

Staff Summary for May 5-6, 2026

10. Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing**Today's Item**Information Action

Consider adopting proposed amendments to Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations and taking final action under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Wildlife Resources Committee vetting September 11, 2025; WRC
- Notice hearing February 11-12, 2026
- Discussion hearing April 15-16, 2026
- **Today's 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 Klamath and Trinity rivers (referred to as the Klamath River Basin). The notice appeared in the California Regulatory Notice Register on March 20, 2026. Further background on the regulatory options noticed by the Commission can be found in the February 2026 staff summary (Exhibit 1) and the initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 2).

As part of the annual regulatory process, specific bag, possession and size limits for 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 the report *Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* in March 2026 (Exhibit 6), PFMC recommended its final management measures for the upcoming ocean salmon season at its April 7-12, 2026 meeting.

At the Commission's April 2026 meeting, the Department recommended opening both the Klamath River Basin fall and spring Chinook salmon fisheries based on the recommended PFMC management measures for ocean salmon (Exhibit 9). At today's meeting, the Commission is scheduled to determine whether to adopt the noticed amendments and, if so, select the season dates and an option within the noticed ranges for quota, size, bag and possession limits (under Option 1), or a fishery closure (Option 2), based on PFMC's final recommendation.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Department prepared a draft addendum (exhibits 8 and 9) to the 2025 negative declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2025040692) regarding Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations; the Commission adopted the negative declaration in May 2025.

Commission staff evaluated the addendum and determined that it reflects the independent judgment of the Commission. The addendum is intended to inform Commission consideration of proposed amendments to daily bag and possession limits for Chinook salmon, as described in the proposed rulemaking. The 2025 negative declaration concluded that there would be no

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significant impacts for the range of daily bag and possession limits considered under regulatory options 1 and 2. Since the proposed daily bag and possession limits for 2026 fall within the previously-analyzed range, and the proposed amendments use similar regulatory options, there are no anticipated new, significant, or substantially more severe environmental impacts.

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 11)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Find that the Commission, having considered the addendum and associated environmental document, approves the revised project pursuant to CEQA, and adopts Option 1 of the proposed amendments as recommended by the Department.

Department: Adopt Option 1 of the proposed amendments to Klamath River Basin sport fishing as detailed in the ISOR and the Department's presentation.

Exhibits

1. [Staff summary from February 11-12, 2026 Commission meeting, Agenda Item \(for background purposes only\)](#)
2. [Initial statement of reasons](#)
3. [Noticed regulatory language](#)
4. [Economic and fiscal impact statement \(STD. 399\)](#)
5. [Department memo transmitting pre-adoption statement of reasons](#)
6. [Pre-adoption statement of reasons](#)
7. [Link to online PFMC report: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations, dated March 2026](#)
8. [Department memo transmitting draft CEQA addendum, received March 16, 2026](#)
9. [Draft addendum to 2025 Final Negative Declaration Regarding Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations \(State Clearinghouse #2025040692\)](#)
10. [Department presentation, including recommendations](#)
11. [Letter from Trinity County Board of Supervisors, received April 17, 2026](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission, having considered the addendum and associated negative declaration, approves the revised project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopts Option 1 of the proposed amendments to subsection 7.40(b)(50) related to Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for the 2026 season and spring fishery with quotas, bag and possession limits, and size limits as discussed today.

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(For Background Purposes Only)

19. Inland Sport Fishing

Today's Item	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(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

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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

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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 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.

