasons (ISORs) for the Central Valley and Klamath River Basin (exhibits 2 and 3, respectively).

As part of the annual process, specific bag, possession, and size limits for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon and Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon are scheduled for adoption by the Commission after the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) reviews the status of West Coast salmon stocks and recommends fishery allocations.

Having completed its *Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* in March 2026 (Exhibit 6), PFMC is scheduled to recommend its final management measures for the upcoming ocean salmon season at its April 7-12, 2026 meeting.

Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

At today's Commission meeting, the Department will recommend specific bag, possession, and size limits based on the recommended PFMC management measures for ocean salmon. The Commission is scheduled to make its decision on the specific options within the noticed ranges at its May 6, 2025 meeting.

Today's meeting is an opportunity for public discussion of the proposed regulation changes.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A draft negative declaration regarding Central Valley sport fishing has been prepared and submitted to the State Clearinghouse along with a notice of completion and environmental document transmittal and summary, consistent with CEQA and Section 15205(e), Title 14. The State Clearinghouse will make the documents available at [CEQAnet](#).

Significant Public Comments

1. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors requests a one-fish daily bag limit on the Trinity River with adaptive safeguards in place, rather than a blanket closure of the river. (Exhibit 7)
2. A commenter supports Options 1 and 2 for the Central Valley. (Exhibit 8)

Recommendation (N/A)**Exhibits**

1. [Staff summary from the February 2026 Commission meeting, Agenda Item 19 \(Central Valley and Klamath River Basin\) \(for background purposes only\)](#)
2. [ISOR \(Central Valley\)](#)
3. [ISOR \(Klamath River Basin\)](#)
4. [Noticed regulatory language \(Central Valley\)](#)
5. [Noticed regulatory language \(Klamath River Basin\)](#)
6. [PFMC Report: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations, dated March 2026](#)
7. [Email from Trinity County Board of Supervisors, received March 16, 2026](#)
8. [Email from Tyler Breitbarth, received March 25, 2026](#)

Motion (N/A)

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026
(For Background Purposes Only)

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 |
| • Today's notice hearing | February 11-12, 2026 |
| • Discussion hearing | April 15-16, 2026 |
| • Adoption hearing | May 6, 2026 |

(B) **Klamath River Basin**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • WRC vetting | September 11, 2025; WRC |
| • Today's notice hearing | February 11-12, 2026 |
| • 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

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026
(For Background Purposes Only)

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 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

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026
(For Background Purposes Only)

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.

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.

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).

