

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

10. Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine) (Consent)**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

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

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee vetting | January 13, 2026; WRC |
| • Notice hearing | April 15-16, 2026 |
| • Discussion hearing | June 17-18, 2026 |
| • Today's adoption hearing | August 12-13, 2026 |

Background

At its April 2026 meeting, the Commission authorized publication of a notice of its intent to amend regulations related to sport fishing. The amendments, affecting nearly two dozen sections of Title 14, aim to improve clarity, expand angler opportunities, update gear provisions, protect vulnerable fish populations, revise steelhead report and restoration card requirements, and modify low-flow regulations. A background and summary of the proposed amendments are included in Exhibit 1; details of the proposed amendments are provided in the initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 2) and the publicly noticed regulatory language (Exhibit 3).

Since publishing the notice, the Commission has not received any substantive comments, and the Department has not requested any changes to the proposed regulations. Today, the Commission may adopt the proposed regulations.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The Department drafted an initial study and draft negative declaration for this rulemaking as a proposed mechanism for complying with CEQA and provided the draft to the commission (exhibits 4 through 6). Commission staff have reviewed and analyzed the negative declaration and determined that it reflects the independent judgment of the Commission. Staff submitted the draft negative declaration for public comment (State Clearinghouse Number 2026070513, available at <https://ceganet.opr.ca.gov/2026070513>). The review period for public comments ends on August 12, 2026.

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

Commission staff: Adopt the negative declaration prepared pursuant to CEQA, approve the proposed project, and adopt the proposed amendments as recommended by the Department.

Department: Adopt the proposed amendments as described in the initial statement of reasons.

Exhibits

1. [Staff summary for Agenda Item 20, April 15-16, 2026 Commission meeting](#) (for background purposes only)

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2. [Initial statement of reasons](#)
3. [Noticed regulatory language](#)
4. [Department memo transmitting draft negative declaration, received June 5, 2026](#)
5. [Draft negative declaration, dated April 2026](#)
6. [Notice of completion, document submittal form, and summary form](#)
7. [STD. 399, economic and fiscal impact statement](#)
8. [Department pre-adoption email, received July 1, 2026](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 10 through 12 on the consent calendar.

**Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026
(...for background purposes only...)**

20. Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine)

Today's Item

Information ☐

Action ☒

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend sport fishing regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting and recommendation | January 13, 2026; WRC |
| • Today's notice hearing | April 15-16, 2026 |
| • Discussion hearing | June 17-18, 2026 |
| • Adoption hearing | August 12-13, 2026 |

Background

At the September 2024 and January 2025 WRC meetings, the Department presented recommendations for amendments to sport fishing regulations. For workload management purposes, further consideration of the recommendations was postponed. At the September 2025 WRC meeting, the Department reintroduced its recommendations, along with a number of new ones, for potential consideration in a rulemaking this year. At its January 2026 meeting, WRC recommended that the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding sport fishing.

The Department recommends the Commission amend sport fishing regulations to improve clarity, increase angler opportunities, and protect fish populations. The recommended amendments, which encompass almost two dozen sections of regulatory code, are intended to make:

- Regulation language clarifications
- Changes to increase fishing opportunities
- Changes to fishing gear, measuring, and sampling
- Protective changes for vulnerable fish populations
- Changes to steelhead fishing report and restoration cards
- Low-flow regulation changes

Further details and rationales regarding all components of the proposed changes can be found in the draft initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 2), and specifics for each proposed change can be found in the draft proposed regulatory language (Exhibit 3). The Department has also provided a document summarizing many of the recommended changes, included as Exhibit 6.

Significant Public Comments

1. The Department, coincident with its transmittal of the draft initial statement of reasons, included letters of support from local governments and NGOs regarding different elements of the regulatory change package:

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 (...for background purposes only...)

- a. The Modoc County Board of Supervisors supports removing the minimum size requirement from all waters within Lassen and Modoc counties, with the exception of Mountain Meadows Reservoir (Exhibit 7).
- b. CalTrout supports reopening lower Battle Creek from June 30 to December 31 for fishing with artificial lures with barbless hooks, updating regulations to include Trout Creek in Section 7.50 and adopting catch-and-release only regulations, and removing Fall River Lake and Pond from the wild trout designation and from Section 7.50 (Exhibit 8).
- c. Trout Unlimited supports making Trout Creek (Siskiyou County) a catch-and-release only fishery (Exhibit 9).
- d. The Fall River Conservancy supports removing Fall River Lake and Pond from the wild trout designation and from Section 7.50 (Exhibit 10).
- e. The Lassen County Board of Supervisors supports removing the minimum size requirement from all waters within Lassen and Modoc counties, with the exception of Mountain Meadows Reservoir, and supports reverting the Susan River fishing season to the historic traditional trout opener on the last Saturday in April through November 15 (Exhibit 11).

Recommendation

Commission staff: Authorize publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations pertaining to sport fishing as recommended by the Department.

Committee: Authorize publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations as recommended by the Department.

Department: Authorize publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations pertaining to sport fishing regulations consistent with the draft initial statement of reasons and draft proposed regulatory language.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received March 25, 2026](#)
2. [Draft initial statement of reasons](#)
3. [Draft proposed regulatory language](#)
4. [Draft economic and fiscal impact statement \(STD. 399\)](#)
5. [Department presentation](#)
6. [Abbreviated Summary of Sport Fishing Regulation Change Concept Proposals for the 2026 Sport Fish Rulemaking](#)
7. [Letter from Shane Starr, Chair of the Board, Modoc County Board of Supervisors, dated December 10, 2024](#)
8. [Letter from Damon H. Goodman, Klamath-Mt. Shasta-Lassen Regional Director, CalTrout, dated July 2, 2025](#)
9. [Letter from Andrew Harris, Trout Unlimited, dated August 12, 2025](#)
10. [Email from Rodney R. Peck, President, Fall River Conservancy, dated February 24, 2026](#)

Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026
(...for background purposes only...)

11. [Letter from Tom Neely, Chairman, Lassen County Board of Supervisors, undated](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend sections 1.62 et al., related to sport fishing regulations.

State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88,
6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701,
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine)

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: February 23, 2026

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: April 16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: June 18, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: August 13, 2026

Location: Sacramento

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 (CCR).

This regulatory proposal combines California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and public requests for changes to Title 14, CCR sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701, for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle. This proposal contains multiple updates that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve the steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. These proposed regulatory changes are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

Proposed Regulations

The Department is proposing changes to the following regulations in Title 14, CCR. Due to the number and complexity of the regulation change proposal, the changes are organized below into categories.

Regulation Language Clarifications:

The proposed changes are necessary in order to enhance clarity, consistency, or fix errors, and do not alter the application or enforcement of these regulations:

- **Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County:** In 2014, Clear Lake Hitch were listed under California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as threatened and can no longer be taken without a CESA incidental take permit or MOU. The language in Section 2.11 conflicts with the take prohibitions for Clear Lake Hitch and needs to be removed from Title 14 CCR.
- **Section 5.65, Shad, American:** In 2025 there was a regulation change to allow spearfishing as a method of take for American Shad in the Valley District in Section 2.30. The proposed change would add spearfishing as a method of take allowable for American Shad in the Valley District in Section 5.65. This would make Section 5.65 consistent with Section 2.30.
- **Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout:** This proposal would add Section 7.00, which lists general regulations in each District, to the list of sections excepted from general statewide trout regulations. This proposal would remove ambiguities associated with wardens enforcing fishing regulation violations.
- **Section 6.34, Southern District Definition:** The current regulations definition of the “Southern District” in Section 6.34 erroneously copies the Sierra District definition. This change would correct the language to the as-intended definition of the Southern District.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries:** This proposal would clean up, reorganize, and group streams with similar regulations in subsection 7.50(b)(90) for the McCloud River and tributaries. This would simplify the regulation, making it easier to understand by grouping waters with similar regulations.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(145), Sq. Valley Creek:** The name of Sq. Valley Creek was changed by federal legislation through the Department of Interior’s Order 3404 on September 8, 2022 to Yét Atwam Creek. This proposal would make the regulation text consistent with federal legislation.
- **Section 230, subsection (g)(2), Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prize for the Taking of Game Fish:** There is a minor grammar error in subsection 230(g)(2), which has an ungrammatical ‘s’ that would be removed from the word “changes”.
- **Section 7.40, subsection (b):** Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124) to account for the addition of multiple special waters to this subsection. Section 7.40, like Section 7.50, are listed by special water in alphabetical order to help anglers find the water they search for in this regulation. Updates to other regulations sections have been made in this proposal to update or remove unnecessary references to 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) due to the continual changes in the numbering of these sections when waters are added or removed. There are minor edits to text to align subsection 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal, which will clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between Section 8.00 and subsection 7.40(b) where needed. Subsection (b)(43)(D)(1) has been consolidated into subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D) to provide clarification and removal of the additional box and subsection (1). In subsection 7.40(b)(72)(C), the boundary feature has a name change from “Sonoma/Mendicino Boy Scout Council Camp” to “Camp Noyo” to reflect

the name change of the property. For the Smith River, subsection 7.40(b)(108)(A), was added to match the language in proposed subsection 8.00(a)(4) describing the Smith River from the mouth to the confluence with Rowdy Creek. This change was made to align with the Smith River sections described in subsections 7.40(b)(108)(B) and (C).

Changes To Increase Fishing Opportunities

The proposed changes described below would increase fishing opportunities in the affected regulation sections.

- **Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would move the upper limit of the Sacramento River upstream from Highway 32 Bridge to Deschutes Bridge for bait fish use. Generally, declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time, Striped Bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River, which would increase fishing opportunities for Striped Bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. It may also increase harvest of these non-native species, which could have a potential benefit on vulnerable salmonid populations.
- **Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co.):** This proposed change would remove the black bass minimum size requirement from waters in Lassen and Modoc counties, except for Mountain Meadows Reservoir where the minimum size would remain at 12 inches. Growth rates of Largemouth Bass are typically slow within Lassen and Modoc counties due shorter growing season attributable to the high elevation. Additionally, reservoirs containing large bass populations are often overrun with stunted bass, and few bass are able to reach the 12-inch minimum size requirement for harvest. The 12-inch minimum size requirement reduces the number of harvested bass, which could affect the bass populations by further stunting their growth. Removing the minimum size requirement in these locations would increase the harvest of smaller bass and improve the size class structure within the bass populations. Mountain Meadows Reservoir is still recovering from being drained in 2015 and has the potential to grow trophy class bass as it has in the past. The 12-inch minimum size requirement at Mountain Meadows Reservoir would be maintained under the General Statewide Restrictions regulations allowing the bass population to grow, and allow more young bass to grow to the 12-inch size minimum and larger. Subsection numbers (b)(3) through(b)(14) have been re-numbered to allow for the two counties added into this section. The Lassen Board of Supervisors and the Modoc Board of Supervisors with the Modoc Fish, Game, and Recommendation Department sent letters of support for this change. Also, subsection 5.00(b)(2) for Inyo County is proposed to be split into separate boxes in the table and subsections(A) and (B), to provide clarity on open season and bag limits, without changing any of the regulations.
- **Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would increase fishing opportunity by allowing the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta

and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. Declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time, Striped Bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. The proposed split season with June 16 to September 30 dropped the artificial lure requirement for allowable use of live fin fish as bait during this period when bass. Allowing appropriate live fin fish bait to be used further up the Sacramento River would increase fishing opportunities on Striped Bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to lures and other methods. It may also increase harvest, which could have a potential benefit on salmonid populations.

- **Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead.
 - Lower Battle Creek from the mouth to Coleman Fish Hatchery weir is currently closed to angling year-round. Allowing angler access to lower Battle Creek beginning June 30 will increase fishing opportunities on Striped and Black Bass. Battle Creek was historically a popular steelhead fishery, but was closed to angling in the early 1990's to ensure that Coleman National Fish Hatchery would annually secure sufficient adult steelhead broodstock.
 - Returns of hatchery-origin steelhead to Coleman National Fish Hatchery are now routinely in excess of broodstock collection targets. Presently, these fish are only available to recreational anglers in the mainstem Sacramento River. However, due to a variety of factors, contact with these fish in the mainstem Sacramento River is extremely low. Furthermore, the mainstem Sacramento River steelhead fishery is primarily boat-based. Shore-based steelhead fishing on lower Battle Creek would provide opportunity to much broader angling interest groups.
 - The harvest of Coleman Hatchery steelhead is expected to be minimal based on observed creel data from neighboring hatchery steelhead fisheries on the American and Feather Rivers due to angler preference for catch and release angling.
- **Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations:** This proposed change would increase fishing opportunity in the Klamath River by allowing catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the mainstem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the [Klamath Dam Removal project area](#). The proposed summer season

regulations would provide consistency with currently open waters adjacent to and upstream of this subsection.

- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.):** The Fall River is a unique river in that it is fed by multiple natural springs (i.e., spring-fed system) and is a prime trout fishing water. The “Fall River Complex” was added to the freshwater sport fishing regulations in 2021. The angling regulation addition coincided with an expansion of the Fall River wild trout designation. Department justified the addition and expansion by citing its unique spring-fed system and genetic differences and life histories among Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) within the Fall River system, which is a research project led by U.C. Davis with assistance from the Department. The regulation was put in place to provide protections for Rainbow Trout in the Fall River Complex and was the result of litigation by the Fall River Conservancy. Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake were not included in the U.C. Davis research and there is limited data to suggest that Rainbow Trout from the Fall River Complex mix with Rainbow Trout in Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond, so the inclusion of these two locations is not necessary. The current regulations have been unpopular with anglers, and research suggests they are not effective in protecting the population of Rainbow Trout that was intended to be protected by this regulation. CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, and Fall River Conservancy have sent support letters for the proposed change. This proposed change would remove subsections (47)(L) Fall River Pond and (47)(M) Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b)(47) Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.). The removal of these two paragraphs Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b) means that these stretches of waters would then fall under subsection 5.85(a)(1), which outlines the statewide general trout regulations for take allowances. Owing to the removal of subsections (b)(47)(L) and (b)(47)(M), the language for subsection (b)(47)(A) is shifted from the confluence of the Fall River with the Pit River, to Pit No. 1 PG&E Diversion Dam.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby:** This proposed change would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15) that was updated by previous regulation change in 2020 (OAL file #2020-1204-02s). The proposed change would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start. Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. During much of the winter the river is typically unfishable (due to ice and snow), so the winter provides little to no opportunity. Water in the Susan River can warm significantly in the late spring and early summer, as releases from McCoy Flat and Hog Flat reservoirs increase. Having the season open earlier will provide more opportunity while angling conditions are good, while not impacting spawning.

Changes to Fishing Gear, Measuring, and Sampling

The following proposed changes are related to fishing gear, measuring and sampling regulation restrictions:

- **Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations:**

This proposed change would amend Section 1.62 to more clearly define the method to determine total length of finfish. The change would clarify that total length is measured with the fish's mouth closed, lying flat on a horizontal surface, and that the tail may be pinched, fanned, or naturally swung (see Figures 1-3 below for a photograph of these tail positions). Fanning and swinging of a fish's tail is expressly allowed for salmon and halibut but not specified in the general maximum length in Section 1.62. It has been a long-time practice for our law enforcement officers to allow this technique, but it is not consistently understood by anglers. Importantly, crew onboard Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs) have requested clarification, to ensure they are measuring passengers' fish correctly.

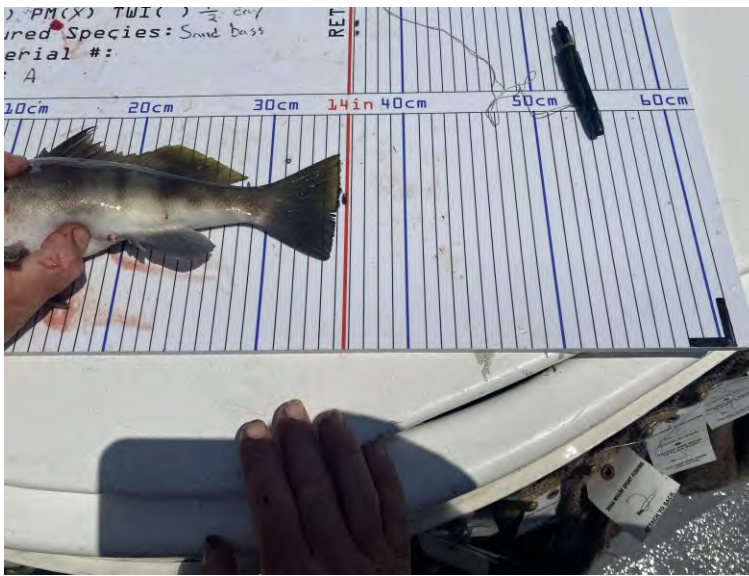


Figure 1: Fish measurement natural

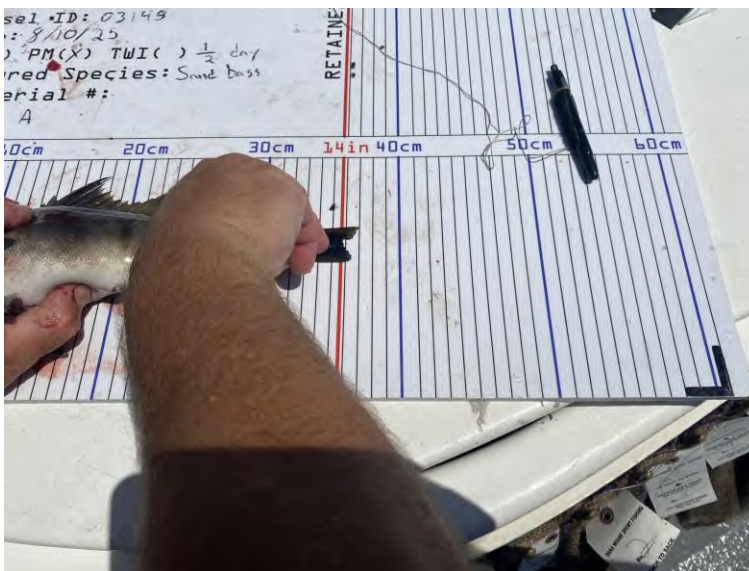


Figure 2: Fish measurement pinched

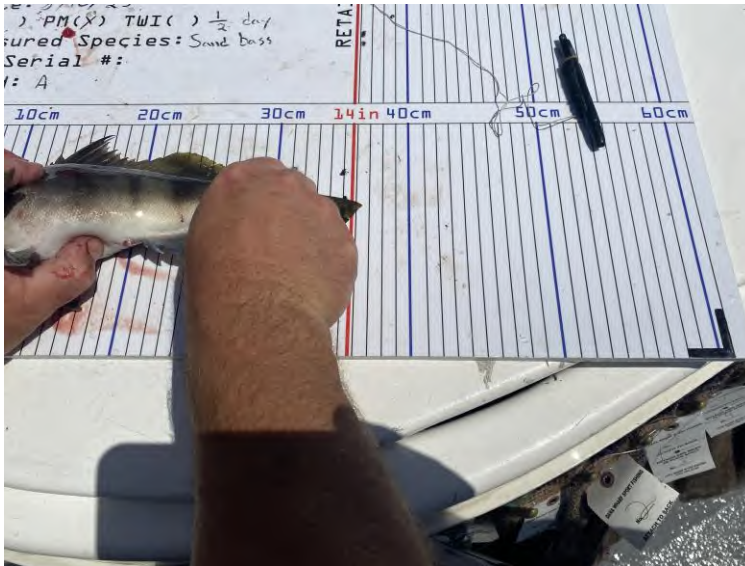


Figure 3: Fish measurement swung (the hand in the photo blocks the view of the tail, but is similar to pinched)

The proposed change also includes changing the phrase “fish, mollusks or crustaceans” to “finfish or invertebrates” and clarifies that measurement of invertebrate species is specified within the individual invertebrate regulations. The proposal also changes existing language that refers to “mollusks, or crustaceans” to the term “invertebrates” which is more inclusive and encompasses other groups like echinoderms. It clarifies that methods to determine length for invertebrates are found in the individual subsections for those species. Recreational fishing groups including American Sportfishing Association, Sportfishing Association of California, and Coastal Conservation Association of California were contacted and support these changes.

The proposed change additionally removes alternate length measurements from Section 1.62, and from the sections for barracuda, kelp and sand basses, and white sea bass (sections 28.25, 28.30, and 28.35, respectively). Alternate length is proposed to be removed as it causes unnecessary confusion and concerns with law enforcement. The allowance of retaining filleted fish (i.e., Section 27.65), with associated minimum fillet lengths provided for these species, makes the use of an alternate length unnecessary. A provision to use either total length or a 5-pound minimum weight limit for bonito, found in Section 28.32, was established to make recreational catch limits consistent with commercial catch limits. Given that this consistency is no longer necessary and that determining weight at sea onboard a boat is generally difficult and inaccurate, along with the fact that the minimum size limit adequately protects the fish stock, the 5-pound weight limit alternative is not needed and is proposed for removal. The Department consulted with representatives from the American Sportfishing Association, Coastal Conservation Association of California, and Sportfishing Association of California who all agreed that the existing provisions to allow alternate lengths and the 5-pound minimum weight limit for bonito were confusing and unnecessary.

The proposed change would also add Fish and Game Code sections 7701 and 7708 to the authorities list of Section 1.62. Adding those authorities would help clarify that Section 1.62 applies to both recreational and commercial fisheries.

- **Section 1.73, Salmon:** This proposed change would require any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon in which an adipose fin is present to provide the Department a tissue sample upon request. This includes the additional requirement of all persons fishing for salmon to provide a tissue sample from unmarked (i.e., adipose fin present) salmon upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department. Amending biological sample collection requirements allows for the use of Parentage-Based Tagging (PBT) in fisheries surveys advances fisheries monitoring in a number of ways. PBT is highly efficient, as the tagging process requires only genotyping the parents to produce a 100% tag rate of offspring, which can lead to higher tag recovery rates and improved statistical precision of estimates. Additionally, there is no physical tag loss or handling mortality associated with PBT; parentage assignments can be obtained non-lethally via a small tissue sample, and large-scale tagging can occur at a much lower cost compared to physical marking and tagging methods. This proposal would allow the Department to integrate PBT recovery data into the current salmon management framework, allowing tissue samples to be collected from unmarked salmon contacted in monitoring programs.

- **Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions:**

This proposed change would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling.

Current regulations do not allow the use of weights of any size attached directly below a hook in rivers or streams. Also, the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures exceeding one ounce cannot be used in this same geographic area. The intention of these regulations is to prevent the use of gear rigging that could be used to snag native fishes in their migration or spawning habitat. However, these restrictions minimize angling opportunity by limiting the techniques and species that can be targeted, especially during the time of year when native species are not present. Additionally, small lightweight weights attached below a hook can help sink light terminal tackle in the water column, and are used in popular angling techniques legal in other states. Depending on gear rigging, some common lures and techniques do not pose a snagging risk, and could be techniques that California anglers utilize to target trout, bass, and other species.

In the angling community there is confusion about the legality of techniques and tackle. This confusion stems from the popularity of the techniques that utilize this configuration in other states, similar fisheries occurring here in California, and because the method is permissible in lakes, reservoirs, and the Delta. This change would improve law enforcement's ability to enforce these regulations consistently across the state and reduce the need to intervene as frequently.

- **Section 7.40(b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River:** This proposed change would update the gear restriction boundary to align with more recognizable features, providing clarity for both anglers and law enforcement. The boundary line would change from the mouth of the Eel River to Fulmor Road, and instead be the mouth to Cock Robin Island, resulting in a slight shift downstream (~.5 miles).

Protective Changes for Vulnerable Populations

The following proposed changes are recommended to protect vulnerable populations, while preserving fishing opportunities:

- **Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations:** This proposed change would modify the Sierra district boundary in Section 6.35 to include a small section of Yuba County (“Yuba County east of New Bullards Bar Dam;”) to protect experimentally reintroduced Chinook Salmon. This change would also close Chinook Salmon fishing in the North Fork Feather River (NFFR) above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River (NYR) above New Bullards Bar Dam all year in subsection 7.00(b)(2). This proposal also adds two specific subsections in Section 7.00, the Sierra District (adding (b)(3) and (b)(4), the NFFR above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the NYR above New Bullards Bar Dam, which will be closed to Chinook Salmon fishing all year). This closure does not include New Bullards Bar Reservoir, just the tributaries. Scientific studies are currently being implemented within the NFFR, led by the California Department of Water Resources, and in the NYR, led by the Department, evaluating Spring-Run Chinook Salmon reintroduction to these historical habitats. Changing the regulation to close fishing of Chinook Salmon at all times of the year in these waterways will allow for study fish through various developmental stages (eggs, alevin, fry, parr, smolt, adult) to remain in the study area informing study results and reintroduction efforts.
- **Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks with Special Regulations:** This proposed change would recommend adding new special regulation sections for Clear Creek (added as subsection (b)(28)), Cow Creek (added as subsection (b)(36)), Cottonwood Creek (added as subsection (b)(35)), and Paynes Creek (added as subsection (b)(74)). This proposal would also change the Antelope Creek boundary under (b)(5) from the confluence with the North Fork downstream to Ponderosa Way crossing on the North Fork and South Fork to make angling more protective for Central Valley steelhead in this subsection. Local fishing opportunities are currently very limited due to a variety of overlapping regulations, some of which are not necessary. Allowing the public, especially children, to catch warm water fish with bait in anadromous streams in the middle of the summer when anadromous fish species are not present would be very beneficial to the public and the Department’s [Recruit, Retain, Reactivate \(R3\)](#) goals. With the exception of Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek, the majority anadromous tributaries have specific protective regulations already present in 7.40; adding Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek will complete this protective set of regulations. The Department is also frequently criticized by local water users about the predation of listed stocks on non-native species. Allowing this regulation change would be a first step in addressing their concerns. These additions result in renumbering most of subsection 7.40(b) bodies of water to maintain the alphabetical listing.

