



Tracking Number: (2026-02)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Ava Schulenberg, California Lobster & Trap Fishermen's Association (CLTFA)

Address: 315 Meigs Rd., STE A279, Santa Barbara, CA, 93109

Telephone number: 8054034811

Email address: cltfa2023@gmail.com

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: The Commission's authority to adopt the proposed regulation derives from the California Fish and Game Code, including but not limited to Sections 200, 205, and 219, which authorize the Commission to regulate the take, possession, and management of fishery resources, including California spiny lobster.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: We propose allowing the option for permitted commercial California spiny lobster fishermen to tail their legally harvested lobster in addition to the current ability to sell lobster whole or live.

4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: Current regulations require that California spiny lobster be landed and sold whole, which limits the ability of commercial fishermen and seafood businesses to adapt to changing market conditions. Allowing the option to tail lobster would provide additional flexibility for fishermen, processors, and distributors while maintaining existing conservation measures and harvest limits.

The proposed change would not alter season dates, size limits, trap limits, or overall harvest levels. Instead, it would simply allow legally harvested lobster to be processed into tails for storage, transport, and sale. This option could improve product handling and reduce spoilage or waste, particularly when live markets are limited or disrupted. Allowing lobster tailing would



also expand access to domestic markets that prefer frozen lobster tails rather than live product, providing additional economic stability for California fishermen and seafood businesses. Increased market flexibility could help the fishery better withstand fluctuations in export demand, transportation challenges, or other market disruptions.

The proposed regulation would maintain current fishery management and conservation objectives while providing practical operational benefits to participants in the fishery. Similar processing practices are common in other lobster fisheries and have not been shown to increase fishing pressure when existing harvest regulations remain in place.

Recent consensus among members of CLTFA indicates that the option to tail lobster should be available to all permit holders. Following meetings with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a statewide survey was conducted in May–June 2025 to further evaluate support and concerns regarding the proposal, including input from both members and non-members. Responses were received from 35 commercial lobster fishermen representing multiple ports across California, ranging from newer participants in the fishery to fishermen with more than 40 years of experience. The results showed significant interest in allowing lobster tailing among active fishermen, while also identifying concerns related to enforcement, logistics, and potential market impacts.

The proposed change would support the long-term economic viability of the California spiny lobster fishery while maintaining responsible management of the resource. Any implementation of lobster tailing would include appropriate handling, landing, and/or reporting requirements to ensure that enforcement officers can continue to verify compliance with minimum size regulations. Further discussion and potential pilot testing could help refine a program that addresses these concerns while protecting resource sustainability and expanding economic opportunities within the fishery.

Proposed Regulatory Language: Proposed amendment to Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 122 – Spiny Lobster

§122. Spiny Lobster

(x) Tailing of Lobster.

Commercial fishermen holding a valid California spiny lobster permit may remove the tail from legally harvested lobster. All lobster must be in compliance with the minimum size limit at the time of harvest.

Lobster tails may be possessed, transported, processed, and sold provided that all applicable landing, reporting, and permit requirements established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are followed.

The removal of lobster tails shall not be used to circumvent minimum size limits, possession limits, or other fishery management regulations.



SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** March 11th 2026
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
 - Sport Fishing
 - Commercial Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.](#)
7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*
 - Amend Title 14 Section(s): 122 – Spiny Lobster
 - Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)
 - Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)
Or Not applicable.
9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.
If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: [First Wednesday of October 2026](#)
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: [Click here to enter text.](#)
11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: [The proposed regulation allowing the option to tail California spiny lobster is not expected to result in significant negative economic impacts to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, or other state or local agencies. The proposal does not alter harvest limits, season dates, or permit structures, and therefore is not expected to affect licensing revenue, landing taxes, or other revenues collected by the state. Providing the option to tail lobster may create economic benefits for commercial fishermen, processors, wholesalers, and restaurants by improving storage efficiency, reducing shipping constraints, and allowing access to additional markets that prefer frozen lobster tails rather than live product. These efficiencies could help reduce waste and mitigate economic volatility associated with market disruptions or export limitations. Overall, the proposed change is expected to have neutral to positive economic effects while maintaining current fishery management objectives.](#)
12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[Click here to enter text.](#)



SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 03/12/2026

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: _____

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____
- Granted for consideration of regulation change

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