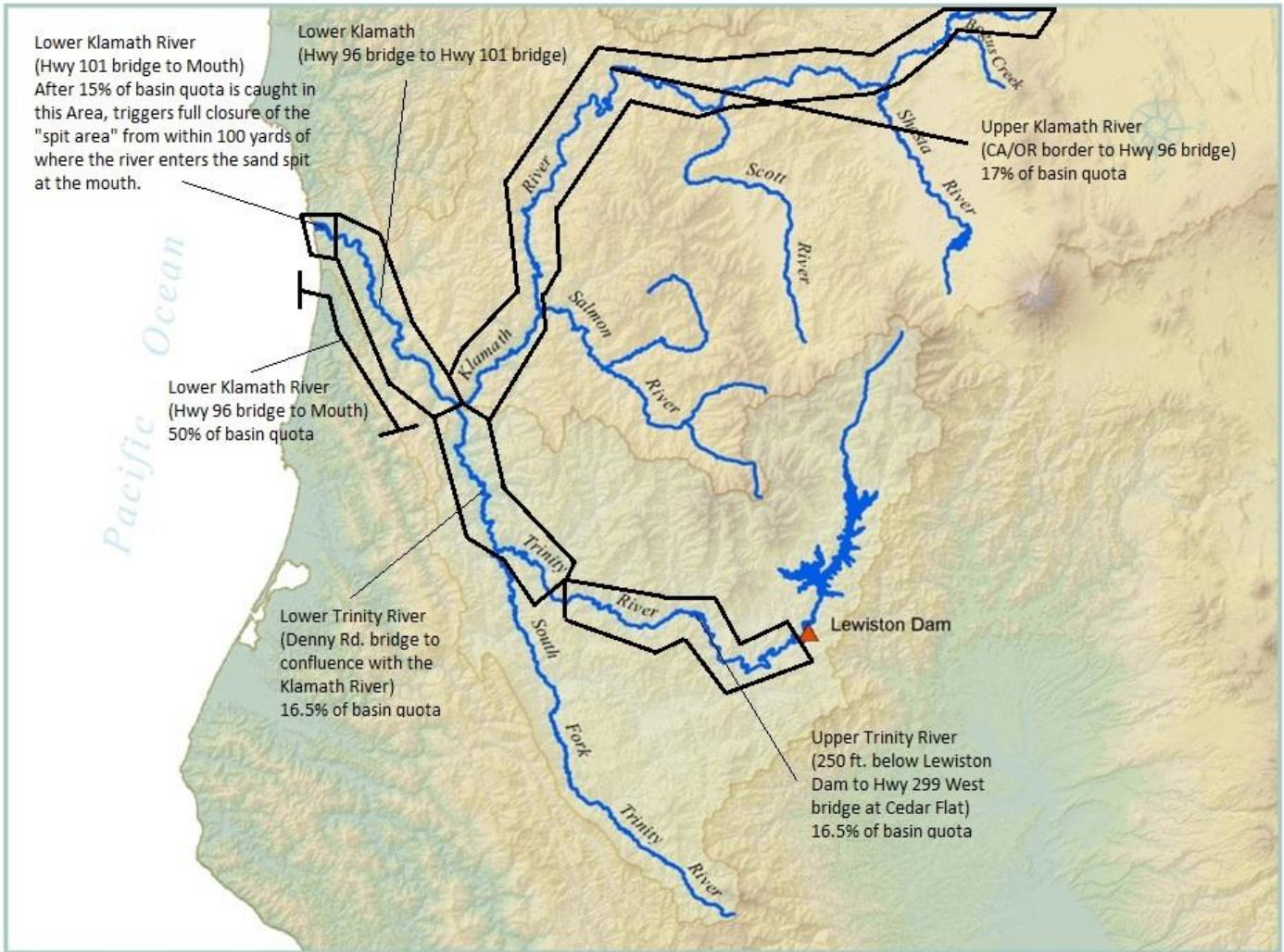


Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquota areas of the Trinity and Klamath rivers.

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 Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

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

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

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

mitigated by the continued opportunity to harvest other sportfish and the potential for take of grilse KRFC. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulatory action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently, promote the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

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

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

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

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

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

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishery and other sport fisheries encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of a nutritious food. Sport fishing also contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners, as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

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

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

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Klamath River Basin salmonid resources. It is the policy of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant water

fisheries based in California in harmony with international law, respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence, and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

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

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, is managed for fall-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) through a cooperative system of state, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport, and tribal fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin (in-river) sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations are promulgated by individual tribal governments.

Klamath River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon

Adult Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals are established by PFMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

PFMC Overfishing Review

KRFC stocks have been designated as “overfished” by PFMC. This designation is the result of not meeting conservation objectives for these stocks. Management objectives and criteria for KRFC are defined in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The threshold for overfished status of KRFC is a three-year geometric mean less than or equal to 30,525 natural area adult spawners. This overfished-threshold was met for KRFC during the 2015-2017 period. The 30,525 KRFC natural area adult spawners is considered the minimum stock size threshold, per the FMP. The KRFC adult natural area spawning escapement for 2024 was 24,032 natural area adult spawners, which is below the one-year conservation threshold of 40,700 natural area adult spawners. The most recent three-year geometric mean of 27,962 is still less than the required 40,700 natural area adult spawners conservation threshold, therefore the KRFC are still considered as an “overfished” stock.

Accordingly, the FMP outlines a process for preparing a “rebuilding plan” that includes assessment of the factors that led to the decline of the stock, including fishing, environmental factors, model errors, etc. The rebuilding plan includes recommendations to address conservation of KRFC, with the goal of achieving rebuilt status. Rebuilt status requires meeting a three-year geometric mean of 40,700 adult natural area KRFC spawner escapement. The plan developed by representatives of NMFS, PFMC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), and tribal entities, was submitted to PFMC in February 2019, adopted by PFMC in June 2019, and submitted to NMFS in August 2019. Forthcoming recommendations from the rebuilding plan may alter how KRFC

are managed in the future, including changing the in-river allocation number, and/or allocating less than the normal target number.

Klamath River Spring Chinook Salmon

The Klamath River Basin also supports Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (KRSC). Naturally produced KRSC are both temporally and spatially separated from KRFC in most cases. Presently, KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by PFMC. This in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. KRSC harvest is monitored on the Klamath River below the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Klamath River by creel survey. The upper Trinity River, upstream of Junction City, is monitored using tag returns from anglers.

KRFC Allocation Management

The PFMC allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest is normally a minimum of 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation of KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2026 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from PFMC until March 2026. The 2026 basin allocation will be recommended by PFMC in April 2026. That allocation will inform the quota that the Department proposes to the Commission for adoption as a quota for the in-river sport harvest at the Commission's May 2026 teleconference meeting.

The Commission may adopt a KRFC in-river sport harvest quota that is different than the quota proposed by the Department or the PFMC 2026 allocation for that fishery. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

The annual KRFC in-river sport harvest quota is specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)1. The quota is split among four geographic areas with a subquota for each area, expressed as a percentage of the total in-river quota, specified in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(D)2. For angler convenience, the subquotas, expressed as the number of fish, are listed for the affected river segments in subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E).

The in-river sport subquota percentages are as follows:

1. Main stem Klamath River from the California-Oregon border to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the in-river sport quota;
2. Main stem Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Pacific Ocean -- 50 percent of the in-river sport quota;

The spit area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) closes to all fishing after 15 percent of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

3. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the in-river sport quota; and
4. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the in-river sport fishery quota.

These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort to ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the Klamath River and Trinity River. The subquota system requires the Department to monitor or assess angler harvest of adult KRFC in each geographic area. All areas are monitored on a real time basis, except for the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and in the Trinity

River. Due to funding and personnel reductions, the Department does not currently conduct real time harvest monitoring in the Klamath River upstream of the Weitchpec and in the Trinity River.

The Department has developed Harvest Predictor Models (HPM), which incorporate historic creel survey data from the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean, and the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River. Each HPM is driven by the positive relationship between KRFC harvested in the respective lower and upper subquota areas of the Klamath River and the Trinity River. The HPMs will be used by the Department to implement fishing closures to ensure that anglers do not exceed established subquota targets. Using this method, the upper Klamath River subquota area generally closes between 28-30 days after the lower Klamath River subquota is reached. Similarly, the upper Trinity River subquota area generally closes 45 days after the lower Klamath River subquota has been met. The Department also takes into consideration several other factors when implementing closure dates for subquota areas, including angler effort, KRFC run timing, weir counts, and ongoing recreational creel surveys performed by the Hoopa Valley Tribe in the lower Trinity River below Willow Creek.

Sport Fishery Management

The KRFC in-river sport harvest quota is divided into geographic areas, and harvest is monitored under real time subquota management. The KRSC in-river sport harvest is managed by general season, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations.

The Department presently differentiates the two stocks by the following sport fish season in each sub-area:

Klamath River

July 1 through August 14 – General Season KRSC.

For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.

August 15 to December 31 – KRFC quota management.

Trinity River

July 1 through August 31 – General Season KRSC.

For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.

September 1 through December 31 – KRFC quota management.