- **Section 7.50(b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.):** On the Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.), above the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles above the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, change the trout bag limit from 5 trout to 5 Brown Trout and 0 Rainbow Trout, and add a Special Restriction of “only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used”. The upper Arroyo Seco River contains a population of native Coastal Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), offering a unique sport fishing opportunity in the Salinas River watershed in Monterey County. Like other trout populations throughout California, this population of native Coastal Rainbow Trout has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions (Dagit et al. 2017). The population has also likely been impacted by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in relatively close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of Coastal Rainbow Trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids (Hooton 2001; DuBois and Kuklinkski 2004). Additionally, the upper Arroyo Seco contains a non-native population of Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) which offers sport fishing opportunities, though they may negatively impact native Coastal Rainbow Trout through competition and predation (Hasegawa 2016). Changing trout regulations in the upper Arroyo Seco to a 5 Brown Trout and 0 Rainbow Trout bag limit with an artificial lures with barbless hooks only special restriction will ensure that this recreational Rainbow Trout fishery is protected and sustainable, while allowing recreational anglers the option of harvesting non-native brown trout.
 - Further, Rainbow Trout produced above the Arroyo Seco Gorge are likely capable of travelling downstream of the waterfall (possible total barrier to upstream migration) to the Salinas River, and eventually the Pacific Ocean, possibly supplementing anadromous federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead productivity in the Salinas River watershed. Resident *O. mykiss* above barriers constitute a key life history strategy expressed by the species, allowing populations to persist through prolonged droughts which restrict access of adult steelhead into arid systems like the Arroyo Seco, and serve as an important genetic reserve for these populations (Clemento et al. 2009). Thus, in addition to supporting the persistence of a unique native Coastal Rainbow Trout sport fishery in Monterey County, conserving Coastal Rainbow Trout in the upper Arroyo Seco watershed through this regulation change will support steelhead population viability in the Salinas River watershed, where returns of anadromous adults are drastically reduced from historical numbers (Cuthbert et al. 2014).
 - Additionally, this regulation change will maintain consistency with sections open to fishing above anadromy within other streams absent of major impassible dams in the Region 4 coastal counties. These streams each have an artificial lures with barbless hooks only gear restriction, as well as either a 0 trout bag limit or 2 hatchery trout bag limit (effectively a 0 trout bag limit, as the Department does not plant hatchery trout within steelhead streams in the Region 4 coastal counties) – these waters include the Big Sur River, Little Sur River, and Salmon Creek. This regulation

change also maintains consistency with the upper Carmel River above Los Padres Reservoir (technically within anadromy due to steelhead assisted migration operations), which contains both a native coastal rainbow trout and non-native brown trout population and has a 5 Brown Trout 0 Rainbow Trout daily bag limit.

- Changing the upper Arroyo Seco to a 5 Brown Trout 0 Rainbow Trout daily bag limit through this proposed regulation change will not impact trout planting or stocked trout angling, as trout planting does not occur in this stream.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Cos):** This proposed change would add Trout Creek into subsection 7.50(b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries under proposed paragraph (G), to provide angling regulation protections for McCloud River Redband Trout (MRRT), consistent with other streams in the MRRT Refugium. Trout Creek has been identified as a high priority conservation stream, but not included as a “Core Conservation Stream” in MRRT Conservation Agreement (CA) (2017). Confounding genetic results prior to the completion of the CA was the justification for Trout Creek to be excluded as a core conservation stream. However, since the genetics results, the Department has identified a “95% barrier” where MRRT collected upstream of the barrier were shown to be genetically distinct, and Rainbow Trout collected downstream of the barrier were shown to be slightly introgressed (Rainbow Trout cross with MRRT). Additionally, non-native Brown Trout are found downstream of the barrier but not upstream. The Department is currently working with the private landowner to improve the 95% barrier to ensure introgressed and non-native trout are unable to pass upstream at all flows, thence protecting the genetically distinct population upstream. In addition to improving the barrier, angling regulation changes are necessary to provide further protection for this population. The proposed angling regulations are consistent with Swamp Creek in the Refugium which provides a stable MRRT population where catch and release recreational angling will have no population level impacts. Trout Creek is currently the focus for other restoration opportunities, and the Department is developing plans with the U.S. Forest Service and not for profit agencies for meadow restoration, cattle exclusion fencing, and methods to remove non-native fish (dewatering) and repopulate with genetically distinct MRRT, reclaiming all of Trout Creek for MRRT as the long-term conservation goal. Trout Unlimited submitted a letter in support of this change. Other organizational changes are made to group streams with similar regulations for clarity purposes. Former 7.50(b)(90)(C) Swamp Creek is re-numbered to paragraph (F) to occur below those creeks in the McCloud River watershed that are closed to all fishing all year. With the addition of Trout Creek and all tributaries as proposed paragraph (G), the remaining paragraphs for subsection 7.50(b)(90) are re-numbered.

Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes, Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701

To better align with seasonal adult steelhead run timing, improve data management, and assess non-compliant reporting, the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (Card; steelhead report card) reporting period is proposed to be changed from a 12-month calendar period to a 9-month reporting period. The adjusted Card reporting period would be August 1st through April 30th the following year, and required to be returned or reported to the Department by May 31st. The Card would be required for anglers targeting any steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters during this 9-month period. Anglers would be able to

obtain the subsequent Card starting July 1st to allow time for the Department to process the previous season's Cards returned by May 31st. Any Card holder who fails to return or report by the May 31st deadline shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee, and will not be able to obtain the subsequent Card until that fee is paid. From May 1st through July 31st of each year, anglers would not need a Card to fish for steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters.

These changes are necessary because there is currently lack of data collection and inability to analyze data in a timely fashion. Shifting the reporting months to mirror the 9-month period run timing of steelhead would allow the Department to process Cards more efficiently, and have data readily available to inform management strategies for the steelhead fishery statewide. By shifting the reporting period to 9 months, the Department will have time between seasons to assess non-compliance, and can implement penalties prior to the subsequent year's Card is issued, including fees and prohibitions for non-compliant report card holders. This change is expected to increase reporting, which will increase data quality.

Shifting the reporting period to mirror the seasonal run timing of returning and spawning steelhead between August to April will increase the ability to more accurately analyze data and manage steelhead runs. Adult steelhead are generally not present in most anadromous waters from May through July, so there is not a need to collect angler data during these months. Anglers will still be able to fish for Rainbow Trout/ steelhead during these months in waters open to angling; however, a Card will not be required. Anglers will also be able to continue to harvest a hatchery steelhead if caught during these months and not have to report on the Card. This proposed change would result in cost and time saving for the Department. The low return rates result in poor data collection causes pressure on Department staff to validate the Card data, which can create fiscal impacts for additional staff time and monitoring programs. Implementation of a non-return fee and a seasonal report card has previously demonstrated with other species the ability to significantly increase reporting from other report card programs, and would reduce the effort and cost to validate steelhead Card data caused by low return. From 2020 to 2024 report cards were returned between 21.6% to 35.9% of the time, numbers low enough to negatively affect the Department's ability to manage steelhead.

Additionally, the proposal would clarify that the Card is required when targeting Rainbow Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, in anadromous waters. There is currently a loophole in the language that allows an angler to state they are not fishing for steelhead, only Rainbow Trout, which technically does not require a Card. For improved enforcement, the language would be updated to include both terms and would require anglers to have a report card and fill it out when targeting either Rainbow Trout or steelhead in anadromous waters. Steelhead and Rainbow Trout are the same species with differing life histories and are not distinguishable while fishing.

The following changes are to Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701 relating to the steelhead report card:

- **Section 1.74. Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements.**

Add subsection (c)(7)

Add the requirement of all report card holders shall return or report their Cards to the department even if no fishing occurred, or the report card holder was unsuccessful. This would apply to all species that require a report card. This would provide additional clarity to the angler as well as potentially increase card return and reporting. Renumber subsection (c)(7) to (c)(8) to allow for this addition.

Add subsection (d)(3)

Add a subsection specific to the steelhead report card that outlines the dates a card is required, update the return/report by date of May 31st and implement an additional non-return fee in addition to the seasonal Card fee for the subsequent season Card if failed to return on time. The non-return fee will be implemented following the May 2028 reporting period for the 2027-2028 seasonal card, allowing anglers time to adjust to the new reporting deadline. As a new subsection specifically for this Card is added, steelhead is removed from the lists of species in subsections (d)(1) and (d)(1)(A).

Amend subsections (e) and (f)

In subsections (e)(1) and (2) and (f)(3) the above added (d)(3) reference would be added to specify the subsection to reference for report card return and reporting mechanisms and lost cards.

- **Section 5.88. Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters**

Section title adjustments

Add the word “Fishing” to the title for Section 5.88 for consistency with the existing terminology for the Card listed elsewhere in the Section. Further, “FG 682” is an unnecessary and incorrect reference in the title that is proposed to be removed.

Amend subsection (a)

Add the word “valid” and “Rainbow Trout” to clarify language that anglers must have a valid report card to take steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters. As noted above, Steelhead and Rainbow Trout are the same species with differing life histories and are not distinguishable while fishing. dd clarifying language including the dates a card is required for the reporting period described above, add Steelhead or “Rainbow Trout equal to or” greater than 16 inches, and define hatchery and wild steelhead as steelhead with or without adipose fins.

Amend subsection (b)

In subsection (b), add subsections (1), (2), and (3) which substitute the current (b), (c), (d), and title subsection (b) “Reporting Requirements.” Throughout subsection (b), substitute “cardholder” for “report card holder.” Add subsection to (b)(3) to include “and the number of hours fished” which is currently listed on the issued card, but does not appear in regulation text. Add subsections (4) and (5), to describe the process to return a report card as well and

details describing the non-return fee and implementation date. Also rename subsections (e) to (6) to include in the reporting requirements.

Amend subsection (f)

Rename to subsection (c), and remove “annual” from “annual fee,” as the fee is further specified in Section 701.

Add to list of Authority

This regulation would identify additional sources of authority for the Commission to list the steelhead report card fee under the general authorization the Commission has for take and possession of wildlife.

- **Section 701. Sport Fishing Forms and Fees**

Add subsection (h)

The 2027 Card would act as a shortened season transitional card from the current annual report card to the seasonal report card and be valid January 1st to April 30th, still abiding by the updated May 31st reporting deadline. Anglers who purchase the 2027 Card will have the opportunity to receive the 2027-2028 Card with the nine-month reporting period at no cost. Non-return fees would be implemented beginning following the May 2028 reporting period.

Add subsections (h) and (i)

The Card fee is currently specified in Section 7380 of the Fish and Game Code, and is not currently listed in Section 701 of Title 14. Section 701 of Title 14 lists the fees for the various report cards required by the Department. This proposed change would add subsection (h) for the 2027 Card and subsection (i) for the 2027-2028 Card to Section 701 to establish this fee in regulation for subsequent adjustment pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 713.

Add subsection (j)

This proposed change would add a subsection (j) for the 2027-2028 Steelhead Report Card Non-Return Fee to be \$20.00. This would be in line with other report cards’ non-return fee amounts, and only begin implementation for the 2027-2028 Card. This phasing would allow anglers a year to adjust to the updated reporting deadline of May 31st.

- **Transition to the new Steelhead Report Card**

During the transition year of 2027, there would be a need to obtain two Cards. The 2027 Card would act as a shortened season transitional card from the current calendar year report card, to the nine-month reporting period card, and be valid January 1st to April 30th, still abiding by the updated May 31st reporting deadline. For the 2027 shortened season transitional card, anglers will not be subject to a non-return fee.

- Anglers who purchase the 2027 Card will have the opportunity to receive the 2027-2028 seasonal card at no cost.
- Anglers who do not purchase the 2027 Card can purchase the 2027-2028 card at the price specified in Section 701.

- Beginning with the 2027-2028 Card reporting period (August 1, 2027 through April 30, 2028, to be returned by May 31, 2027), anglers who purchased a Card on or after July 1, 2027 and do not report that Card, shall be subject to the non-refundable non-return fee, in addition to the seasonal report card fee for the issuance of a Card in the subsequent season.

Low-Flow Regulation Changes, Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00

This proposed change would reorganize, condense, and clean up the language in the low-flow regulations, standardize the identification of stream gauges, and remove streams from 8.00 that lack low-flow criteria.

- **Section 7.00, District General Regulations:** This proposal would add Section 8.00, which lists low-flow restrictions to the paragraph about existing restrictions (such as methods, gear, fishing hours, and use of bait) when angling in District waters. This proposal would remove ambiguities associated with anglers following regulations for low flow conditions, as well as wardens enforcing fishing regulation violations.
- **Section 7.40, subsection (b) and 7.50 subsection (b), Updates to Special Water Bodies regarding Low-Flow:** Proposed changes throughout the special waters tables in subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) serve to better align subsection 7.40(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal. Organizational changes, such as moving the text “...Also see Section 8.00(a, b, or c) Low Flow Restrictions” to the end of the “Body of Water” description improves consistency informing the angler to be aware of low-flow considerations for the re-organized subsections 8.00(a), (b), or (c). These changes are necessary to clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between 8.00, 7.40(b), and 7.50(b) as needed. In subsection (b) for Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek references to Section 8.00 are removed, as these waters are proposed as being removed from the Low Flow restrictions due to lack of low flow threshold. More details on the removal of these waters are provided in the following description of changes for Section 8.00.
- **Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions:** This proposed change would rewrite, reorganize, and simplify the low-flow regulations. A new website for low-flow fishing restrictions was launched in early 2025, which brought more attention to the language and content in Section 8.00. Subsections 8.00(a) and (b), which previously directed anglers to different regional phone lines, may now be combined and condensed into the revised subsection 8.00(a) now that there is an online platform during the time period of September 1 through April 30. Subsection 8.00(c) for the San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey county water bodies is restructured to the revised subsection 8.00(b). This effort began as an initiative to remove redundancies and improve stylistic inconsistencies in the regulation (i.e. standardized identification of stream gauges with USGS gauging station number, stream, and nearest town), and turned into a more expansive effort to improve Section 8.00 in its entirety for conciseness, clarity, and consistency in language, after input from Department regional staff. These changes will make the regulations easier to understand, thereby reducing angler confusion.

