

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**10. Regulation Change Petitions (Marine)****Today's Item**Information Action 

This is a standing agenda item for the Commission to receive new regulation change petitions and act on regulation change petitions received from the public at previous meetings. This meeting will address:

- (A) Action on previously received regulation change petitions
- (B) Receipt of new petitions for regulation change
- (C) Comments received on referred petitions not yet scheduled for action

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions****(A) *Petitions for Regulation Change – Scheduled for Action***

- Received petitions 2026-02 and 2026-03 April 15-16, 2026
- **Today, potentially act on petitions June 17-18, 2026**

**(B) *New Petitions for Regulation Change – Receipt***

- **Today, receive new petitions June 17-18, 2026**
- Potentially act on new petitions August 12-13, 2026

**(C) *Comments Received on Referred Petitions (N/A)*****Background****(A) *Petitions for Regulation Change – Scheduled for Action***

Petitions received at the previous meeting are scheduled for Commission consideration at the next regularly scheduled business meeting. A petition may be: (1) denied; (2) granted; or (3) referred to a Commission committee, staff, legal counsel or the Department, for further evaluation. Referred petitions are scheduled for action once a recommendation is received.

Today, two petitions are scheduled for action.

- I. *Petition 2026-02: Request to allow processing of commercially caught spiny lobster into tails for storage, transport, and sale in addition to selling lobster whole or alive (Exhibit A2)*
- II. *Petition 2026-03: Request to increase the California halibut recreational fishing bag limit north of Point Sur to three fish; and for the commercial fishery, establish a limit on the total number of "open access" permits and establish a seasonal quota (Exhibit A3)*

The staff recommendations, developed after conferring with the Department, are provided in Exhibit A1.

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**(B) *New Petitions for Regulation Change – Receipt***

Pursuant to Section 662, any person requesting that the Commission adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation must complete and submit Form FGC 1. Petitions submitted by the public are “received” at this meeting if they are delivered by the public comment or supplemental comment deadlines or in person at the Commission meeting.

Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Commission cannot discuss or act on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to determine whether to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, petitions for regulation change generally follow a two-meeting cycle of receipt and decision. The Commission will act on petitions received at today’s meeting at the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting (August 12-13, 2026) following staff evaluation, unless the petition is rejected under the 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b).

The Commission received two new petitions for regulation change by the comment deadline for this meeting. The petitions, summarized in Exhibit B1, are related to servicing recreational hoop net gear north of Point Arguello (Exhibit B2), and requesting an exemption to the Sport-Caught Processing Permit (Exhibit B3).

**(C) *Comments Received on Referred Petitions***

This item provides an opportunity for public comment on any petition previously referred for review and recommendation, but not yet ready for Commission action. Action on any referred petition will be scheduled once the Commission receives a recommendation.

***MPA (Marine Protected Area) Petitions***

- Any comments on referred MPA petitions will be heard under agenda items 3 and 27 (General Public Comment).
- Amendments to tribally led or co-led petitions: During the April 14, 2026 Tribal Committee (TC) meeting, petitioners communicated changes to four of the five tribally led or co-led MPA petitions. Based on TC’s recommendation, the Commission approved the requested amendments to those four petitions at its April 15-16 meeting. The Commission directed staff to provide the Department with a memo summarizing the amendments. The memo is included as Exhibit C1 and will be posted with each relevant MPA petition on the [“Status of Marine Protected Area Petitions for Regulation Change Index”](#) to facilitate public access.

*Commission action on any referred petition will be scheduled for consideration once a recommendation is received.*

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Refer Petition 2026-02 (lobster tailing) to MRC for vetting and recommendation, and request Department review and recommendation for MRC discussion. Deny Petition 2026-03 for the reasons outlined in Exhibit B1.

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**Exhibits**

- A1. [Summary table of petitions scheduled for action and staff recommendations](#), updated June 4, 2026
- A2. [Petition 2026-02](#), received March 12, 2026
- A3. [Petition 2026-03](#), received March 23, 2026
- B1. [Summary table of petitions newly received](#), updated June 4, 2026
- B2. [Petition 2026-07](#), received April 22, 2026
- B3. [Petition 2026-08](#), received May 27, 2026
- C1. [Memo from Commission staff to the Department regarding changes to tribally led and co-led MPA petitions](#), transmitted May 29, 2026

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations to refer Petition 2026-02 to MRC for vetting and MRC recommendation, and requests Department review and recommendations for MRC discussion; and to deny Petition 2026-03.