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

Proposed Changes

KRFC Adult Stocks (Sport Fishery Quota Management)

Quota: For public notice requirements, the Department recommends the Commission consider a quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows the PFMC and the Commission to make adjustments during the 2026 regulatory cycle.

Subquotas: The proposed subquotas for KRFC stocks are as follows:

1. Main stem Klamath River from the California-Oregon border to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,492];
2. Main stem Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth of the Pacific Ocean -- 50 percent of the total quota equates to [0-33,800];
3. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154]; and
4. Main stem Trinity River downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the total quota equates to [0-11,154].

Seasons:

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

KRFC Option 1: Bag and Possession Limits

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, ranges are shown in [brackets] below of bag and possession limits which encompass historical quotas. All are proposed for the 2026 KRFC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

- Bag Limit - [0-4] Chinook Salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over [20-24] inches total length.
- Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which no more than [0-4] fish over [20-24] inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over [20-24] inches total length is allowed.

The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the FMP.

As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC is proposed once the subquota has been met.

Size Limits

KRFC are managed based on adult quotas which is the maximum number of adult fish (age three and older) that can be harvested. In 2023, the Department moved away from the fixed standing cutoff size between grilse and adult Chinook Salmon of 23 inches total length to using a range between 20 to 24 inches total length as an annual option for cutoff size. This allows for annual variation in size cutoffs, as informed by previous year(s) data to manage the harvest of the adult KRFC quota more effectively. The Department is currently conducting a post season assessment of KRFC length and age data which will be used to help determine the proposed 2026 size cutoff. The 2026 proposed adult cutoff will be presented at the April 2026 Commission meeting.

KRFC Option 2: Fishery Closure

This option would close salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRFC should a reduction in the stock be indicated by PFMC abundance projections. In any year, should the PFMC recommend a complete or near complete closure of the ocean recreational salmon fishery and/or an allocation of 0 (zero) adult KRFC to the in-river fishery, this option would give the Department flexibility to respond to and support any

federal action. This option prohibits all methods of targeting KRFC including catch and release fishing.

KRSC Sport Fishery

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

Seasons:

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

KRSC Option 1 Bag and Possession Limits

Ranges are shown in [brackets] below of bag and possession limits which encompass historical ranges. All are proposed for the 2026 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

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

KRSC Option 2: Fishery Closure

This option would close salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)(50) to provide protection to KRSC should the Department be concerned with stock status or predicts a large shift in effort due to widespread salmon closures in other areas of the state. In any year, should the PFMC recommend a complete or near complete closure of the ocean recreational salmon fishery and/or an allocation of 0 (zero) adult KRFC to the in-river fishery, this option would give the Department flexibility to respond to potential effort shift. This option prohibits all methods of targeting KRSC including catch and release fishing.

Other Changes for Clarity

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

Benefit of the Regulations

The benefits of the proposed regulations are conformance with federal fishery management goals, sustainable management of Klamath River Basin fish resources, health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on salmon sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

Article IV, Section 20 of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to promulgate sport fishing regulations (Fish and Game Code sections 200, 205, 315, and 316.5). The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor

incompatible with existing state regulations. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other state regulations related to sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 7.40, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 7.40. Alphabetical List of Hatchery Trout, Hatchery Steelhead, and Salmon Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

. . . [No changes to subsections (a) through (b)(49)] . . .

(50) Klamath River Basin Regulations.

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

(A) Restrictions and Requirements.

1. Only barbless hooks may be used. (For definitions regarding legal hook types, hook gaps and rigging see 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 through Dec. 31 and Trinity River from Sep. 1 through 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~~[0-67,000] 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 ~~Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate~~ 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]</u> Chinook Salmon - no more than <u>[0-4]</u> fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length.</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.	Jan. 1 through Aug. 14.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	<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><u>Once the adult salmon quota for this area has been met, salmon fishing may continue but only salmon less than or equal to <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length may be kept.</u></p>	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: <u>[0-4]</u> Chinook Salmon - no more than <u>[0-4]</u> fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length.</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>
e. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.	Jan. 1 through Jun. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jul. 1 through Aug. 14.	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRSC Option 1: <u>[0-1]</u> Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>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: <u>0[0-33,800]</u> Chinook Salmon Aug. 15 through Dec. 31, 2025<u>2026</u>.</p> <p><u>Once the adult salmon quota for this area has been met, salmon fishing may continue but only salmon less than or equal to [20-24] inches total length may be kept.</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 <u>downstream of the Hwy 101 bridge.</u>-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]</u> Chinook Salmon - no more than <u>[0-4]</u> fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over <u>[20-24]</u> inches total length.</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>
3. Salmon River main stem, main stem of North Fork downstream of Sawyer's Bar bridge, and main stem of South Fork downstream of the confluence of the East Fork of the South Fork.	Nov. 1 through Feb. 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
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**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag Limit</i>
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**.
	Fall-run Quota: <u>0[0-11,154]</u> Chinook Salmon Sep. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025 <u>2026</u> . <u>Once the adult salmon quota for this area has been met, salmon fishing may continue but only salmon less than or equal to [20-24] inches total length may be kept.</u>	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. KRSC 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> KRSC Option 2: <u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> 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>
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.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. KRSC Option 1: [0-1] Chinook Salmon KRSC Option 2: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Sep. 1 through Dec. 31.	Closed to all fishing.
d. New River main stem downstream of the confluence of the East Fork to the confluence with the Trinity River.	Sep. 15 through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
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: [0-1] Chinook Salmon KRSC Option 2: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag Limit
	<p>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> <p><u>Once the adult salmon quota for this area has been met, salmon fishing may continue but only salmon less than or equal to [20-24] inches total length may be kept.</u></p>	<p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: [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.</p> <p>KRFC Option 2: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>
f. Trinity River main stem downstream of the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River to the confluence with the Klamath River.	<p>Jan. 1 through Aug. 31.</p> <p>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> <p><u>Once the adult salmon quota for this area has been met, salmon fishing may continue but only salmon less than or equal to [20-24] inches total length may be kept.</u></p>	<p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p> <p>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>KRFC Option 1: [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.</p> <p>KRFC Option 2: Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</p> <p>10 Brown Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</p>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag Limit</i>
g. Hayfork Creek main stem downstream of the Highway 3 bridge in Hayfork to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.	Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
h. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the confluence with the East Fork of the South Fork Trinity River to the South Fork Trinity River bridge by Hyampom.	Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
i. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the South Fork Trinity River bridge at Hyampom to the confluence with the Trinity River.	Nov. 1 through Dec. 31.	Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.
	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

. . . [No changes to subsections (b)(51) through (b)(123)] . . .