- New subsection 8.00(a): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties.
 - Align Section 8.00 with 7.40(b) with boundaries in both sets of regulations where descriptions are inconsistent that are not intended to change current fishing boundaries. E.g. “Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River” [8.00(a)(2)(A)] to “the Cock Robin Island Bridge.”
 - Clarification on the reaches for the rivers, creeks, and streams in Mendocino County (except for the Russian and Gualala rivers) that flow directly to the Pacific Ocean listed alphabetically from Albion River to Usal Creek.
 - Clarification on the reaches of the river, creeks, and streams in Sonoma and Marin counties (except for the Russian River) that flow directly to the Pacific ocean listed alphabetically from Gualala River to Walker Creek.
 - For the Smith River, the reach description was updated to say “...*the main stem Smith River from the mouth of Rowdy Creek to the ~~mouth of Patrick Creek (tributary of the Middle Fork Smith River)~~ confluence with the Middle Fork and South Fork.*” This update serves to align subsection 7.40(b)(108), paragraphs (A), (B), and (C), as Section 7.40 listed the Smith River from the mouth to the confluence of the middle and south forks, and separately, middle fork Smith River from the mouth to Patrick Creek. No boundaries are actually changed, just how the sections are divided up.
- New subsection 8.00(b): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties.
 - This proposal adds quantitative low-flow criteria to Pescadero, Aptos, and Soquel Creeks that will not allow fishing on days when flows fall below determined thresholds. These creeks currently lack quantitative low-flow criteria, and instead defer to the Department to determine when flows may impede fish passage. This provides clarity for the public on when these locations would be closed to fishing. These new low-flow criteria will protect steelhead when they are most vulnerable. Department staff in the managing region submitted an internal memo requesting this change.
 - For proposed subsection 8.00(b)(4) (Pescadero Creek), (b)(5) (San Lorenzo River), and (b)(8) (Carmel River), certain anadromous reaches or adjacent waters that follow in the subsequent paragraphs (e.g., Butano, San Gregorio, Scott, Waddell, Gibson, Malpasos Creeks, etc.) are described for clarity to assist the angler with understanding what reaches are considered for the low-flow criteria.
- The proposed changes described in subsections 8.00(a)(1) through (3) and (b)(1) through (3), would allow the ability to make split block decisions instead of solid block decisions. Allowing split block decisions has the potential to provide additional opportunity by adding angling days and reduce angler frustration. The current

regulations specify the days when Department staff will determine low-flow fishing closures, and fishing on all days between Department updates shall either be opened or closed (solid block decision). Now with the new website, it is easier to display and update information, and the Department could provide more flexibility in determining low-flow fishing closures. Instead of closing or opening fishing for an entire two-to-four-day period, the Department could choose to close fishing for only part of the two-to-four-day period (split block decision). Split block decisions will allow the Department to be more flexible and precise in applying closures only to days when flows are predicted to fall below minimum thresholds. For example, Department staff currently post an update on Friday by 1pm whether a particular river will be open or closed the following Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Split block decision would be the same thing, except instead of having to decide all open or all closed the following Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, staff would be able to call Saturday open, but Sunday and Monday closed, or just Monday closed. The website would be updated only on the days designated in regulations.

- Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek are proposed to be removed from Section 8.00 as these waters currently lack of low flow thresholds and until those are determined by the Department these waters do not need to be listed in the restricted list. Additional waters in Section 7.40 that referenced Section 8.00 that are not and are not proposed to be added to 8.00, but were listed in error, have been removed for clarity (proposed subsections 7.40(b)(108)(C)(2) and (D)(3)).
- This proposal includes language and grammar clean-up, as well as some changes to standardize the naming of stream gauges and consistency in boundaries between 7.40 and 8.00, update to location names (Usal Road and correcting spelling of George Tryon Bridge) and a property name change (Camp Noyo).

(b) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

As stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700, Conservation of Aquatic 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 sport fish seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations sport fish to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistent with the sustainable management of California's sport fisheries, general health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport fishing throughout California.

(c) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation

Section 1.62: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265, ~~and 275~~, 7701, and 7708 Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.73: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 7060, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.74: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7380, Fish and Game Code. .

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.10: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.11: Authority cited: Sections 200, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 4.20: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.00: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.65: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.85: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.88: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 399, and 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 7380 and 7381, Fish and Game Code.

Section 6.34: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 6.35: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.00: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code. .

Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.40: 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.

Section 7.50: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 315 and 399, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

Section 8.00: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code. .

Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 8.10: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 315, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205 and 215, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.25: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.30: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 219, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.32: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.35: Authority cited: Sections 200, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 230: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 37, 67, 711, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code.

Section 701: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change

None.

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change

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Cochran, S., McElroy, K., Hines, D. Supporting Documentation: RCCP Title 14 § 8.00.(c) Low-Flow Restrictions Revisions (Memo). 2025.

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Dagit, R., Bell, E., Adamek, K., Mongolo, J., Montgomery, E., Trusso, N., & Baker, P. 2017. The effects of a prolonged drought on southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in a coastal creek, Los Angeles, California. *Bulletin, Southern California Academy of Sciences*, 116(3):162–173.

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Upper McCloud River Redband Trout Core Group. Conservation Agreement for Upper McCloud River Redband Trout. 2017.

Letters of Support:

Letter of Support to California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding proposed changes in fishing regulations. Lassen County Board of Supervisors.

Potential Angler Regulation Change and amendment to Fall River and the Designated Wild Trout Regulation. Fall River Conservancy.

Support for Proposed Regulation Changes to Battle Creek, Trout Creek, and Fall River Lake and Pond. California Trout.

Letter of Support for Fall River Regulation Changes. Trout Unlimited.

Letter of Support for McCloud River Regulation Changes. Trout Unlimited.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Public Notice

The Department presented the proposed amendments to the sport fishing regulations at the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee meetings on September 11, 2025 and January 13, 2026.

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 current regulations in place.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; 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 action 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 changes provide clarification of existing regulations that are necessary for the continued preservation of fisheries resources, while providing sport fishing opportunities and thus, the prevention of adverse economic impacts.

(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

The Commission does not anticipate adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state. The Commission does not anticipate adverse impacts on the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. The proposed changes are to provide clarification of existing regulations or that provide minor increases in fishing opportunities. These changes are not anticipated to change the level of fishing activity enough to affect the demand for goods and services related to sport fishing enough to impact the demand for labor, nor induce the creation of new businesses, the elimination, nor the expansion of businesses in California.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of fishery resources throughout the state. The Commission anticipates general benefits to the health and welfare of Californians through expanded outdoor recreational opportunities and responsible management of public resources. The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to the health and welfare of California residents or to worker safety.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. The proposed non-reporting fee for steelhead report cards introduces a \$20 fee to any card holder failing to return/report by the May 31st deadline. Any angler who doesn't pay the non-reporting fee after the deadline will not be able to obtain any subsequent season's card until that fee is paid. This fee can be entirely avoided if the angler returns the card in compliance with the regulation, or if anglers choose to fish in anadromous waters from May 1st through July 31st of each year, as they would not need a card to fish for steelhead or Rainbow Trout during that period.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None. No changes to costs or savings to federal funding are anticipated by the proposed clarification of existing regulations. The Department program implementation and enforcement are projected to remain the same with a stable volume of fishing activity.

Department staff estimate that currently 30-35% of anglers return their steelhead report card, with an average of approximately 43,500 cards sold over the last six years¹, for an average of 30,450 to 28,275 non-returned cards. The proposed 20\$ non-return fee would mean a maximum potential of \$609,000-\$565,500 would be accrued in fines, representing additional revenue for the Department. However, this does not take into account a likely increase in return rates or the fact that not everyone will pay the fine, as suggested by the exact same changes from the lobster report card, which had an approximate 16% return rate from 2008-2011 without a non-return fee and increased reporting to 39%-54% from 2014 to 2025.²

If the steelhead report card increased reporting rates similarly by 20-30%, the Department would have a projected 50-65% return rate and could potentially see 21,750 to 13,050 unreturned cards with a maximum revenue potential of \$435,000 to \$261,000 in accrued fines (average of \$348,000). See STD 399 addendum for further details.

(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

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state because the proposed amendments are not anticipated to change the level of fishing activity enough to affect the demand for goods and services related to sportfishing enough to impact the demand for labor.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that any of the proposed amendments would induce impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses, because the economic impacts of the proposed clarifications of existing regulations are unlikely to be stimulate or lessen the demand for goods or services related to sport fishing, travel, or tourism to the affected areas.

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

The Commission does not anticipate that any of the proposed clarification of existing regulations would induce impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state. The proposed regulations are not anticipated to increase demand for services

¹ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=178047&inline>

² <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Invertebrates/Lobster>

or products from the existing businesses that serve individuals who engage in inland sport fishing. The number of fishing trips and angler economic contributions are expected to remain within the range of historical averages.

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

The Commission does not anticipate direct benefits to the health and welfare of California residents besides the furtherance of opportunities for sport fishing which is healthy outdoor recreation and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety from the proposed regulations because inland sport fishing does not impact working conditions.

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

Under the proposed regulations, the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of inland fishery resources. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens 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.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

Other benefits of the regulation include consistency with federal fishery management goals, and support for businesses that rely on inland sport fishing.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

This regulatory proposal combines California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and public requests for changes to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701, for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle. This proposal contains multiple amendments that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve the steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. These proposed regulatory changes are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement.

The Department is proposing changes to the following regulations in Title 14, CCR:

Regulation Language Clarifications:

The proposed changes are necessary in order to enhance clarity or fix errors, and do not alter the application or enforcement of these regulations:

- **Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County:** In 2014, Clear Lake Hitch were listed under California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as threatened and can no longer be taken without a CESA incidental take permit or MOU. The language in Section 2.11 conflicts with the take prohibitions for Clear Lake Hitch and needs to be removed from Title 14 CCR.
- **Section 5.65, Shad, American:** In 2025 there was a regulation change to allow spearfishing as a method of take for American Shad in the Valley District in Section 2.30. The proposed change would add spearfishing as a method of take allowable for American Shad in the Valley District in Section 5.65. This would make Section 5.65 consistent with Section 2.30.
- **Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout:** This proposal would add Section 7.00, which lists general regulations in each District, to the list of sections excepted from general statewide trout regulations. This proposal would remove ambiguities associated with wardens enforcing fishing regulation violations.
- **Section 6.34, Southern District Definition:** The current regulations definition of the “Southern District” in Section 6.34 erroneously copies the Sierra District definition. This change would correct the language to the as-intended definition of the Southern District.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries:** This proposal would clean up, reorganize, and group streams with similar regulations in subsection 7.50(b)(90) for the McCloud River and tributaries. This would simplify the regulation, making it easier to understand by grouping waters with similar regulations.
- **Section 7.50(b)(145), Sq. Valley Creek:** The name of Sq. Valley Creek was changed by federal legislation through the Department of Interior's Order 3404 on September 8, 2022 to Yét Atwam Creek. This proposal would make the regulation text consistent with federal legislation.

- **Section 230, subsection (g)(2), Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prize for the Taking of Game Fish:** There is a minor grammar error in subsection 230(g)(2) which has an ungrammatical 's' that would be removed from the word "changes".
- **Section 7.40, subsection (b):** Updates to other regulations sections have been made in this proposal to update or remove unnecessary references to subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) due to the continual changes in the numbering of these sections when waters are added or removed. There are minor edits to text to align subsection 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal which will clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between Section 8.00 and subsection 7.40(b) where needed.

Changes To Increase Fishing Opportunities

The proposed changes described below would increase fishing opportunities in the effected regulation sections.

- **Section 4.20, subsection (d) Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would move the upper limit of the Sacramento River upstream from Highway 32 Bridge to Deschutes Bridge for bait fish use. Generally, declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time Striped Bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited use of lures and other methods. It may also increase harvest of these non-native species which could have a potential benefit on vulnerable salmonid populations.
- **Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co.):** This proposed change would remove the black bass minimum size requirement from waters in Lassen and Modoc counties, except for Mountain Meadows Reservoir where the minimum size would remain at 12 inches. Growth rates of largemouth bass are typically slow within Lassen and Modoc counties due shorter growing season attributable to the high elevation. Additionally, reservoirs containing large bass populations are often overrun with stunted bass and few bass are able to reach the 12-inch minimum size requirement for harvest. The 12-inch minimum size requirement reduces the number of harvested bass, which could affect the bass populations by further stunting their growth. Removing the minimum size requirement in these locations would increase the harvest of smaller bass and improve the size class structure within the bass populations. Mountain Meadows Reservoir is still recovering from being drained in 2015 and has the potential to grow trophy class bass as it has in the past. The 12-inch minimum size requirement at Mountain Meadows Reservoir would be maintained under the General Statewide Restrictions regulations allowing the bass population to grow and allow more small young bass to grow to the 12-inch size minimum and larger.
- **Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would increase fishing opportunity

by allowing the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. Declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time, striped bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. The proposed split season with June 16 to September 30 dropped the artificial lure requirement for allowable use of live fin fish as bait during this period when bass.