**California Fish and Game Commission  
Petitions for Regulation Change — Action (updated June 4, 2026)**

CFGC - California Fish and Game Commission CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife MRC - Marine Resources Committee MR - Marine Region WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee

MPA - marine protected area SMR - state marine reserve SMCA - state marine conservation area

Grant: CFGC is willing to consider the petitioned action through a process Deny: Not willing to consider the petitioned action Refer: Need more information before the final decision

Tracking No.	Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Short Description	CFGC Receipt	CFGC Initial Action Date	Initial Staff Recommendation
2026-02	3/12/2026	Ava Schulenberg CA Lobster & Trap Fisherman's Association	Allow commercial spiny lobster fishermen to process catch into tails for storage, transport, and sale in addition to selling lobster whole or live.	4/15-16/2026	6/17-18/2026	Refer to MRC for vetting and recommendation, and request CDFW review and provide input to MRC.
2026-03	3/23/2026	Shawn Kelly	(a) Increase the California halibut recreational fishing bag limit north of Point Sur to three fish; and (b) for the commercial fishery, establish a limit on the total number of "open access" permits and establish a seasonal quota.	4/15-16/2026	6/17-18/2026	DENY: (a) CDFW reports that recent cold-water conditions have resulted in poor recruitment into the California halibut population. Pending refinements to the 2020 stock assessment, results from the ongoing trawl bycatch evaluation, and the expanded California halibut management strategy evaluation (MSE) are needed to guide future management actions, including consideration of any changes to the recreational bag limit.  (b) CDFW does not yet have sufficient scientific information to recommend changes to the open-access commercial permit structure for the California halibut fishery. As part of the ongoing California halibut fishery MSE, CDFW is continuing its evaluation of the open-access sector. While the June 2023 Emergency Statement of Reasons noted that displaced commercial salmon permittees may participate in the open-access halibut fishery—potentially increasing effort—this potential cannot be evaluated without additional analyses. Results from the updated stock assessment, the bycatch evaluation, and the MSE are necessary before determining whether current open-access participation levels pose sustainability risks or warrant management changes.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> 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

Tracking Number



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

**California Fish and Game Commission**

**New Petitions for Regulation Change: Received by 5:00 PM on June 4, 2026**

CFGC - California Fish and Game Commission CDFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife

<b>Tracking No.</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Name of Petitioner</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>FGC Receipt Scheduled</b>	<b>FGC Action Scheduled</b>
2026-07	4/22/2026	James Smith	Revise servicing recreational hoop net gear north of Point Arguello from intervals of every 2 hours to intervals of 5 hours	6/17-18/2026	8/12-13/2026
2026-08	5/27/2026	Michael Rescino Golden Gate Fishermen's Association	Exempt commercial passenger fishing vessels departing north of Point Arguello from the requirement to hold a sport-caught processing permit	6/17-18/2026	8/12-13/2026



Tracking Number: ( 2026-07 )

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: James Smith

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Title 14, §29.80, Fish and Game Code §§ 200, 205, 265, 270, 275, 399, 7075, and 7078.**

3.

**4. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: To revise the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 29.80 to change gear servicing interval to 5 hours. We also request waiver of the 10 day response requirement.**

5.

**6. Rationale (Required) - Proposed Regulatory Change**

**7. Current Title 14 CCR §29.80 (simplified reference)**

8. "Recreational hoop nets are required to be serviced every 2 hours."

**9. Proposed Amendment**

**10.** "Recreational hoop nets must be serviced every five hours North of Pt. Arguello"

A 5-hour service interval could increase catch rates and therefore reduce the number of hoops needed for a recreational angler to harvest their daily limit of



Crab. Reduced Hoop gear in the water would lower entanglement risk to marine life.

**11. Increased Catch Efficiency:**

- a. **Reduced Gear Numbers:** Allowing a 5-hour servicing window would increase catch rates per hoop net, and recreational anglers could potentially harvest their daily limit of Crab with fewer hoop nets in the water. This would result in fewer nets needing to be deployed.