* Wild Chinook Salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.

**Hatchery trout or steelhead in anadromous waters are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315, 316.5, 399 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 316.5 and 2084, Fish and Game Code.

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

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

*If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.
If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.*

2. The California Fish and Game Commission estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:
(Agency/Department)

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

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: 30-50

Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): Fishing boat owners, tackle stores, guides, food, fuel, lodging, campgrounds

Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: 80%

4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: 0 eliminated: 0

Explain: Anticipated changes in fishing activity are not expected to be extensive enough to induce business loss or creation

5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: Statewide
 Local or regional (List areas): Siskiyou, Trinity, Del Norte, and Humboldt counties

6. Enter the number of jobs created: 0-28 and eliminated: 0

Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: Fishing guides, retail sales clerks in sport fishing-serving businesses, such as: tackle stores, food, fuel, lodging, and camping vendors.

7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? YES NO

If YES, explain briefly: _____

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

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

B. ESTIMATED COSTS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ 0
 - a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
 - b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
 - c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ 0 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 0 Years: 1
 - d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: N/A. The action will set Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon (KRFC) and Klamath River spring-run Chinook salmon (KRSC) bag and possession limits with no new compliance costs. See addendum.

2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: N/A

3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements. *Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted.* \$ N/A

4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? YES NO
 If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ _____
 Number of units: _____

5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? YES NO
 Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: The Pacific Fishery Management Council annually recommends fishery allocations; state regulations are adopted for consistency with federal actions.
 Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ 0

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

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: This temporary closure is only taken to ensure the continued sustainability of the salmon and other sport fisheries that benefit sport anglers, and the area businesses involved in sport fishing activities. See addendum

2. Are the benefits the result of: specific statutory requirements, or goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?
 Explain: Statute provides Fish & Game Commission the authority to establish sport fishing regulations (F&G sec. 200, 205)

3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ 0(\$2.42M if open; see add.)

4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: Any changes in fishing activity levels are not expected to be sufficient enough to induce the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State. See addendum.

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

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

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

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

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

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

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives: Benefit=typical recreational fishing impact. *Costs=temporary

loss of KRFC and KRSC fishing expenditures to avoid long-run overfishing costs. However, prolonged closure has made the "costs" the new baseline equilibrium, see addendum.

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs? YES NO

Explain: Fisheries management regulations traditionally involve setting harvest quotas, seasons, and bag and possession limits.

E. MAJOR REGULATIONS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

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

1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises exceed \$10 million? YES NO

***If YES, complete E2. and E3
If NO, skip to E4***

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

Alternative 1: _____

Alternative 2: _____

(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)

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

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

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

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

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

YES NO

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

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: No effect on the level of investment in the State.

The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: No effect on the incentive for innovation in products, materials, or processes.

The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: Benefits to the state's environment and quality of life, recreational angling, and the businesses that serve them.

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

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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

\$ _____

a. Funding provided in _____

Budget Act of _____ or Chapter _____, Statutes of _____

b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of _____

Fiscal Year: _____

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

\$ _____

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

a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in _____

b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the _____ Court.

Case of: _____ vs. _____

c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. _____

Date of Election: _____

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

Local entity(s) affected: _____

e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: _____

Authorized by Section: _____ of the _____ Code;

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

g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in _____

3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ _____

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

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

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

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

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

It is anticipated that State agencies will:

a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.

b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the _____ Fiscal Year

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

\$ _____

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

4. Other. Explain With the closure, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife may see decline in salmon report card revenue (~\$105k). State sales tax may decline (\$69,304 to \$99,006) in the unlikely event that no alternate state fishing or recreation trips taken. See addendum

C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.

1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

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

\$ _____

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

4. Other. Explain _____

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE

 DocuSigned by:
Dan Reagan
66882741E0D347D

DATE

3/19/2026

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

AGENCY SECRETARY

 Melissa A. Miller-Henson Bryan Cash

4/5/2026

DATE

3/18/2026

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

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER



DATE

STD. 399 Addendum

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

Background

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

KRFC Adult Stocks

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

The Klamath River Basin in-river sport salmon fishery is managed using adult quotas, which is the maximum number of adult fish that can be harvested. For the 2026 regulatory cycle, the Department recommends that the Commission consider a quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the in-river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows PFMC and Commission to make adjustments during the 2026 regulatory cycle.

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

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

KRSC Adult Stocks

The KRSC recreational sport fishery is managed by the Department outside the PFMC process, but had been closed multiple times in the recent past through the emergency rulemaking process. The current stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort have necessitated the Department to consider regulations of this fishery annually. As a result, the management of KRSC is now incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process.

Assessment

Based on a 2011 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report (*In-River Sport Fishing Economics of the Klamath River*), and adding a 33 percent increase to account for the Trinity River¹, non-resident (outside the immediate locale) salmon or steelhead angler average expenditures are estimated to be \$136.56 (2025\$) per angler day (for lodging, food, gasoline, fishing gear, boat fuel, and guide fees). The projection does not distinguish between spring and fall-runs; however, the in-river harvest is almost exclusively fall-run.

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

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

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

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

	Salmon	Steelhead	Total Impact
Expenditures	\$1,365,600	\$3,730	\$1,380,464

¹ The NMFS study excluded the Trinity River, the largest tributary to the Klamath River. The Trinity River is allocated 33 percent of the KRFC total quota.

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

Economic Impact Projections

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

Economic Impact Statement

Section A. Estimated Private Sector Cost Impacts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section B. Estimated Costs

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

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

Section C. Estimated Benefits

Question 1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Conserving fish populations for the Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishery and preserving other existing sport fisheries encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of nutritious food for anglers. Sport fishing also contributes to the increased mental health of its practitioners, as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of California's natural resources.

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

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Klamath River Basin salmonid resources. It is the policy of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant water fisheries based in California in harmony with international law, respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence, and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits are intended to provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

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

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

Approximately \$2.42 million annually.

