



Tracking Number: ( 2026-03 )

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: Shawn Kelly

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required)** - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: **The Fish and Game commission amended Title 14 Section 28.15 four times since 1994 citing Authority under: Sections 110, 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code. Certificate of Compliance became effective 6-20-2024 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(b)(3) (Register 2024, No. 25).**

**3. Overview (Required)** - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: **The commission needs to reinstate the three fish limit back to recreational fishermen who have had reduced access by 33% over the last 3 years. The Commission must then adopt regulations that limit “Open Access” commercial California halibut fishing permits and set a quota for said commercial industry so that we can avoid the problems faced by the California salmon industry. Re-instating the 3 fish bag limit for recreational sport fishing will re-allocate the resource back to all Californians, not special interests. Recreational sportfishing has a much smaller impact upon the available resources. If the Commission does not adopt these changes, the California halibut resource sustainability is in jeopardy.**

**4. Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: **Three years ago, an “Emergency Action” was taken by the California Fish and Game Commission to reduce recreational California halibut limit from 3 fish bag limit per day to two fish bag limits in waters north of a line extending due west magnetic from Point Sur, Monterey County. The intent of this change was to protect the halibut fishery during the salmon closure. This action was then adopted as a permanent regulation February 14, 2024. During this “Emergency Closure” period**



no action was taken by the Commission to reduce the commercial take of California halibut. The Commission did not limit /curtail open access commercial permits during this period. The fact is the Commission took no action to protect the halibut fishery; the resource was simply re-allocated to the commercial community. In the “Findings of Emergency and Statement of Proposed Emergency Regulatory Action” report the author states “Halibut sustainability is threatened by a potential shift in commercial fishing efforts. Displaced commercial salmon fishermen may participate in the open access commercial hook and line halibut fishery, which will increase effort and ultimately take.” If the Commission does not adopt these changes, the California halibut resource sustainability is in jeopardy. In 2008 -2009 the halibut resource suffered substantially for five years 2011-2016, let’s not let this happen again. Commercial rock fishing and salmon seasons have been reinstated for 2026. Commercial effort can now go back to their initial commercial efforts and recreational sportsmen will be made whole.

## SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** 3/25/2026
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
  - Sport Fishing
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Hunting
  - Other, please specify:
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):
  - Add New Title 14 Section(s):
  - Repeal Title 14 Section(s):
8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**   
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:
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:
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:
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: | 03/23/2026 |

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

Tracking Number