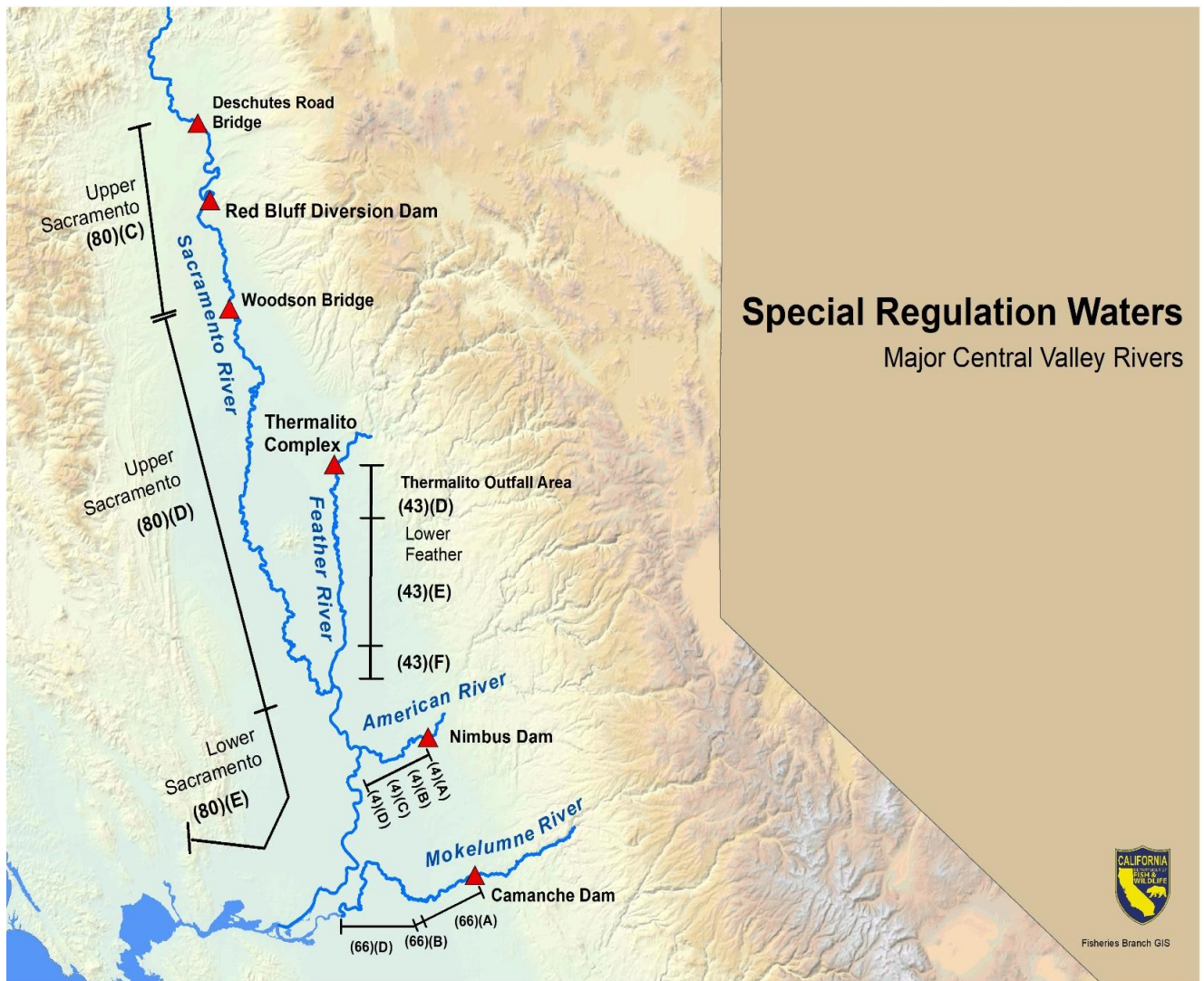


Figure 1. Map of the current “Central Valley fishery” for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon, encompassing the following rivers and their respective subsections of Section 7.40: American (b)(4), Feather (b)(43), Mokelumne (b)(66), and Sacramento (b)(80).

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 PFMC 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>

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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 general benefits to the health and welfare of California residents through responsibly managed outdoor recreational opportunities. Providing opportunities for a Chinook Salmon sport fishery also 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
Option 1	174,192 ¹	\$20,700,221	\$29,107,692	237
Option 2	156,773	\$18,630,199	\$26,196,923	214
Option 3	139,364	\$16,560,177	\$23,286,154	190
Option 4	87,096 ²	\$10,350,111	\$14,553,846	119
Year	Angler Days	Angler Expenditures	Total Econ Impact	Jobs
2025	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
Option 1	127,546	\$15,157,013	\$21,313,089	174
Option 2	110,127	\$13,086,991	\$18,402,320	150
Option 3	92,708	\$11,016,969	\$15,491,551	126
Option 4	40,450	\$4,806,902	\$6,759,243	55

¹The 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.

²Projected 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,

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.

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 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 24,0324 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, 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 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.