- **Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.):** This proposed change would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead.
 - Lower Battle Creek from the mouth to Coleman Fish Hatchery weir is currently closed to angling year-round. Allowing angler access to lower Battle Creek beginning June 30 will increase fishing opportunities on Striped and Black Bass. Battle Creek was historically a popular steelhead fishery but was closed to angling in the early 1990's to ensure that Coleman National Fish Hatchery would annually secure sufficient adult steelhead broodstock.
 - Returns of hatchery-origin steelhead to Coleman National Fish Hatchery are now routinely in excess of broodstock collection targets. Presently these fish are only available to recreational anglers in the mainstem Sacramento River. However, due to a variety of factors, contact with these fish in the mainstem Sacramento River is extremely low. Furthermore, the mainstem Sacramento River steelhead fishery is primarily boat-based. Shore-based steelhead fishing on lower Battle Creek would provide opportunity to much broader angling interest groups.
- **Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations:** This proposed change would increase fishing opportunity in the Klamath River by allowing catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the mainstem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide a recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. The proposed summer season regulations would provide consistency with currently open waters adjacent to and upstream of this subsection.
- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.):** This proposed change would remove subsections (47)(L) Fall River Pond and (47)(M) Fall River Lake from 7.50(b)(47) Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.). If removed from 7.50(b) Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake would then fall under regulation Section 5.85(a)(1) statewide general trout regulations for take allowances.

- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby:** This proposed change would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15). The proposed change would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start. Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. During much of the winter the river is typically unfishable (due to ice and snow), so the winter provides little to no opportunity. Water in the Susan River can warm significantly in the late spring and early summer, as releases from McCoy Flat and Hog Flat reservoirs increase. Having the season open earlier will provide more opportunity while angling conditions are good, while not impacting spawning.

Changes to Fishing Gear, Measuring, and Sampling

The following proposed changes are related to fishing gear, measuring and sampling regulation restrictions:

- **Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length:**

This proposed change would amend Section 1.62 to more clearly define the method to determine total length of finfish. The proposal would clarify that total length is measured with the fish's mouth closed, lying flat on a horizontal surface, and that the tail may be pinched, fanned, or naturally swung. Fanning and swinging of a fish's tail is expressly allowed for salmon and halibut but not specified in the general maximum length in Section 1.62. It has been a long-time practice for our law enforcement officers to allow this technique, but it is not consistently understood by anglers. Importantly, crew onboard Commercial Passenger Fishing vessels have requested clarification, to ensure they are measuring passenger's fish correctly.

The proposed change also includes changing the phrase "fish, mollusks or crustaceans" to "finfish or invertebrates" and clarifies that measurement of invertebrate species is specified within the individual invertebrate regulations. The proposal also changes existing language that refers to "mollusks, or crustaceans" to the term "invertebrates" which is more inclusive and encompasses other groups like echinoderms. It clarifies that methods to determine length for invertebrates are found in the individual sub sections for those species.

The proposed change additionally removes alternate length measurements from Section 1.62, and from the sections for barracuda, kelp and sand basses, and white sea bass, sections 28.25, 28.30, and 28.35 respectively. Alternate length is proposed to be removed as it causes unnecessary confusion and concerns with law enforcement. The allowance of retaining filleted fish, with associated minimum fillet lengths provided for these species, makes the use of an alternate length unnecessary. A provision to use either total length or a 5-pound minimum weight limit for bonito, found in section 28.32, was established to make recreational catch limits consistent with commercial catch limits.

- **Section 1.73, Salmon:** This proposed change would require any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon in which an adipose fin is present to provide the Department a

tissue sample upon request. This includes the additional requirement of all persons fishing for salmon to provide a tissue sample from unmarked (i.e., adipose fin present) salmon upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department. Amending biological sample collection requirements to allow for use of Parentage-Based Tagging (PBT) in fisheries surveys advances fisheries monitoring in a number of ways. PBT is highly efficient, as the tagging process requires only genotyping the parents to produce a 100% tag rate of offspring, which can lead to higher tag recovery rates and improved statistical precision of estimates. Additionally, there is no physical tag loss or handling mortality associated with PBT, parentage assignments can be obtained non-lethally via a small tissue sample, and large-scale tagging can occur at a much lower cost compared to physical marking and tagging methods. This proposal would allow the Department to integrate PBT recovery data into the current salmon management framework, allowing tissue samples to be collected from unmarked salmon contacted in monitoring programs.

- **Section 2.10(b)(3) and (b)(4), Hook and Weight Restrictions:**

This proposed change would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling.

In the angling community there is confusion about the legality of techniques and tackle. This confusion stems from the popularity of the techniques that utilize this configuration in other states, similar fisheries occurring here in California, and because the method is permissible in lakes, reservoirs, and the Delta. This change would improve law enforcement's ability to enforce these regulations consistently across the state and reduce the need to intervene as frequently.

- **Section 7.40(b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River:** This proposed change would update the gear restriction boundary to align with more recognizable features providing clarity for both anglers and law enforcement. The boundary line would change from the mouth of the Eel River to Fulmor Road, and instead be the mouth to Cock Robin Island, resulting in a slight shift downstream (~.5 miles).

Protective Changes for Vulnerable Populations

The following proposed changes are recommended to protect vulnerable populations while preserving fishing opportunities:

- **Sections 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations:** This proposed change would modify the Sierra district boundary in Section 6.35 to include a small section of Yuba County ("Yuba County east of New Bullards

Bar Dam;”) to protect experimentally reintroduced Chinook fish, This change would also close Chinook Salmon fishing in the North Fork Feather River (NFFR) above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River (NYR) above New Bullards Bar Dam all year in Section 7.00(b)(2). This proposal will also add two specific subsections in Section 7.00, the Sierra District (adding (b)(3) and (b)(4), the NFFR above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the NYR above New Bullards Bar Dam, which will be closed to Chinook Salmon fishing all year. This closure does not include New Bullards Bar, just the tributaries. Scientific studies are currently being implemented within the NFFR, led by the California Department of Water Resources, and in the NYR, led by the Department, evaluating Spring-Run Chinook Salmon reintroduction to these historical habitats. Changing the regulation to close fishing of Chinook Salmon at all times of the year in these waterways will allow for study fish through various developmental stages (eggs, alevin, fry, parr, smolt, adult) to remain in the study area informing study results and reintroduction efforts.

- **Section 7.40, subsection (b) addition of Creeks with Special Regulations:** This proposed change would recommend adding new special regulation sections for Clear Creek (added as subsection (b)(28)), Cow Creek (added as subsection (b)(36)), Cottonwood Creek (added as subsection (b)(35)), and Paynes Creek (added as subsection (b)(74)). This proposal would also change the Antelope Creek boundary from the confluence with the North Fork downstream to Ponderosa Way crossing on the North Fork and South Fork to make angling more protective for Central Valley steelhead in this subsection. Local fishing opportunities are currently very limited due to a variety of overlapping regulations, some of which are not necessary. Allowing the public, especially children to catch warm water fish with bait in anadromous streams in the middle of the summer when anadromous fish species are not present would be very beneficial to the public and the Department’s Recruit, Retain, Reactivate (R3) goals. With the exception of Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek, the majority anadromous tributaries have specific protective regulations already present in 7.40; adding Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek will complete this protective set of regulations. These additions will result in renumbering most of subsection 7.40(b) bodies of water to maintain alphabetical listing.
- **Section 7.50(b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.):** On the Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.), above the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles above the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, change the trout bag limit from 5 trout to 5 Brown Trout and 0 Rainbow Trout, and add a Special Restriction of “only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used”. The upper Arroyo Seco River contains a population of native Coastal Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), offering a unique sport fishing opportunity in the Salinas River watershed in Monterey County. Like other trout populations throughout California, this population of native Coastal Rainbow Trout has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions. The population has also likely been impacted by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in relatively close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of Coastal Rainbow Trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates

that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids. Additionally, the upper Arroyo Seco contains a non-native population of Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*) which offers sport fishing opportunities, though they may negatively impact native Coastal Rainbow Trout through competition and predation. Changing trout regulations in the upper Arroyo Seco to a 5 Brown Trout and 0 Rainbow Trout bag limit with an artificial lures with barbless hooks only special restriction will ensure that this recreational Rainbow Trout fishery is protected and sustainable, while allowing recreational anglers the option of harvesting non-native brown trout.

- **Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Cos):** This proposed change would add Trout Creek into subsection 7.50(b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries under proposed paragraph (G), to provide angling regulation protections for McCloud River Redband Trout (MRRT), consistent with other streams in the MRRT Refugium. Trout Creek has been identified as a high priority conservation stream, but not included as a “Core Conservation Stream” in MRRT Conservation Agreement (CA) (2017). Confounding genetic results prior to the completion of the CA was the justification for Trout Creek to be excluded as a core conservation stream. However, since the genetics results, the Department has identified a “95% barrier” where MRRT collected upstream of the barrier were shown to be genetically distinct, and Rainbow Trout collected downstream of the barrier were shown to be slightly introgressed (Rainbow Trout cross with MRRT). Additionally, non-native Brown Trout are found downstream of the barrier but not upstream. The Department is currently working with the private landowner to improve the 95% barrier to ensure introgressed and non-native trout are unable to pass upstream at all flows, thence protecting the genetically distinct population upstream. In addition to improving the barrier, angling regulation changes are necessary to provide further protection for this population. The proposed angling regulations are consistent with Swamp Creek in the Refugium which provides a stable MRRT population where catch and release recreational angling will have no population level impacts.

Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes, Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701

To better align with seasonal adult steelhead run timing, improve data management, and assess non-compliant reporting, the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (Card; steelhead report card) reporting period is proposed to be changed from a 12-month calendar period to a 9-month reporting period. The adjusted Card reporting period would be August 1st through April 30th the following year and required to be returned or reported to the Department by May 31st. The Card would be required for anglers targeting any steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters during this 9-month period. Anglers would be able to obtain the subsequent season Card starting July 1st to allow time for the Department to process the previous season’s Cards returned by May 31st. Any Card holder who fails to return or report by the May 31st deadline shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee and will not be able to obtain the subsequent season Card until that fee is paid. From May 1st through July 31st of each year, anglers would not need a Card to fish for steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters.

Shifting the reporting months to mirror the 9-month period run timing of steelhead would allow the Department to process Cards more efficiently and have data readily available to inform management strategies for the steelhead fishery statewide. By shifting the reporting period to 9

months, the Department will have time between seasons to assess non-compliance and can implement penalties prior to the subsequent year's Card issues, including fees and prohibitions for non-compliant report card holders.

Shifting the reporting period to mirror the seasonal run timing of returning and spawning steelhead between August to April will increase the ability to more accurately analyze data and manage steelhead runs. Adult steelhead are generally not present in most anadromous waters from May through July, so there is not a need to collect angler data during these months. Anglers will still be able to fish for Rainbow Trout/steelhead during these months in waters open to angling, however a Card will not be required. Anglers will also be able to continue to harvest a hatchery steelhead if caught during these months and not have to report on the Card.

Additionally, the proposal would clarify that the Card is required when targeting Rainbow Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, in anadromous waters. There is currently a loophole in the language that allows an angler to state they are not fishing for steelhead, only Rainbow Trout, which technically does not require a Card. For improved enforcement, the language would be updated to include both terms and would require anglers to have a report card and fill it out when targeting either Rainbow Trout or steelhead in anadromous waters

Low-Flow Regulation Changes, Sections 7.00, 7.40 subsection (b), 7.50 subsection (b), and 8.00

This proposed change would reorganize, condense, and clean up the language in the low-flow regulations, standardize the identification of stream gauges, and remove streams from 8.00 that lack low-flow criteria.

- **Section 7.00, District General Regulations:** This proposal would add Section 8.00, which lists low-flow restrictions to the paragraph about existing restrictions (such as methods, gear, fishing hours, and use of bait) when angling in District waters. This proposal would remove ambiguities associated with anglers following regulations for low flow conditions, as well as wardens enforcing fishing regulation violations.
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- **Section 7.40, subsection (b) and 7.50, subsection (b), Updates to Special Water Bodies regarding Low-Flow:** Proposed changes throughout the special waters tables in subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) serve to better align subsection 7.40(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal. Organizational changes, improves consistency informing the angler to be aware of low-flow considerations for the re-organized subsections 8.00(a), (b), or (c). These changes are necessary to clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between 8.00, 7.40(b), and 7.50(b) as needed. In subsection (b) for Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek references to Section 8.00 are removed, as these waters are proposed as being removed from the Low Flow restrictions due to lack of low flow threshold.
- **Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions:** This proposed change would rewrite, reorganize, and simplify the low-flow regulations. A new website for low-flow fishing restrictions was

launched in early 2025, which brought more attention to the language and content in Section 8.00. Subsections 8.00(a) and (b), which previously directed anglers to different regional phone lines, may now be combined and condensed into the revised subsection 8.00(a) now that there is an online platform during the time period of September 1 through April 30. Subsection 8.00(c) for the San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey county water bodies is restructured to the revised subsection 8.00(b). This effort began as an initiative to remove redundancies and improve stylistic inconsistencies in the regulation (i.e. standardized identification of stream gauges with USGS gauging station number, stream, and nearest town), and turned into a more expansive effort to improve Section 8.00 in its entirety for conciseness, clarity, and consistency in language, after input from Department regional staff. These changes will make the regulations easier to understand, thereby reducing angler confusion.