**12. Reduction in Entanglement Risks:**

- a. **Humpback Whale and Other Marine Species Protection:** By reducing the number of hoop nets in the water, we would reduce the number of vertical lines that humpback whales and other marine species could potentially become entangled in. During heavy migration periods, vertical lines from hoop nets and other fishing gear can pose a risk of entanglement.
- b. **Safety.** Vessels would need to carry fewer hoops on board, improving safety for both private and commercial passenger vessels

**13. Environmental Protection:**

- a. **Less Bycatch:** fewer hoops in the water reduce the chance for unintended bycatch or entanglement of non-target species. This could be particularly beneficial in protecting marine mammals, turtles, and other vulnerable species that might get tangled in the gear.

**14.**

- a. **More Efficient Use of Gear:** With an extended time between servicing, recreational anglers could optimize their time on the water. They would still be able to catch their daily limit with fewer hoop nets, making their fishing trips more efficient and potentially safer.
- b. **Reduced Fishing Pressure:** If anglers need fewer nets to catch their daily limit, the overall fishing pressure on the ecosystem could be reduced. This could lead to less disturbance in sensitive habitats.

**15. Compliance and Enforcement:**

- a. **Easier Enforcement:** From an enforcement perspective, fewer nets in the water would make it easier for officers to track compliance. Less gear would be spread over larger areas, and there would be fewer nets to monitor overall.



16. Title 14 29.80

## SECTION II: Optional Information

17. **Date of Petition:** 12/3/2025.

18. **Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.](#)

19. **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):29.80.

Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

20. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**

Not applicable.

21. **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: 11/1/2026.

22. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:

23. **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: Potential impact of lowering cost of enforcement and lost gear retrieval

24. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

## SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 4/22/2026

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Tracking Number

Granted for consideration of regulation change



Tracking Number: ( 2026-08 )

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: Michael Rescino, GGFA

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address [REDACTED]

**2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Title 14, §29.80, Fish and Game Code §§ 200, 205, 265, 270, 275, 399, 7075, and 7078.**

**3.**

**4. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: To revise the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Section 231 to exempt Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels departing North of Point Arguello from the requirement to hold a Sport-Caught Processing Permit.**

**5.**

**6. Rationale (Required) - Proposed Regulatory Change**

**7. Current Title 14 CCR §231 (simplified reference)**

**8. Proposed Amendment**

**9. "Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels departing North of Pt. Arguello are not required to hold a Sport-Caught Fish Processing permit"**



**10. Eliminate fish waste from landfill facilities. Create an efficient means to fillet and clean fish for sport anglers, immediately returning cleaned fish to angler for personal consumption. Facilitates proper disposal of fish waste back to sea.**

**11. Reduction of records.**

**a. Fish are traditionally cleaned and filleted for a sport angler and returned immediately to the angler. Retaining records of which include a written statement from the sport angler, along with number and weight of species create an unnecessary paper trail which serves no purpose to the angler or Dept of Wildlife.**

## SECTION II: Optional Information

**12. Date of Petition: 05/23/2026.**

**13. Category of Proposed Change**

Sport Fishing

Commercial Fishing

Hunting

Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.](#)

**14. 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):29.80.

Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#)

**15. If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**

Not applicable.

**16. 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: 11/1/2026.

**17. Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:

**18. 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: Potential impact of lowering cost of enforcement and lost gear retrieval

**19. Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

**SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only**

Date received: 5/27/2026

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

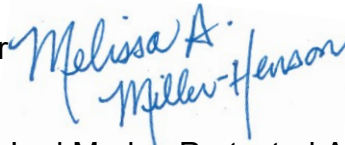
**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 29, 2026

**TO:** Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**CC:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Meghan Hertel, Director  
Chad Dibble, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division  
Sarah Fonseca, Tribal Liaison  
Samara Maxey, Regional Tribal Coordinator, Marine Region

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



**SUBJECT:** Actions Proposed for Tribally Led and Co-Led Marine Protected Area Petitions

This memo is intended to transmit to the Department, for evaluation purposes, current descriptions of specific proposed actions in the five tribally led or co-led marine protected area (MPA) petitions under consideration by the Commission.

During its April 14, 2026 meeting, the Commission Tribal Committee received presentations from tribes that are leading or co-leading MPA petitions; the committee recommended that the Commission request the Department move forward with tribally led or co-led petition evaluations based on how the petitions, and individual actions contained within, were presented and described during the April 14 meeting.