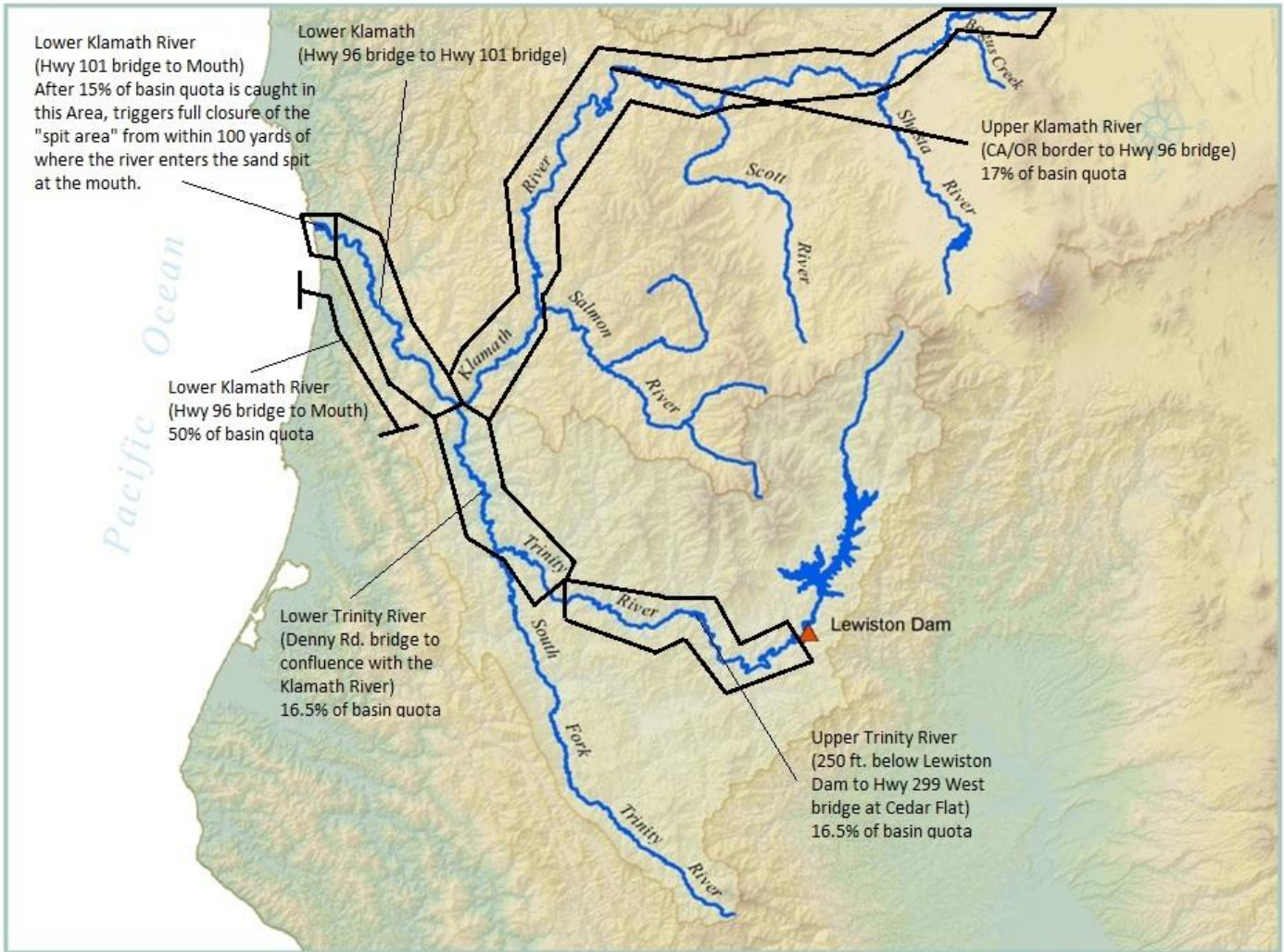


Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquota areas of the Trinity and Klamath rivers.

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 PFMC. 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 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. 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 (b) 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)(3)]...