- The proposed changes described in subsections 8.00(a)(1) through (3) and (b)(1) through (3), would allow the ability to make split block decisions instead of solid block decisions. Allowing split block decisions has the potential to provide additional opportunity by adding angling days and reduce angler frustration. The current regulations specify the days when Department staff will determine low-flow fishing closures, and fishing on all days between Department updates shall either be opened or closed (solid block decision). Now with the new website, it is easier to display and update information, and the Department could provide more flexibility in determining low-flow fishing closures. Instead of closing or opening fishing for an entire two-to-four-day period, the Department could choose to close fishing for only part of the two-to-four-day period (split block decision). Split block decisions will allow the Department to be more flexible and precise in applying closures only to days when flows are predicted to fall below minimum thresholds.
 - New subsection 8.00(a): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties.
 - New subsection 8.00(b): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties.
 -

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

As stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700, Conservation of Aquatic 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 sport fish seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations sport fish to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistent with the sustainable management of California's sport fisheries, general health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport fishing throughout California.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

Article IV, Section 20 of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Fish and Game Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to regulate recreational fishing in waters of the state (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. The Commission has searched the California Code of Regulations and finds no other state agency regulations pertaining to sport fishing seasons, bag, gear and possession limits.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 1.62, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 1.62. Minimum and Maximum Size.

No ~~fish, mollusks or crustaceans~~ finfish or invertebrates less than the legal minimum size or greater than the maximum legal size (total, ~~or fork or alternate~~) may be possessed, except as otherwise provided. Total length for finfish is the longest ~~straightline~~ straight-line measurement from the tip of the ~~head~~ snout or jaw, whichever extends furthest while the mouth is closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail, measured while the fish is lying flat in a natural resting position, without resort to any force other than the swinging, pinching, or fanning of the tail, unless otherwise specified in regulation. Fork length for finfish is the straight-line distance from the tip of the ~~head~~ snout or jaw, whichever extends furthest while the mouth is closed to the center of the tail fin, measured while the fish is lying flat in a natural resting position. ~~Tip of the head shall be the most anterior point on the fish with the mouth closed and the fish lying flat on its side. Alternate length is the straight-line distance from the base of the foremost spine of the first dorsal fin to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.~~ Legal minimum and maximum sizes for invertebrates are provided in specific regulations for each species or group. Unless otherwise provided, all ~~fish, mollusks or crustaceans~~ finfish or invertebrates less than the legal minimum size or greater than the maximum legal size must be returned immediately to the water from which they were taken.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265, ~~and 275,~~ 7701, and 7708, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.73, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 1.73. Salmon.

(a) Salmon includes Chinook, coho, pink, chum, and sockeye salmon.

(b) Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag. The head may be removed by the fish owner or, if removed by the official department representative, the head shall be removed in a manner to minimize loss of salmon flesh and the salmon shall immediately be returned to the fish owner.

(c) Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon in which an adipose fin is present shall immediately provide a tissue sample upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 7060, Fish and Game Code.

Section 1.74, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 1.74. Sport Fishing Report Card Requirements.

...

[No change to subsections (a) and (b)]

...

(c) General Report Card Requirements.

(1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the species identified in this Section shall have in their immediate possession a valid non-transferable report card issued by the department for the particular species. See special exemption regarding possession of report cards for lobster divers in Section 29.91 of these regulations.

(2) All entries made on any physical report card or tag shall be legible and in indelible ink.

(3) A report card holder fishing with a one, two, or ten-day sport fishing license may replace the expired fishing license without purchasing a new report card so long as the report card is still valid.

(4) Report cards are not transferable and shall not be transferred to another person. No person shall possess any report card other than their own.

(5) A person may only obtain one abalone report card per report card period.

(6) Any report card holder who fills in all available lines on their steelhead, salmon, sturgeon, or lobster report card shall return or report the card to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) prior to purchasing a second card.

(7) Report card holders shall return or report their report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) even if the report card holder did not fish or was unsuccessful.

(78) Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. See specific regulations in sections

5.80 (Inland white sturgeon),

5.87 (North Coast salmon),

5.88 (Steelhead),

27.90 (Ocean white sturgeon),

29.16 (Abalone),

and 29.91 (Spiny lobster) that apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

(d) Report Card Return and Reporting Requirements

(1) Report card holders shall return or report their salmon, ~~steelhead~~, or abalone report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year or abalone report cards to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by January 31 of the following year.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report their salmon, ~~steelhead~~, or abalone report card to the department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a subsequent license year or may be subject to an additional fee for the issuance of the same card in a subsequent license year.

(2) Report card holders shall return or report their lobster report cards pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by April 30 following the close of the lobster season for which the card was issued.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report their lobster report card by April 30 following the close of the lobster season specified on the card shall be subject to a nonrefundable non-return fee specified in Section 701, in addition to the annual report card fee, for the issuance of a lobster report card in the subsequent fishing season.

(3) Report card holders shall return or report their Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card ("steelhead report card") pursuant to subsection 1.74(e) by May 31 following the close of the steelhead report card season for which the card was issued. Steelhead report cards are required from August 1 through April 30.

(A) Any report card holder who fails to return or report their steelhead report card by May 31 following the end date specified on the card shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee specified in Section 701, in addition to the seasonal report card fee for the issuance of the subsequent year's steelhead report card.

1. Implementation of the fees described in Section 1.74(d)(3)(A) shall begin with the May 2028 reporting period.

(e) Report Card Return and Reporting Mechanisms:

(1) By mail or in person at the address specified on the card. A report card returned by mail shall be postmarked by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), 1.74(d)(3), 5.80(g), or 27.90(g).

(2) Online through the department's license sales service website by the date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), 1.74(d)(3), 5.80(g), or 27.90(g).

Report card holders reporting online will be provided a confirmation number upon successful submission. The report card holder must record the provided confirmation number in the space provided on the report card and retain the report card for 90 days after the reporting deadline. Report cards submitted online must be surrendered to the department upon demand.

(3) If a report card is submitted by mail and not received by the department, it is considered not returned unless the report card holder reports their report card as lost pursuant to subsection 1.74(f).

(f) Lost report cards.

(1) Lobster, salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead. Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses their report card during the report card period for which it is valid may purchase an additional report card by submitting payment to an authorized license agent or department license sales office. Catch information from the lost report card shall not be transferred to the new card. Information from lost lobster, salmon, sturgeon, and steelhead report cards shall be reported as specified in subsection 1.74(f)(3).

(2) Abalone. Notwithstanding subsection 1.74(c)(5), any report card holder who loses their report card during the period for which it is valid may purchase a replacement report card.

(A) The Department may issue a replacement report card for abalone upon completion of the following:

1. Submitting an affidavit to any department license sales office containing all the information specified in subsection 1.74(f)(3)(B); and

2. Submitting payment of the report card fee and the non-refundable replacement-processing fee specified in Section 701.

(B) Department staff shall enter the harvest information from the affidavit to the replacement report card.

(C) Based on the information provided on the affidavit, department staff shall remove tags reported as used and issue only the number of tags that were reported as unused on the lost original report card.

(D) Report card holders shall verify that the harvest information has been accurately transferred from the affidavit to their replacement report card.

(E) The replacement report card shall be reported pursuant to the requirement for the original report card as specified in subsection 1.74(d).

NOTE: the original report card should not be reported.

(3) Reporting requirements. Except for lost abalone report cards for which a replacement card was purchased, all lost report cards shall be reported by the harvest report submission deadline date applicable to that card as specified in subsection 1.74(d)(1), 1.74(d)(2), 1.74(d)(3), 5.80(g), or 27.90(g) by one of the following methods:

(A) Online through the department's license sales service website;
or

(B) Submitting an affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, to a department license sales office containing the following information:

1. The report card holder's full name, GOID#, and a statement confirming that the originally issued report card is lost and cannot be recovered.

2. A statement containing the report card holder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost.

3. A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the report card.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.10, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 2.10. Hook and Weight Restrictions.

(a) Definition of Gap: For the purposes of this section, “gap” means the distance measured from the point of a hook to the shank.

(b) Maximum Gaps and Gear Rigging for Rivers and Streams unless otherwise provided (does not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) (see Section 1.71 for definition of the Delta), and the Colorado River.

(1) No person shall use any single hook with a gap greater than 1 inch or any multiple hook with a gap greater than 3/4 inch.

(2) It is unlawful to use any hook which is directly or indirectly attached closer than 18 inches to any weight exceeding 1/2 ounce.

~~(43) It is unlawful to use any weight directly attached below a hook.~~
combined weight exceeding 1/4 ounce directly attached to or below a hook.

~~(34) It is unlawful to use any multiple hook or more than one single hook on non-buoyant artificial lures exceeding one ounce, except when using artificial lures made out of soft or hard plastics and/or wood in portions of waters described below:~~

(A) The American River from the confluence with the Sacramento River to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing about 300 yards downstream from the Nimbus Hatchery fish rack site.

(B) The Feather River from the confluence with the Sacramento River to the Table Mountain Bicycle Bridge.

(C) The mainstem Sacramento River from the Delta to 650 feet below Keswick Dam.

(D) The Yuba River from the confluence with the Feather River upstream to 250 feet below Daguerre Point Dam.

(c) Maximum Gaps for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (see Section 1.71 for definition of the Delta).

(1) No person shall use any single hook with a gap greater than 1 inch or any multiple hook with a gap greater than 3/4 inch.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 2.11, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 2.11. Special Fishing Methods—Lake County. [Repealed]

~~(a) In Clear Lake and its tributaries, hitch may be taken by hand or hand-held dip net.~~

~~(b) No barriers or weirs may be constructed to herd fish.~~

~~(c) All hitch are to be utilized and not left as waste.~~

~~(d) All fish taken by hand or net other than hitch must be immediately returned live to the water. No other fish may be possessed along with hitch as part of a mixed bag.~~

Authority cited: Sections 200, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 4.20, Subsection (d)(2) Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 4.20. Bait Fish Use in the Valley and South Central Districts.

Except as provided below, live or dead fin fish shall not be used or possessed for use as bait in the Valley or South Central District:

(a) Live or dead golden shiner, fathead minnow, mosquitofish, longjaw mudsucker, and Pacific staghorn sculpin, and dead threadfin shad, Mississippi silverside and lamprey may be used in all Valley and South Central District waters except those listed in subsection (f) below.

(b) Red shiner may be used only in the Valley District north of Interstate 580 and Highway 132.

(c) Yellowfin gobies may be used in the Valley District only in those areas described in subsections (d)(1)–(3) below.

(d) In addition, except for trout and salmon, fin fish lawfully taken in the following waters by angling or with bait fish methods approved in Section 4.05 may be used only in the waters where taken:

(1) Carquinez Strait and Suisun Bay and their tributaries and saltwater tributaries.

(2) Sacramento River and tidewater of tributaries downstream from the Highway 32 Deschutes bridge near Hamilton City Anderson, Feather River downstream from the Oroville Hatchery Fish Barrier Dam, and American River downstream from Nimbus Dam.

(3) San Joaquin River and tidewater of tributaries downstream from Interstate 5 bridge.

(e) Live threadfin shad, Mississippi silverside and lamprey may be used only at the location where taken.

(f) Fin fish may not be used in Keller Lake (Glenn Co.), Letts Lake (Colusa Co.), Merced Lake (San Francisco Co.), Upper and Lower Plaskett Meadow Ponds (Glenn Co.), Whale Rock Reservoir (San Luis Obispo Co.).

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.00, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 5.00. Black Bass.

It is unlawful to take or possess black bass except as provided in this section:

(Note: Some waters are closed to all fishing under Sections 7.40 and 7.50.)

(a) General Statewide Restrictions:

(1) Lakes/Reservoirs and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta: The following waters, except for those listed in subsection (b), are open to fishing all year, with a 12-inch total length minimum size limit and a five-fish daily bag limit: All lakes and reservoirs in the State, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (see Section 1.71 for definition of the Delta).

(2) Rivers/Streams and Private Ponds: Rivers, streams, canals, and lakes or ponds entirely on private lands that are not listed in subsection (b) are open all year with no size limit and a five-fish daily bag limit.

(b) Special Regulations: Counties and individual waters listed below are those having regulations different from the General Statewide Restrictions in subsection (a).