At its April 15-16, 2026 meeting, the Commission supported the Tribal Committee recommendation and directed staff to submit to the Department the amended proposed actions for tribally led or co-led MPA petitions. Since the April meeting, the Commission held three regional meetings focused on MPA petitions, during which the five tribally led or co-led petitions were presented and petitioners reaffirmed the specific proposed actions as described on April 14.

Table 1 details the five tribally led or co-led MPA petitions and the specific actions requested in each, as presented in April and reaffirmed during the regional MPA petition meetings. The Department is asked to evaluate the five petitions consistent with the amendments summarized in the "Description, Effective April 15, 2026" column of the table. The Commission has requested that the Department complete and submit the evaluations to the Commission prior to, and present its recommendations during, the Commission's August 12-13, 2026 meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

**Table 1: Tribally Led or Co-Led Marine Protected Area Petitions, May 2026**

<b>Petition Number</b> <b>Tribal Lead or Co-Lead and Co-Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description of Petition Proposed Actions (Original 2023 or as Amended 2025)</b>	<b>Tribal Petitioner Changes</b>	<b>Description of Petition Proposed Actions Effective April 15, 2026</b>
<b>2023-21MPA</b>  Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend northern boundary of Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area (SCMA)</li> <li>Remove recreational take of surf smelt</li> <li>Maintain tribal take exemption for the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation</li> </ul>	No changes proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend northern boundary of Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area</li> <li>Remove recreational take of surf smelt</li> <li>Maintain tribal take exemption for the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation</li> </ul>
<b>2023-28MPA_AM2</b>  Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)  Northern Chumash Tribal Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate a new SMCA around Point Sal (size: 14.22 square miles with an alongshore span of 3.20 miles)</li> <li>Identify a tribal name through consultation with Chumash people</li> <li>Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Move southern boundary north by one-half mile</i></li> <li><i>Allow incidental take during mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate a new SMCA around Point Sal (size as amended: 9.18 square miles with an alongshore span of 4.03 miles)</li> <li>Identify a tribal name through consultation with Chumash people</li> <li>Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore</li> <li>Allow incidental take during mission-critical operations at Vandenberg Space Force Base</li> </ul>
<b>2023-29MPA_AM1</b>  NRDC  Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians (SYBCI)  Environmental Defense Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate a new marine protected area near Carpinteria as "Mishopshno SMCA" (size: 8.97 square miles)</li> <li>Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore</li> <li>Include a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Move western boundary to 119.53689W, extending from the shore at Summerland to 34.366106N and the eastern boundary to 119.58868W, extending from the coast at Franklin Creek to 34.366106N</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate a new marine protected area near Carpinteria as "Mishopshno SMCA" (size as amended: 9.05 square miles with an alongshore span of 3.63 miles)</li> <li>Allow recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore</li> <li>Include a tribal take exemption for the SIBCI</li> </ul>

<b>Petition Number</b> <b>Tribal Lead or Co-Lead and Co-Sponsor(s)</b>	<b>Description of Petition Proposed Actions (Original 2023 or as Amended 2025)</b>	<b>Tribal Petitioner Changes</b>	<b>Description of Petition Proposed Actions Effective April 15, 2026</b>
<b>2023-19MPA</b>  Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate a new marine protected area near Morro Bay as “Chitqawi SMCA”</li> <li>• Include a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians</li> <li>• Allow recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand</li> <li>• Allow incidental take from permitted operations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Remove proposed allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand</i></li> <li>• <i>Remove incidental take allowance</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate a new marine protected area near Morro Bay as “Chitqawi SMCA”</li> <li>• Include only a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians</li> </ul>
<b>2023-20MPA</b>  Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand northern boundary of Point Buchon State Marine Reserve (SMR) north to align with Point Buchon</li> <li>• Re-name Point Buchon SMCA as the “Chumash Co-Managed SMCA”</li> <li>• Remove current take allowance (recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore)</li> <li>• Add allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand</li> <li>• Allow take incidental to operations in MPA</li> <li>• Add a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Keep current take allowance (recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore)</i></li> <li>• <i>Remove proposed allowance for recreational take of finfish and invertebrates except mussels and scallops by hand</i></li> <li>• <i>Remove proposed allowance for take incidental to operations in MPA</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand northern boundary of Point Buchon SMR north to align with Point Buchon</li> <li>• Re-name Point Buchon SMCA as the “Chumash Co-Managed SMCA”</li> <li>• Add a tribal take exemption for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians</li> </ul>