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

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

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

. . . [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. 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 Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Jul. 16 through Sept. 15 for Chinook Salmon.	1 Chinook Salmon.
	<u>[Jul. 16 – Oct. 31] through [Jul. 16 – Oct. 31].</u>	<p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <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>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>

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

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

. . . [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 <u>Oct. 15</u> .	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. <u>[Jul. 16 – Oct.15] through [Jul. 16 – Oct. 15].</u>	1 Chinook Salmon. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
(B) From Elliot Road to the Woodbridge Irrigation District Dam including Lodi Lake.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15 <u>Dec. 31</u> .	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 16 through Dec. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 16 through Oct. 15 for Chinook Salmon.	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> <u>through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 31].</u>	Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <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 Jul. 15 <u>Dec. 31.</u> Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead. Jul. 16 through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon. <u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u> <u>through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u>	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 1 Chinook Salmon. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <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> Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u> Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	1 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

. . . [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. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. <u>5 Brown Trout.</u> <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. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. <u>5 Brown trout.</u> <u>10 Brown trout in possession.</u>
2. Sacramento River from the Highway 44 bridge to the Deschutes Road bridge.	All year. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. <u>5 Brown Trout.</u> <u>10 Brown Trout in possession.</u>
(C) Sacramento River from the Deschutes Road bridge to Woodson Bridge.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 31 <u>Dec. 31.</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. <u>5 Brown Trout.</u> <u>10 Brown Trout in possession.</u>
	Aug. 1 through Oct 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
	Aug 1. through Oct. 31 for Chinook Salmon. <u>[Aug. 1 – Oct. 31] through [Aug. 1 – Oct. 31].</u>	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u> Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u> <u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession of which no more than [0-12] salmon may be over 27 inches total length.</u> Option 3: <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>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	<p>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</p> <p>Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 for Chinook Salmon.</p> <p><u>[Nov. 1 – Dec. 31] through [Nov. 1 – Dec.31].</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <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.	Jan. 1 through Jul. 15 <u>Dec. 31.</u>	<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>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</p> <p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon.</p> <p><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16].</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	<p>Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.</p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p>
(E) Sacramento River from the Highway 113 bridge near Knights Landing to the Carquinez Bridge	<p>Jan. 1 through Jul. 15<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>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.</p> <p>Jul. 16 through Dec. 16 for Chinook Salmon.</p> <p><u>[Jul. 16 – Dec. 16] through [Jul. 16 – Dec. 16]</u></p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>Option 1: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession.</u></p> <p>Option 2: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon – no more than [0-4] salmon over 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><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>Option 3: <u>[0-4] Chinook Salmon. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p><u>[0-12] Chinook Salmon in possession. Maximum size 27 inches total length.</u></p> <p>Option 4: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p>
	Dec. 17 through Dec. 31.	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</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.

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. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 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 <u>[0-11,492]</u> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 to Dec. 31, 2025 <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 2.c. and 2.d.	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <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>KRFC Option 2: <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.	<p>Jan. 1 through Aug. 14.</p> <p>Fall-run Quota: 0 <u>[0-11,492]</u> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 through Dec. 31, 2025<u>2026</u>. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 2.c. and 2.d.</p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <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>KRFC Option 2: <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>
<p>e. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec <u>to the mouth.</u></p>	<p>Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.</p>	<p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
	<p>Jul. 1 through Aug. 14.</p>	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRSC Option 1: <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon.</u> KRSC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
	<p>Fall-run Quota: 0<u>[0-33,800]</u> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 through Dec. 31, 2025<u>2026</u>.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All legally caught Chinook Salmon must be retained. Once the adult (greater than 23 inches) component of the total daily bag limit has been retained, anglers must cease fishing in the spit area.</p>	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <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>KRFC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Nov. 1 through Feb. 28.</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>
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. 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. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. KRSC Option 1: <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon</u> KRSC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> 10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag Limit
	Fall-run Quota: 0[0-11,154] Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025 <u>2026</u> .	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <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>KRFC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
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. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRSC Option 1: <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>KRSC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
	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. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or 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. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 1 through Aug. 31.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. KRSC Option 1: <u>[0-1] Chinook Salmon.</u> KRSC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> 10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Fall-run Quota: 0 <u>[0-11,154]</u> Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025 <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. KRFC Option 1: <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> KRFC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> 10 Brown Trout. 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. 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, 2025 <u>2026</u> . This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table.	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <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>KRFC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u></p> <p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
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.	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
	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.