A typical non-closure season for the Klamath River Basin (including the Trinity River) experiences about 10,082 non-resident sport salmon angler days in which anglers contribute an estimated \$1.365 million (2025\$) in direct expenditures to California businesses; this expenditure is received by area businesses that spend a share on inputs and payroll. As employees receive income, their household spending again circulates in the local economy and statewide. These multiplier effects result in an estimated total economic impact of about \$2.42 million (2025\$) and support up to 28 jobs (see Table 1).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section D. Alternatives to the Regulation

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

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

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

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

Fiscal Impact Statement

Section A. Fiscal Effect on Local Government

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

a. Local Sales Tax

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

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

b. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)

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

Section B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

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

a. Department Revenue

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

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

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

b. State Sales Tax

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

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

Section C. Fiscal Effect on Federal Funding of State Programs

Answer: 3. No fiscal impact.

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

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Subject: Submittal of Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons to Amend Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations 2026

Please find attached the Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons (PSOR) for the 2026 Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations. The PSOR includes the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) recommendation of a Klamath River fall-run Chinook (KRFC) quota of 3,248 adult fish. This translates to a daily bag limit of 2 fish, with no more than one adult over 23 inches total length and a possession limit of 6 fish, with no more than 3 fish over 23 inches total length. For subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E) 2.c., on the Klamath River main stem above the I-5 bridge, the Department recommended that the KRFC fishery remain closed for the 2026 season. The Department also recommended a Klamath River spring Chinook (KRSC) daily bag limit of 1 fish and possession limit of 2 fish for any size KRSC. The recommendations reflect as Option 1 for KRFC and Option 1 for KRSC within ranges identified in the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR), which allow for take and possession of Chinook Salmon up to the daily bag and possession limits. The Department's recommendation will be presented for potential adoption during the California Fish and Game Commission meeting on May 6, 2026.

For clarity purposes, the Department proposes to add language back into subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E) 2.d., and e. on the Klamath River and subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E) 6.b., e. and f. of the Trinity River that states salmon fishing will



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

April 29, 2026

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remain open to the take of grilse after the adult quota for each area has been reached. This language was removed from the regulatory text when the KRFC fishery was closed in 2023. It is necessary to include this language in the regulatory text to eliminate confusion for anglers and law enforcement now that the KRFC fishery is anticipated to reopen in 2026 with an adult and grilse fishery. The proposed language does not change what is authorized and only clarifies existing regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch at Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov.

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

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April 29, 2026

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the KRFC fishery was closed in 2023. It is necessary to include this language in the regulatory text to eliminate confusion for anglers and law enforcement now that the KRFC fishery is anticipated to reopen in 2026 with an adult and grilse fishery. The proposed language does not change what is authorized and only clarifies existing regulatory requirements. Additionally, information was added was added to the PFMC Overfishing Review section to explain that the fishery is no longer in overfished status.

V. Reasons for Modification of Originally Proposed Language of ISOR:

The Klamath River Basin allocation has been identified as a range between 0–67,600 adult KRFC. The Department bases annual daily bag and possession limit recommendations on annual quotas. In large quota years, daily bag and possession regulations are more liberal to allow for increased harvest opportunity. In low quota years, regulatory recommendations are more conservative to protect the stock and achieve basin spawner escapement goals. Although KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by PFMC, KRSC overlap in ocean distribution with KRFC and share similar marine and freshwater habitat challenges.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support

Comment:

February 17, 2026—Heidi Carpenter- Harris, Trinity County Board of Supervisors (written comment).

The commenter requests that the Commission provide a limited 2026 in-river recreational salmon opportunity for the Trinity River of a one-fish daily bag limit with other appropriate safeguards. Trinity County recognizes the Commission’s responsibility to conserve salmon and share that commitment, but after three years of closure are seeking a balanced, science informed path forward that protects salmon as well as restores a carefully managed recreational fishery that is economically and culturally important to the region. Monitoring counts for 2025 are encouraging compared to 2024. The multi-year closure of in-river recreational salmon opportunities has had measurable impacts on businesses and families in Trinity County. They are recommending a daily bag limit of one adult salmon beginning July 1, 2026, quota-based management using the existing Klamath-Trinity subquota structure and in-season controls, and trigger based adaptive management which would include immediate closure if needed. They are requesting a limited opportunity to help sustain the region, while keeping conservation a priority.

Response:

In April 2026, the PFMC recommended a recreational fishery allocation of 3,248 adult KRFC to the Klamath River Basin (KRB) for the 2026 season. In response to the PFMC’s recommendation, the Department has recommended to the Commission a KRB quota of 3,248 adult KRFC. For KRFC, the Department recommended a 2 fish daily bag limit, and 6 fish possession limit. Subquotas are in place for KRFC on the Klamath and Trinity rivers, and once the adult KRFC quota has been reached, then no KRFC over 23 inches may be kept. For KRSC, the Department recommended a one fish daily bag limit and 2 fish possession limit for any size KRSC.

Comment:

April 16, 2026 – James Stone, President of the Northern California Guides and Sportsmen’s Association (NCGASA) (verbal comment).

Commenter supports the Department’s recommendations.

Response:

Comments noted and appreciated.

Updated 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 27,879 is still less than the required 40,700 natural area adult spawners conservation threshold, therefore the KRFC are still considered as an “overfished” stock. **The KRFC adult spawning escapement for 2025 natural area spawning adults totaled 39,869, with the new three-year geometric mean of 34,166 resulting in moving the fishery out of "overfished" status into "rebuilding."**

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 is 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.

The daily bag and possession limits apply to both stocks within the same sub-area and time period. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.a. through 2.e. specify bag limits for KRFC stocks in the Klamath River. Current regulations in subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b., e., and f. specify bag limits for KRFC stocks in the Trinity River. Current regulations in subsection 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 PFMC and 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

Bag and Possession Limits

Because the PFMC recommendations are not known at this time, ranges are shown in [brackets] below of bag, possession, **and size** limits which encompass historical quotas. All are proposed for the 2025 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, possession, **and size** 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 Commission meeting.

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 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

The KRSC recreational sport fishery has been closed multiple times in the recent past through the emergency rulemaking process. The current stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort have necessitated the Department to consider regulations of this fishery annually. As a result, the management of KRSC has been incorporated into the annual Klamath sport fish rulemaking process.

Seasons:

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

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 2025 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

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

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 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.