DISTRICTS AND COUNTIES WITH SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Area or Body of Water	Open Season	Size (total length)	Bag Limit
(1) Colorado River District: All waters (Bag and size limits conform with Arizona regulations.).	All year.	13-inch minimum.	6
(2) Inyo Co.: All streams east of Highway 395 from the southern Inyo Co. line north to the junction of Highway 6 and east of Highway 6 to the Mono Co. line, except those streams listed by name in Section 7.50(b), Special Fishing Regulations. The remaining streams of Inyo Co., except those waters listed in Section 7.50(b), Special Fishing Regulations. All Lakes, Big Pine Canal, Fish Spring Canal, and Millpond in Inyo Co.	All year. Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Closed to bass fishing from Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr. All year.	12-inch minimum. 12-inch minimum. 12-inch minimum.	5 5 5

Area or Body of Water	Open Season	Size (total length)	Bag Limit
<u>(A) The remaining streams of Inyo Co., except those waters listed in Section 7.50(b), Special Fishing Regulations.</u>	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15.</u> <u>Closed to bass fishing from Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr.</u>	12-inch minimum.	<u>5</u>
<u>(B) All Lakes, Big Pine Canal, Fish Spring Canal, and Millpond in Inyo Co.</u>	<u>All year.</u>	<u>12-inch minimum.</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>(3) Lassen Co: all waters except Mountain Meadows Reservoir.</u>	<u>All year.</u>	<u>No size limit.</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>(4) Modoc Co:</u>	<u>All year.</u>	<u>No size limit.</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>(35) Mono Co.: All streams except for Fish Slough (see subsection (b)(4011)) and those waters listed by name in Section 7.50(b), Special Fishing Regulations</u>	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15.</u> <u>Closed to bass fishing from Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr.</u>	No size limit.	5
<u>(46) Plumas Co.: All waters.</u>	<u>All year.</u>	No size limit.	5

INDIVIDUAL BODIES OF WATER WITH SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Area or Body of Water	Open Season	Size (total length)	Bag Limit
(57) Barrett Lake (San Diego Co.) (Also see Section 2.08.)	All year.	Catch and Release only.	0
(68) Casitas Lake (Ventura Co.)	All year.	12-inch minimum. No more than one over 22 inches.	5
(79) Castaic Lake (Los Angeles Co.).	All year.	12-inch minimum.	5
(8 <u>10</u>) Cuyamaca Lake (San Diego Co.).	All year.	No size limit for Largemouth Bass. Catch and Release only for Smallmouth Bass.	5
(9 <u>11</u>) Fish Slough (Mono Co.), except the fenced portions of Fish Slough within the BLM Spring, which are closed to all fishing all year. See Section 7.50(b)(49), Special Fishing Regulations.	All year.	No size limit.	5
(40 <u>12</u>) Hodges Lake (San Diego Co.).	All year.	15-inch minimum.	5
(41 <u>13</u>) Lett's Lake (Colusa Co.).	All year.	No size limit.	5
(42 <u>14</u>) Plaskett Meadows lakes, upper and lower (Glenn Co.).	All year.	No size limit.	5
(43 <u>15</u>) Shaver Lake (Fresno Co.).	All year.	No size limit.	5

Area or Body of Water	Open Season	Size (total length)	Bag Limit
(4416) Upper Otay Lake (San Diego Co.). (Also see Section 2.08.)	All year	Catch and Release only.	0

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.65, Subsection (c) of Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 5.65. Shad, American.

(a) Open season: All year, except for closures listed under special regulations.

(b) Limit: Twenty-five.

(c) Methods of take: Shad may be taken only by angling, except that spearfishing or a dip net may be used in the Valley District.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.85, Subsection (a)(2) of Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 5.85. Trout.

As used in this section and unless otherwise noted, daily bag and possession limits mean the total number of trout in combination including, but not limited to, Rainbow, Golden, Brown, and Cutthroat Trout.

(a) General Statewide Regulations:

(1) All inland lakes, reservoirs, and ponds, including those on private lands, are open to fishing all year with a five-trout daily bag limit and ten-trout possession limit.

(2) All inland streams, rivers, and canals, except those listed in Sections 7.00, 7.40(b) and 7.50(b), are open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through November 15 with a five-trout daily bag limit and ten-trout possession limit, with no gear restrictions. From November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April, a zero-trout bag limit applies, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used for all species of fish. In waters where the bag limit for trout is zero, trout must be released unharmed and should not be removed from the water.

(3) Exceptions:

(A) All waters listed in Sections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b).

(B) Brook Trout bag and possession limits in Section 5.84 and statewide trout daily bag and possession limits are cumulative.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.88, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 5.88. Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters (FG-682).

(a) Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (“steelhead report card”) Required. All anglers must have a valid Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters as defined in Section 1.04, from August 1 through April 30. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74. For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any ~~rainbow trout~~ Rainbow Trout equal to or greater than 16 inches in length found in anadromous waters. Hatchery steelhead have a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Wild steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin present).

(b) Reporting Requirements:

(1) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the ~~cardholder~~ report card holder must record the month, day, and location code on the first available line on the report card.

(~~e~~2) When a hatchery steelhead is retained, the report card holder must immediately mark the appropriate field.

(~~d~~3) When the report ~~cardholder~~ card holder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery steelhead that were released ~~from that location~~ and the number of hours fished.

(4) Report card holders shall return or report their Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card to the department pursuant to subsection 1.74(d)(3) by May 31, even if you did not fish or were unsuccessful at catching steelhead.

(5) Any report card holder who fails to return or report their Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card to the department by the deadline shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee, for the issuance of the subsequent year’s steelhead report card.

(A) The non-return fee for the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card is specified in Section 701 of these regulations.

1. Implementation of the non-refundable non-return fee shall begin with the May 2028 reporting period.

(~~e~~6) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card must be purchased to continue to fish for steelhead. See Section 1.74.

(f~~c~~) The ~~annual~~ fee for the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card is specified in Section 7380 of the Fish and Game Code and listed in Section 701 of these regulations.

Authority cited: Section 200, 205, 265, 399, and 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 7380 and 7381, Fish and Game Code.

Section 6.34, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 6.34. Southern District Definition.

~~The Sierra District consists of all of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Sierra, Plumas, Alpine, Inyo and Mono counties; Tulare County east of the west boundaries of Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Park; Fresno County east of the west boundaries of Sierra and Sequoia National Forests (excluding Pine Flat Lake); Madera County east of the west boundary of Sierra National Forest; Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado, Placer and Nevada counties east of Highway 49 (excluding Don Pedro, McClure and New Melones lakes); the portion of Siskiyou County southeast of a line drawn between Mt. Eddy and the Black Butte summit railroad crossing of Interstate 5 and east of Interstate 5 between the railroad crossing and Weed and east of Highway 97 between Weed and the Oregon border; and Tehama County excluding Black Butte Lake. Those waters excluded above are part of the Valley District (see Section 6.36).~~

The Southern District consists of the inland waters of all of Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and those portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties outside of the Colorado River District (see section 6.37).

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 6.35, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 6.35. Sierra District Definition.

The Sierra District consists of all of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Sierra, Plumas, Alpine, Inyo and Mono counties; Tulare County east of the west boundaries of Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Park; Fresno County east of the west boundaries of Sierra and Sequoia National Forests (excluding Pine Flat Lake); Madera County east of the west boundary of Sierra National Forest; Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado; Yuba County east of New Bullards Bar Dam; Placer and Nevada counties east of Highway 49 (excluding Don Pedro, McClure and New Melones lakes); the portion of Siskiyou County southeast of a line drawn between Mt. Eddy and the Black Butte summit railroad crossing of Interstate 5 and east of Interstate 5 between the railroad crossing and Weed and east of Highway 97 between Weed and the Oregon border; and Tehama County excluding Black Butte Lake. Those waters excluded above are part of the Valley District (see Section 6.36).

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.00, Subsection (b)(2) of Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 7.00. District General Regulations.

Unless otherwise provided, waters shown as open to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead fishing in subsections (a) through (g) below are open to fishing for other species. Gear restrictions listed in this section apply to the take of all species of fish unless otherwise noted. Every body of water listed in subsections (a) through (g) is closed to all fishing, except during the open season as shown. Unless otherwise provided, waters closed to hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead fishing are closed to fishing for all other species, except that these closures do not apply to fishing for amphibians (see Section 5.05), freshwater clams (see Section 5.20), crayfish (see Section 5.35), and lamprey (see Section 5.40), using legal fishing methods other than hook-and-line fishing, and saltwater clams, crabs, ghost shrimp, and blue mud shrimp (see Ocean Regulations Booklet Sections 29.20 to 29.87). Crabs may only be taken using hoop nets or by hand, and Dungeness crab may only be taken within the North Coast District and Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

Daily bag and possession limits, unless otherwise provided, mean the total number of hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead. Unless otherwise provided, no more than one daily bag limit may be possessed. Coho (silver) Salmon may not be taken in any of the waters of the State. Incidentally hooked Coho (silver) Salmon must be immediately released unharmed to the waters where they are hooked. In waters where the bag limit for hatchery trout and hatchery steelhead is zero, fish for which the bag limit is zero must be released unharmed and should not be removed from the water.

These waters may also be subject to restrictions on fishing methods and gear (Sections 2.00 through 2.45), fishing hours (Section 3.00), ~~and~~ the use of bait (Sections 4.00 through 4.30), and low-flow restrictions (Section 8.00).

...

[No changes to (a)(1) through (a)(2)]

...

(b) Sierra District

District/Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(1) All rivers and associated tributaries above Lake Shasta.	Closed to the take <u>and possession</u> of salmon.	
(2) Anadromous waters of Tehama and Shasta Cos. not listed in Section 7.40, Special Regulations. (See subsection (b)(80) of Section 7.40(b) regarding the Sacramento River.)	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. <u>Last Saturday in April through June 15 only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u> <u>June 16 through Sept. 30 only barbless hooks may be used.</u> <u>Oct. 1 through Nov. 15 only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead*. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead* in possession. Closed to the take of salmon.
(3) <u>North Fork Feather River and tributaries upstream from Chester Diversion Dam.</u>	<u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>	
(4) <u>North Yuba River and tributaries upstream of New Bullards Bar Dam.</u>	<u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u>	

*Hatchery trout or steelhead have 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 present).

...

[No changes to (c) through (f)]

...

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200 and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 7.40, Subsection (b) of Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

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

(a) General Provisions:

(1) Every body of water listed in subsection (b) is closed to the take of hatchery trout, hatchery steelhead, and salmon and to fishing for these species, unless otherwise noted.

(2) Every body of water listed in subsection (b) is closed to all fishing except during the open season as shown. Unless otherwise provided, waters shown as open to hatchery trout, hatchery steelhead, and salmon fishing in subsection (b) are open to fishing for other species. Gear restrictions listed in this section apply to the take of all species of fish unless otherwise noted.

(3) Unless otherwise provided, waters closed to hatchery trout, hatchery steelhead, or salmon fishing are closed to fishing for all other species, except that these closures do not apply to fishing for amphibians (see Section 5.05), freshwater clams (see Section 5.20), crayfish (see Section 5.35), and lamprey (see Section 5.40), using legal fishing methods other than hook-and-line fishing, and saltwater clams, crabs, ghost shrimp, and blue mud shrimp (see Ocean Regulations Booklet sections 29.20 to 29.87). Crabs may only be taken using hoop nets or by hand, and Dungeness crab may not be taken within the North Coast District and Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

(4) Unless otherwise provided, it is unlawful to possess more than one daily bag limit.

(5) The waters in subsection (b) may also be subject to restrictions on fishing methods and gear (Sections 2.00 through 2.45), fishing hours (Section 3.00), and the use of bait (Sections 4.00 through 4.30).

(b)

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(1) Alameda Creek and tributaries (Alameda and Santa Clara Cos.).		