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

February 17, 2026

California Fish and Game Commission
Erika Zavaleta
Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
715 P Street
PO Bos 944209
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for 2026 Trinity In-River Recreational Salmon Fishing Opportunity with a One-Fish Limit

President Zavaleta and Executive Director Miller-Henson,

On behalf of Trinity County, we respectfully request that the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) provide for a limited 2026 in-river recreational salmon opportunity in the Trinity River, structured around a conservative one-fish daily bag limit (and other appropriate safeguards), rather than continuing the complete closure approach that has been in place for recent seasons.

Trinity County recognizes the Commission's responsibility to balance endangered species act requirements and conserve salmon stocks and we share that commitment. At the same time, after three years of closure, our community is seeking a balanced, science-informed path forward that protects Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon (KRFC) while restoring a modest, carefully managed recreational fishery that is economically and culturally important to the Trinity region.

We are requesting that the Commission now consider a highly constrained 2026 in-river framework that allows limited recreational retention, using the Commission's existing quota/subquota tools and conservative bag limits.

Multiple 2025 in-season monitoring updates reported substantially stronger Chinook passage counts in key Klamath tributaries (e.g., Shasta and Scott rivers) compared with 2024—an encouraging sign that basin productivity may be improving, even if final basin wide run reconstruction is still pending. Please also consider the very small number of fish harvested by the recreational, in-river fishing community (typically in the 1-2% range, excluding tribal harvest, ref *CDFW Klamath River Basin Fall Chinook Salmon Spawner Escapement, In-river Harvest and Run-size Estimates, 1978-2022*).

The multi-year closure of in-river recreational salmon opportunity has had real and measurable consequences for Trinity County businesses and families—particularly guides, outfitters, lodging, fuel, groceries, restaurants, and other visitor-serving services.

RIC LEUTWYLER
DISTRICT 1

JILL COX
DISTRICT 2

LIAM GOGAN
DISTRICT 3

HEIDI CARPENTER- HARRIS
DISTRICT 4

JULIA BROWNFIELD
DISTRICT 5

Trinity County requests the Commission direct CDFW to develop and bring forward 2026 Trinity in-river recreational regulations that restore limited opportunity while keeping conservation as the priority. We recommend:

- Daily bag limit: one (1) adult Chinook salmon, beginning July 1st, 2026.
- Quota-based management using the existing Klamath-Trinity subquota structure and in-season controls/closures. CDFW's 2025 materials describe the basin subquota approach and monitoring framework used to ensure harvest targets are not exceeded.
- Trigger-based adaptive management, including immediate closure if in-season indicators show risk to escapement objectives, and alignment with PFMC conservation constraints.

We are not requesting a return to "business as usual." We are requesting a limited, highly regulated fishery that (a) protects KRFC conservation needs and (b) provides a modest opportunity that helps sustain the region's economy and community identity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Carpenter-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H'.

Heidi Carpenter-Harris, Chairman
Trinity County Board of Supervisors

Central Valley Sport-fishing Regulations

From Tyler Breitbarth [REDACTED]

Date Wed 03/25/2026 04:07 PM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Cc Trontidanie [REDACTED]

Hello

My name is Tyler Breitbarth and I am writing this email in support of Option 1 and 2 for the Central Valley Sportfishing regulations. If the in-river abundance shows a large abundance of salmon above the escapement needs, by all means Option 1 is the best choice, giving anglers ample opportunity to catch salmon.

If the in river abundance is a little tighter to the necessary escapement goals, then I feel option 2 is the best choice. With a 4 fish limit, but only 1 "over" the 27" proposed size limit, and the basis of my reasoning is that immature salmon less than 27" do not reproduce naturally in the river, as well as once received in the hatchery's they are killed immediately unspawned. Immature salmon do not impact the livelihood of the salmon population for their respective returning years.

By opening the fishery under option 2 with such guidelines for size/limit, it would greatly improve angler opportunity while still protecting the bulk majority of spawning salmon needed for offspring production.

Thank you

Tyler Breitbarth

Sent from my iPhone