Update

The Department recommends a Klamath River Basin quota of 3,248 adult KRFC. At the April 16, 2026 Commission meeting, the Department recommended a KRFC daily bag limit of 2 fish, with no more than one adult over 23 inches total length and a possession limit of 6 fish, with no more than 3 fish over 23 inches total length (Option 1 for KRFC from the ISOR). For subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E) 2.c., on the Klamath River main stem above the I-5 bridge, the Department recommended that the KRFC fishery remain closed for the 2026 season. The Department also recommended a KRSC daily bag limit of 1 fish and possession limit of 2 fish for any size KRSC (Option 1 for KRSC from the ISOR). The Department's recommendation is slated for adoption at the Commission's May 6, 2026 meeting.

For clarity purposes, the Department proposes to add language back into subsection 7.40(b)(50)(E) 2.d., and e. on the Klamath River and subsections 7.40(b)(50)(E) 6.b., e. and f. of the Trinity River that states salmon fishing will remain open to the take of grilse after the adult quota for each area has been reached. This language was removed from the regulatory text when the KRFC fishery was closed in 2023. It is necessary to add this language back into the regulatory text to eliminate confusion for anglers and law enforcement now that the KRFC fishery is anticipated to reopen in 2026 with an adult and grilse fishery. The proposed language does not change what is authorized, it only clarifies existing regulatory requirements. Additionally, information was added to the PFMC Overfishing Review section to explain that the fishery is no longer in overfished status.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 9, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Subject: **Addendum to the 2025 Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, Subsection (b)(50) of Section 7.40, Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has prepared the enclosed Addendum to the *2025 Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to the 2026 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)*.

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations as set forth in subsection 7.40(b)(50), Title 14, CCR for Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon and Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon based on federal fisheries management goals and to make additional changes for clarity. Based on the addendum to the 2025 initial study, the Department assesses that the proposed amendments to the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations will not have a significant effect or potentially significant effect on the environment. The Department recommends the Commission adopt the Negative Declaration.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documents, please contact Karen Mitchell, Senior Environmental Scientist, at inlandfisheriesreg@wildlife.ca.gov.

ec:

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
March 9, 2026
Page 2

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager
Northern Region (Region 1)

Jay Rowan, Branch Chief
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

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Fish and Game Commission

David Haug, Analyst
Fish and Game Commission

State Of California
Natural Resources Agency

Addendum to the 2025 Negative Declaration
Regarding Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing

Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Section 7.40
2026 Fishing Season

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

On behalf of:

California Fish and Game Commission
As Lead Agency Under The California Environmental Quality Act

(OAL Notice File No. 2026-x)

Introduction

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared this addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., to inform consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) of proposed amendments to existing regulations governing Klamath River Basin sport fishing. Annually, CDFW recommends Klamath River Basin (KRB) sport fishing regulations to the Commission. The Commission then makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be implemented and is the lead agency for the purposes of CEQA. Under Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish for the purpose of sport fishing.

The Commission proposes to amend Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14, subsection 7.40(b)(50), California Code of Regulations for Klamath River fall Chinook Salmon (KRFC) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; KRFC) and Klamath River spring Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; KRSC). Each year, CDFW evaluates the potential need to amend the existing salmon regulations in the KRB to align with federal fisheries management goals. Any proposed changes to salmon fishing regulations are presented to the Commission for consideration.

The Commission adopted regulations closing the KRFC and KRSC sport fisheries on the Klamath and Trinity rivers in 2025 with the certification of a Final Negative Declaration under CEQA (2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations Negative Declaration (ND))(SCH No. 2025040692). The 2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND provides relevant and important informational value as the Commission, as the CEQA lead agency, considers proposed amendments to the existing regulations for the 2026 KRB sport fishing season in California. This addendum documents the Commission's consideration of related environmental effects.

Earlier Project Approval

CEQA review of the proposed project was conducted in accordance with the Commission's certified regulatory program approved by the Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.5 (See generally CCR, Title 14, Sections 781.5 and 15251(b)). CEQA requires all public agencies in the state to evaluate the environmental impacts of discretionary projects they propose to carry out or approve, including promulgating regulations, which may have a potential to significantly affect the environment.

In 2025, the Commission certified a Final ND Regarding Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations (2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND)(SCH No. 2025040692) as the lead agency under CEQA as part of the Commission's review

and adoption of KRB sport fishing regulations which focused on the potential for significant environmental impacts from a potential decrease or increase of KRFC and KRSC daily bag and possession limits for the Klamath and Trinity rivers. For KRFC, the Commission considered a quota range of 0–67,600 adult KRFC in the KRB, a daily bag limit range of 0-4 KRFC, and a possession limit range of 0-12 KRFC. For KRSC, the Commission considered a daily bag limit range of 0-1 KRSC, and a possession limit range of 0-2 KRSC. The Commission also considered an option (i.e., Option 2) to close salmon fishing in the KRB to provide protection to KRFC and KRSC, should the Department be concerned with stock status. The Commission, as the CEQA lead agency, certified the 2025 ND and determined adoption of the regulations as proposed would not result in any new significant or substantially more severe environmental effects. The Commission adopted regulations closing the KRFC and KRSC in-river sport fisheries for the 2025 season.

Proposed 2026 chinook salmon bag and possession limits

KRFC Adult Stocks (Sport Fishery Quota Management)

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

Quota: KRFC are managed based on adult quotas, which is the maximum number of adult fish (age three and older) that can be harvested. 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 2025 regulatory cycle.

Subquotas: The proposed subquotas for KRFC stocks 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 total quota equates to [0-11,492];
2. Main stem Klamath River from 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 from 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].

