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

## 2026 Game Fish Contest Initial Offerings for Black Bass Contest Permits (Type A) Held in 2027

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife invites you to this year's Initial Offering events:

### Northern California

For contests north of the Tehachapi Mountains  
Friday, July 10, 2026, 10:00 AM

CDFW West Sacramento Office  
1010 Riverside Parkway  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

### Southern California

For contests south of the Tehachapi Mountains  
Friday, July 24, 2026, 10:00 AM

CDFW San Diego Office  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, CA 92123

Title 14 § 230 *Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prizes for the Taking of Game Fish* requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to conduct an annual Initial Offering for applicants applying for Type A game fish contest permit(s). Type A permits are required for black bass contests with more than 60 anglers and may not exceed three days in duration. If you are planning to apply for more than four Type A permits for contests held in 2027, we strongly recommended in-person attendance.

Applications to participate in the Northern and Southern Initial Offering events must be submitted between **June 15 at 8:00 a.m. and July 1, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** Applications will not be accepted before or after this period.

Prior to the Initial Offerings, the Department will send a detailed agenda of the draw format to those who apply to participate.

### Participating in the Initial Offering (in person)

1. To participate in the Initial Offering, applicants must submit [form DFW 774, INITIAL OFFERING APPLICATION FOR "TYPE A" GAME FISH CONTESTS](#) through the Automated License Data System (ALDS) "[Online License Sales and Services](#)". Applying to the Initial Offering is free, see ALDS instructions below.
2. Applicants or organizations shall submit no more than one form DFW 774 for the northern Initial Offering, and one for the southern Initial Offering.

3. Proposed schedules on form DFW 774 are limited to:
  - o No more than one request per month per water.
  - o No requests for simultaneous Delta events (e.g., you may not request Contra Costa and Sacramento on the same day).
4. After contest dates are awarded, applicants must submit [form DFW 775, APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO OFFER PRIZES FOR TAKING OF GAME FISH](#) for **each** approved contest and **pay by check prior to leaving the event**. The current filing fee is **\$83.95 for each** form DFW 775. Any awarded contests not paid for will be rescinded and become available after both Initial Offerings have concluded.

## Not Attending the Initial Offering in Person (Mail-in)

It is not necessary to attend the Initial Offering in person to participate.

1. Follow steps 1 – 3 above. Applying to the Initial Offering is free, see ALDS instructions below. Please state “**mail in**” in the Description text box when submitting form DFW 774 through ALDS.
2. After the Initial Offering, the Department will notify applicants of their awarded contests. Applicants must submit [form DFW 775, APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO OFFER PRIZES FOR TAKING OF GAME FISH](#) for **each** approved contest.
3. **Forms DFW 775 and payments are due within 10 days of the Initial Offering** and should be sent to the Regional office in which the contest is being held. Mailing addresses are on page 5 of form DFW 775. The current filing fee is **\$83.95 for each** form DFW 775.

## Instructions for submitting form DFW 774 through the Automated License Data System (ALDS)

The File Upload feature of ALDS allows customers to electronically submit form DFW 774, INITIAL OFFERING APPLICATION FOR “TYPE A” GAME FISH CONTESTS and receive proof of submission.

1. Log in to your customer record through the "[Online License Sales and Services](#)".
2. Select the **Upload Files** tab from the blue boxes on the top main menu.
  - a. To use the Upload Files feature, you must enable the Customer Record Security Settings (CRSS), which requires a **valid email and password**. Upon the initial selection of the Upload Files tab, you will be prompted through an email verification and password creation process. Once the CRSS is enabled, you will be able to upload files and will not be required to go through this step again.
  - b. For information regarding this security process, please visit [Frequently Asked Questions about Online License Sales](#).
3. To upload a new file, select the **Add** button.

4. In the File Type drop-down menu, select **Fish Contest Application - Initial Offerings**.
5. In the Description text box, include the geographic region for this application (i.e., southern, northern) - only one file may be uploaded at a time.
6. In the Description text box, state "**mail in**" if you cannot attend the Initial Offering in person.
7. Select a file to upload in one of two ways:
  - a. Select the **Browse** button to navigate to the file on your computer or network.
  - b. Drag a file directly into the **Drag and Drop Area** from your computer or network.
8. Once a file is selected, it will display next to the **Browse** button.
9. Select the **checkbox** to certify your document is complete and accurate.
10. Select **Upload**
11. After the upload, you will be directed to the File Uploads screen where your file will have the options to **View** or **Delete**. Files can only be deleted if they are pending; they cannot be deleted once processed by CDFW.
12. After successful completion of your upload, you will automatically receive an email confirming the submission; retain this email as proof of the date and time of your submission.

More information for game fish contests can be found at the [Fishing Contests, Tournaments and Derbies](#) webpage.

Please email [Tournaments@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Tournaments@wildlife.ca.gov) if you require interpretive services, have other special requests, or have questions about Section 230 and this process.

We look forward to seeing you in July!