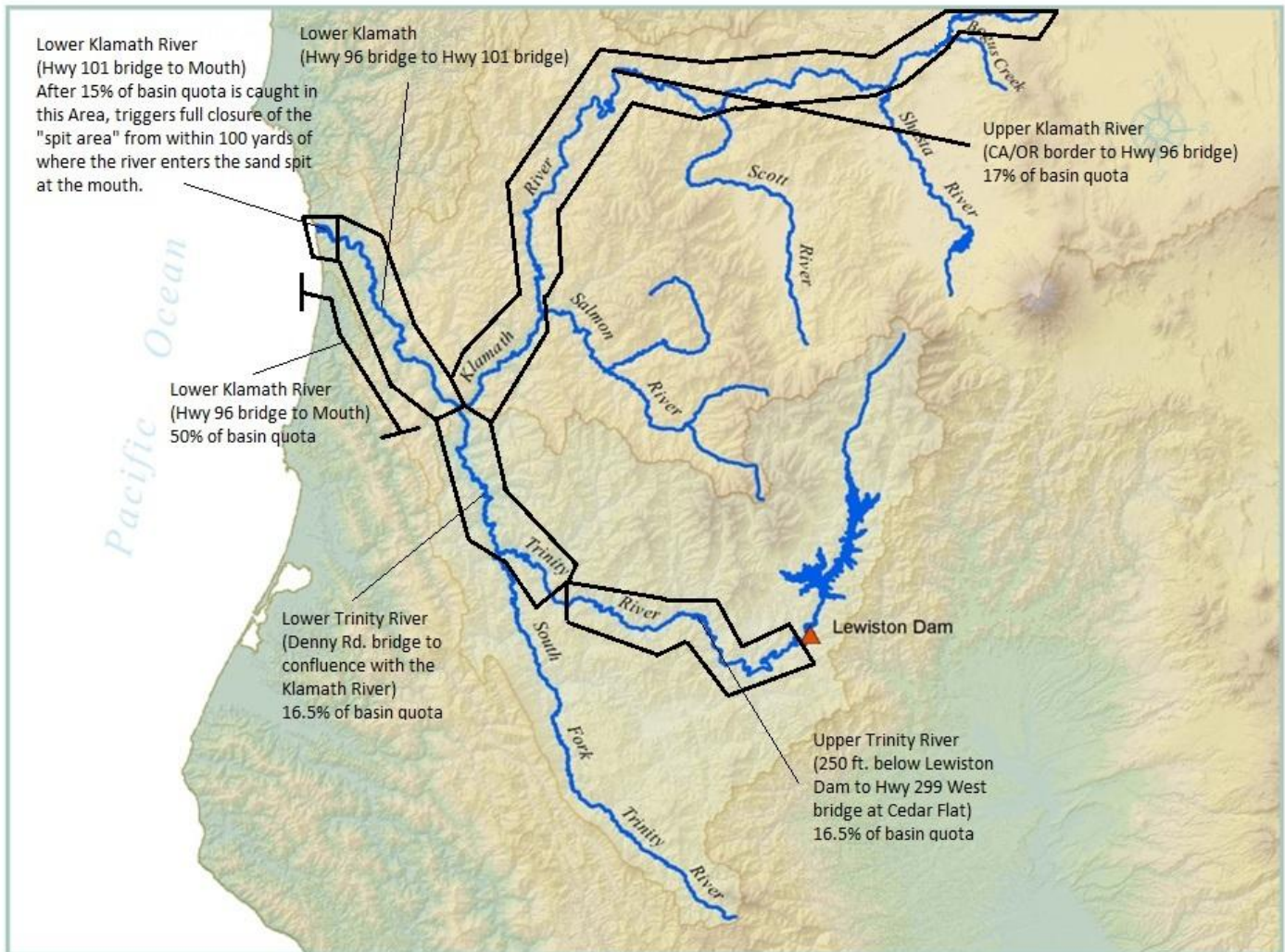


Figure 1. Map of the Klamath River Basin, showing the subquotas by reach of Trinity and Klamath rivers, and the associated subsections of 7.40(b)(50)(E).

No changes are proposed for the Klamath River and Trinity River KRFC seasons:

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

Size Limits

In 2023, the Department moved away from the fixed standing cutoff size between grilse (two-year old salmon) 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 Commission meeting.

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.

As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC is proposed once the subquota has been met.

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

The KRSC sport fishery has been closed multiple times in the recent past through the emergency rulemaking process. The current stock status and the need to compensate for large-scale changes in fishery effort have necessitated the Commission to consider regulations for this fishery annually.

Seasons:

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

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 2025 KRSC fishery in the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

- Bag Limit - [0-1] Chinook Salmon

- Possession limit - [0-2] Chinook Salmon

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 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 Commission flexibility to respond to potential effort shift. This option prohibits all methods of targeting KRSC including catch and release fishing.

The 2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND found no significant impacts for the KRB quota range and range of proposed daily bag and possession limits for KRFC and KRSC sport fishing. The proposed 2026 KRB quota, and daily bag and possession limit ranges fall within the previously analyzed ranges for the KRB quota and proposed bag and possession limits for KRFC and KRSC stocks. Therefore, there are no new significant or substantially more severe impacts from amending the KRB sport fishing regulations to either reduce or increase the KRFC or KRSC daily bag and possession limits on the Klamath and Trinity rivers.

No Subsequent Environmental Document is Required

In general, CEQA applies whenever a public agency proposes to carry out or approve a discretionary project (Public Resources Code, Section 21080(a)). CEQA provides that, where a public agency proposes to modify a previously approved project for which a final negative declaration or environmental impact report (Environmental Document or ED) was adopted or certified:

“An addendum to an adopted negative declaration may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred” (CCR, Title 14, Section 15164(b)).

- A Subsequent ED (Section 15162) required when there is substantial evidence that:
 - Substantial changes are proposed in the project, which will require major revisions to the previous ED due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
 - Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken, which will require major revisions to the previous ED due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or

- a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the previous ED was adopted or certified as complete, becomes available.

An Addendum to the 2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND (Section 15164) is proper because the changes or additions to the project presented in this Addendum are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent ED have occurred.

The Commission may properly prepare and may rely on an addendum in accordance with Section 15164 to fulfill its obligations under CEQA.

No Additional Impacts under CEQA

The Commission has determined that amending the current KRB sport fishing regulations based on salmon abundance estimates will not result in any new or significant or substantially more severe environmental impacts than previously analyzed and disclosed in the 2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND for this project.

This project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. There are no impacts to the habitat of fish and wildlife species.

This approval action adjusts the previous year's daily bag and possession limits based on more current salmon abundance estimates. No other aspect of the project is changed. No new significant or substantially more severe impacts under CEQA will occur due to this change.

Amendment of the Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations

The Commission subjected the draft addendum to its own review and analysis. Based on that review and analysis, the draft reflects the independent judgment of the Commission and fulfills the Commission's responsibilities.

In conclusion, the Commission finds that amending the KRB sport fishing regulations in CCR, Title 14, Section 7.40, will not result in any new significant or substantially more

severe environmental effects than previously analyzed and disclosed in the 2025 Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations ND. The Commission also finds that subsequent or supplemental review beyond this Addendum is not warranted pursuant to the CCR, Title 14, Section 15164, in connection with this proposed action.

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission

Date



Photo Credit: CDFW

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

PRESENTATION TO THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

April 15-16, 2026

Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries Program Manager

Fisheries Branch



Presentation Overview



- Management of Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) and Spring Chinook (KRSC) Salmon runs in the Klamath River Basin
- Proposed 2026 Regulatory Recommendation for KRSC in the Klamath River Basin
- Map of Klamath River Basin Sub-quota Areas
- Proposed 2026 Regulatory Recommendation for KRFC in the Klamath River Basin
- Timeline

KRFC and KRSC Management



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

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

Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

- As of 2025, CDFW makes **annual recommendations** for the KRSC season, bag, and possession limits based on stock status, environmental conditions, and fisheries management outcomes for the KRFC fishery
- PFMC does not make recommendations for this fishery

2026 KRSC Recommendations



Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

Seasons:

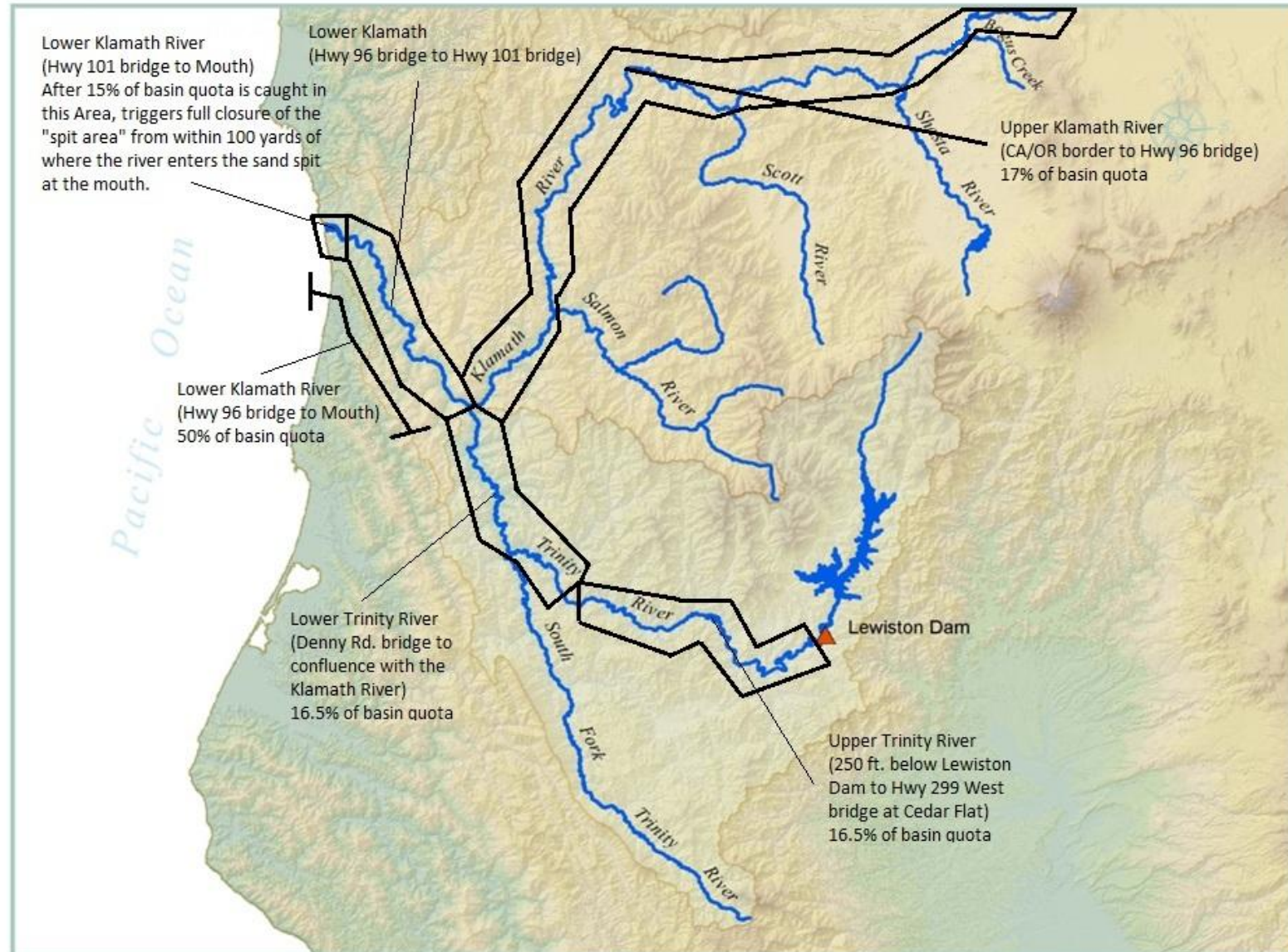
- July 1- August 14 - Klamath River [Section 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.e]
- July 1- August 31 - Trinity River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b,c,e]

Daily Bag and Possession Limit:

- 1 daily bag; 2 possession limit for any size Chinook Salmon

NOTE: CDFW will be collecting tissues samples during Angler Surveys in Klamath River section to determine the genetics of harvested fish and evaluate potential impacts to KRSC stock.

Klamath River Basin Sub-Quota Areas



2026 KRFC Recommendation



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

KRFC River Sport Fish Harvest Quota: 3,248 adult fish

Seasons:

- August 15 – December 31 - Klamath River (Closed above I-5 Bridge)
- September 1 – December 31 - Trinity River

Adult/Grilse Size Cutoff Range: ≥ 23 inches total length (TL)

Daily Bag Limit: 2 Chinook salmon

- no more than 1 fish ≥ 23 inches TL may be retained

Possession Limit: 6 Chinook salmon

- no more than 3 fish ≥ 23 inches TL may be retained

NOTE: Once the sub-quota is met for each area (except for the Spit) then only fish under 23 inches TL may be retained for the seasons with same bag and possession limits

Timeline – 2026



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



Photo credit: CDFW

Questions | Contact



Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries
Program Manager

Fisheries Branch

Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov

Public Comment Submission May 5-6 Fish and Game Commission Meeting

From Trent Tuthill <ttuthill@trinitycounty.org>

Date Fri 04/17/2026 09:32 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Attached letter submitted for May 5-6 Fish and Game Commission meeting.

Thanks
Trent

Trent Tuthill
Trinity County Administrative Officer
(530) 623-1382
ttuthill@trinitycounty.org



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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