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(A) Alameda Creek and tributaries downstream of San Antonio, Calaveras, and Del Valle Reservoirs except for Arroyo Del Valle between Bernal Ave. and the Thiessen St. intersection with Vineyard Ave.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
1. Arroyo Del Valle between Bernal Ave. and the Thiessen St. intersection with Vineyard Ave.	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
(2) Albion River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the confluence of with the South Fork Albion. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3) Alder Creek (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main steam below Tramway Gulch. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
[... No changes to 7.40(b)(4)(A) through (D)...]		
(5) Antelope Creek (Tehama Co.).		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(A) From confluence with North Fork downstream <u>Ponderosa Way crossing on the North Fork and South Fork</u> to U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at mouth of Antelope Creek Canyon.	Last Sat. in April through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at mouth of Antelope Creek Canyon downstream to mouth of Antelope Creek.	Jun. 16 through Sep. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(6) Aptos Creek (Santa Cruz Co.) from <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the first</u> bridge on Aptos Creek Road. Also see Low-Flow Restrictions Section 8.00(eb) <u>Low-Flow Restrictions</u> .	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(7) Arroyo Grande Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.) from mouth to Lopez Canyon Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(8) Arroyo Leon (San Mateo Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(9) Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low Flow Restrictions. The main stem Arroyo Seco and tributaries below the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles upstream from the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(10) Auburn Ravine Creek and tributaries (Placer Co.) east of Nelson Lane.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(11) Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Cos.).		
(A) From mouth to <u>1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to the mouth.</u>	Closed to all fishing all year. <u>June 30 to December 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(B) From 250 feet upstream from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery upstream to Angel Falls (near Mineral) on the South Fork and to Ponderosa Way Bridge on the North Fork.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(12) Bear River (Humboldt Co.) downstream from County Road Bridge at Capetown, excluding tributaries.	Fourth Sat. in May. Through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(13) Bear River and tributaries (Placer Co.) from Highway 65 to the South Sutter Irrigation District Diversion Dam.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(14) Big Chico Creek (Butte Co.).		
(A) From the mouth to Bear Hole, located approximately one mile downstream from the upper end of Bidwell Park.	Jun. 16 through Feb. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 16 through Feb 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From Bear Hole to the upper boundary of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve.	Nov. 1 through Apr. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) From the upper boundary of the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve to Higgins Hole Falls, located about ½ mile upstream from Ponderosa Way.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(15) Big Lagoon (Humboldt Co.). For purposes of this subsection, the boundary between Big Lagoon and Maple Creek is the first private road bridge, located approximately ½ mile southeast of the Highway 101 bridge crossing.	All year. Only barbless hooks may be used. Cutthroat Trout minimum size limit: 10 inches.	2 Cutthroat Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(16) Big River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the confluence of <u>with</u> Two Log Creek. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(17) Big Sur River (Monterey Co.). Big Sur River within Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, east of the Highway 1 bridge, to its boundary within the Ventana Wilderness Area.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(18) Black Butte River and tributaries (Glenn Co.) except Cold Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(19) Bodfish Creek and tributaries (Santa Clara Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(20) Bogus Creek (Siskiyou Co.).	See Klamath River, <u>in</u> subsection 7.40(b)(50).	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(21) Brush Creek (Mendocino Co.). Main stem below the Lawson bridge Bridge . Also see Section 8.00(ca) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(22) Butano Creek (San Mateo Co.). From <u>the</u> mouth to county bridge on Pescadero-Bean Hollow Road. Also see Section 8.00(cb) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(23) Butte Creek (Butte and Sutter Cos.).		
(A) From the Oro-Chico Road bridge crossing south of Chico to the Centerville Head Dam, located 300 yards downstream from the DeSabra Powerhouse below DeSabra Reservoir.	Nov. 15 through Feb. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(B) From the Oro-Chico Road bridge crossing south of Chico to the point that Butte Creek enters the Sacramento River both via Butte Slough outfall gates at Moon's Bend and through Butte Slough, thence both the East and West Canals of the Sutter Bypass, thence Sacramento Slough.	All year.	Open to fishing for non-salmonids only. Closed to the take of trout and steelhead.
(24) Calaveras River downstream from New Hogan Dam and the diverting canal (Mormon Slough) from Bellota Weir downstream to Interstate Highway 5 (Calaveras and San Joaquin Cos.).	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(25) Carmel River and tributaries above Los Padres Dam (Monterey Co.).	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	5 trout, 0 Rainbow Trout.
(26) Carmel River below Los Padres Dam. (Monterey Co.).		
(A) Carmel River tributaries below Los Padres Dam and main stem from Los Padres Dam to the bridge at Robles Del Rio/Esquiline Roads (Rosie's Bridge).	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(B) Carmel River main stem below the bridge at Robles Del Rio/Esquiline Roads (Rosie's Bridge). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., and opening and closing days. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(27) Chorro Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.) from the mean high tide line upstream to the South Bay Boulevard Bridge.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(28) Clear Creek (Shasta Co.).		
(A) Clear Creek from Whiskeytown Dam to 650 feet below Whiskeytown Dam.	<u>Closed to fishing all year.</u>	
(B) Clear Creek from 650 feet below Whiskeytown Dam to the confluence of the Sacramento River.	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov.15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u> <u>Closed to the take of salmon.</u>
(2829) Codornices Creek (Alameda Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(2930) Coon Creek and tributaries (Placer Co.) east of Highway 65.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(3031) Coon Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(3132) Corralitos Creek (Santa Cruz Co.) from the mouth to Browns Valley Road. Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3233) Cosumnes River (Sacramento Co.) from Highway 99 bridge upstream to the Latrobe vehicle bridge.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3334) Cottoneva Creek (Mendocino Co.). Main stem below the confluence of <u>with</u> South Fork Cottoneva Creek. Also see Section 8.00(ba) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
<u>(35) Cottonwood Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.)</u>		
<u>(A) Cottonwood Creek main stem and Tributaries upstream of the confluence with south fork Cottonwood Creek.</u>	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
<u>(B) From the confluence of south fork Cottonwood Creek to the confluence of the Sacramento River.</u>	<u>Jun. 16 through Sep. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(3436) Coyote Creek (Santa Clara Co.).	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures and barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
<u>(37) Cow Creek (Shasta Co.)</u>		
<u>(A) Cow Creek main stem above Highway 44 Bridge and all Tributaries.</u>	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov.15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
<u>(B) From Highway 44 Bridge to the confluence of the Sacramento River.</u>	<u>Jun. 16 through Sep. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(3538) Deer Creek (Tehama Co.).		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(A) From 250 feet below Upper Deer Creek Falls and fishway (located 1.5 miles upstream from Potato Patch Campground) downstream 31 miles to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at mouth of Deer Creek Canyon (see Section 2.35 for closure at Upper Deer Creek Falls).	Last Sat. in Apr through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at mouth of Deer Creek Canyon downstream to mouth of Deer Creek.	Jun. 16 through Sep. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3639) Deer Creek (Yuba and Nevada Cos.) from mouth to Smartville-Englebright Dam road crossing.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3740) Dry Creek and tributaries (Placer Co.) east of the Atkinson Street Bridge in Roseville.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(3841) Dry Creek (Yuba and Nevada Cos.) from mouth to Sid Smith Dam about one mile above junction of Scott Forbes and Peoria Roads.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(3942) Earl Lake/Talawa (Del Norte Co.)	All year. Only barbless hooks may be used. Cutthroat Trout minimum size limit: 10 inches.	2 Cutthroat Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4043) Eel River (Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Trinity Cos.). All waters of the Eel River Drainage except those listed below are closed to all fishing.	Section 8.00(a) Low Flow Restrictions also apply.	
(A) Main stem.		
1. From <u>the mouth to Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River the Cock Robin Island Bridge.</u> Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from Apr. 1 through the Fri. preceding the fourth Sat. in May. Only barbless hooks may be used from fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31.	Catch and release of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
2. From Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River <u>the Cock Robin Island Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Eel River.</u> Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from Apr. 1 through Sep. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	Catch and release of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
3. From <u>the</u> South Fork Eel River to Cape Horn Dam.	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31 and fourth Sat. in May through Sep. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Apr. 1 through the fourth Fri. in May and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.	Catch and release of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to all fishing.
(B) Van Duzen River.		
1. Main stem from its junction <u>confluence</u> with the Eel River <u>upstream</u> to the end of Golden Gate Drive near Bridgeville (approximately 4,000 feet upstream from the Little Golden Gate Bridge). Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Sep. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	Catch and release of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) South Fork Eel River from <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the confluence with</u> Rattlesnake Creek. Also see Low-Flow Restrictions, Section 8.00(a).	Apr. 1 to fourth Fri. in May. Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Sep. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	Closed to all fishing. Catch and release of Chinook Salmon. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(D) Middle Fork Eel River from the mouth to the confluence with Bar Creek. Also See Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	<u>Jan. 1 through May 31 and Jul. 16 through Sep. 30.</u> <u>At all times, only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u> <u>Jun. 1 through Jul. 15 and Oct. through Dec. 31.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u> <u>Closed to all fishing.</u>
1. Middle Fork main stem from mouth to Bar Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-flow Restrictions.	Jan. 1 through May 31 and Jul. 16 through Sep. 30. At all times, only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Jun. 1 through Jul. 15 and Oct. through Dec. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. Closed to all fishing.
(4144) Elk Creek (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the confluence of with South Fork Elk Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4245) Elk River (Humboldt Co.) downstream from Highway 101 bridge, excluding tributaries.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(4346) Feather River below Fish Barrier Dam (Butte, Sutter and Yuba cos.).		
<i>[...No changes to 7.40(b)(46)(A) through (F)...]</i>		
(4447) Freshwater Creek (Humboldt Co.) downstream from bridge at "3 Corners" on the Old Arcata Road, excluding tributaries.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4548) Garcia River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the Eureka Hill Road bridge. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4649) Greenwood Creek (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the log bridge about 1 ½ miles east of Highway 1. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(4750) Guadalupe River below Guadalupe Reservoir (Santa Clara Co.) including Los Gatos Creek below Vasona Lake, and Alamitos Creek and Arroyo Calero below Calero Reservoir.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures and barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4851) Gualala River (Mendocino and Sonoma Cos.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the confluence of with Wheatfield Fork and South Forks. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31. Fishing from a flotation device is prohibited from Nov. 15 through Feb. 28 from the confluence of the North Fork to the Highway 1 bridge.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(4952) Islay Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	

(5053) Klamath River Basin Regulations.

...

[No changes to 7.40(b)(50)(A) through 7.40(b)(50)(E)1.]

...

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
2. Klamath River main stem from the California-		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
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. <u>Fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31.</u> <u>Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon.</u> <u>0 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u>
(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.	

...

[No changes to 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.c. through 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.i.]

...

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(51) [Repealed]		
(52 54) Laguna de Santa Rosa (Sonoma Co. tributary to Russian River) upstream from Guerneville Road bridge.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15.	Open to fishing for non-salmonids only. Closed to the take of trout and steelhead.
(53 55) Lagunitas Creek and tributaries (Marin Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(54 56) Limekiln Creek and tributaries above Highway 1 (Monterey Co.). Also see Section 8.00(e <u>b</u>) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(55 57) Little River (Humboldt Co.) downstream from the County Road bridge at Crannell, excluding tributaries.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Cutthroat Trout minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 Cutthroat Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(56 58) Little Sur River and tributaries above Coast Road (Monterey Co.).	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 0 trout.

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
	Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	
(5759) Llagas Creek (Santa Clara Co.). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) From mouth to Monterey Highway bridge.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From Monterey Highway bridge to Chesbro Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(5860) Los Osos Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(5961) Los Padres Reservoir (Monterey Co.).	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	5 Brown Trout. 0 Rainbow Trout.
(6062) Mad River and tributaries (Humboldt Co.).		
(A) Mad River from the mouth to 200 yards upstream.	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) <u>Mad River main stem, from 200 yards above the mouth to the Hammond Trail Railroad Trestle.</u>	<u>Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31.</u> <u>Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<u>May through Oct. 31.</u> <u>Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.</u>	<u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(BC) Mad River main stem, from 200 yards above its mouth upstream the <u>Hammond Trail Railroad Trestle</u> to the confluence with Cowan Creek, excluding tributaries. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(CD) Mad River main stem, from the confluence with Cowan Creek to the confluence with Deer Creek, excluding tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(DE) Mad River main stem from the confluence with Deer Creek to Ruth Dam.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(6463) Mattole River (Humboldt Co.). Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Mattole River main stem from the mouth to 200 yards upstream.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) Mattole River main stem from 200 yards upstream of <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the</u> confluence with Stansberry Creek.	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
<u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>		4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) Mattole River main stem from <u>the</u> confluence with Stansberry Creek to <u>the</u> confluence with Honeydew Creek. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31 and fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(62 64) McDonald Creek (Humboldt Co.).	Closed to fishing all year.	
(63 65) Merced River (Merced Co.).		
(A) From Crocker-Huffman Dam downstream to the Schaffer Bridge on Oakdale Road.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From the Schaffer Bridge on Oakdale Road downstream of the mouth.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Bait may be used from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. However, from Apr. 1 through the Fri. preceding the fourth Sat. in May, bait may be used only with single hooks having a gap between ½ and 1 inch, or with multiple hooks having a gap between ¼ and ½ inch.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(64 66) Mill Creek (Tehama Co.).		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(A) From the Lassen National Park boundary downstream to the U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at the mouth of Mill Creek Canyon.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From U.S. Geological Survey gauging station cable crossing at mouth of Mill Creek Canyon downstream to the mouth of Mill Creek.	Jun. 16 through Sep. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(65 <u>67</u>) Mitchell Creek and tributaries (Contra Costa Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(66 <u>68</u>) Mokelumne River (San Joaquin Co.).		
<i>[...No changes to 7.40(b)(68)(A) through (D)...]</i>		
(67 <u>69</u>) Nacimiento River (Monterey and San Luis Obispo Cos.). Main stem below Nacimiento Dam, downstream to its confluence with the Salinas River.	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(68 <u>70</u>) Napa River and tributaries (Napa Co.). Also see Section 8.00(6a <u>7a</u>) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Main stem above the Oakville Cross Road Bridge near Yountville and all Napa River tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(B) From the Oakville Cross Road Bridge near Yountville to the Trancas <u>Street Bridge in Napa</u> . Note: The Napa River below the Trancas Bridge is tidewater, and is under the regulations for the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District (see Sections 1.53 and 27.00).	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(6971) Navarro River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Main stem below the Greenwood Road bridge. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(7072) Noyo River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Noyo River main stem from the mouth to the Georgia-Pacific logging road bridge one mile east of Highway 1. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Noyo River main stem from the Georgia-Pacific logging road bridge one mile east of Highway 1 to the confluence with the South	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 1. Only artificial lures with	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
Fork Noyo River. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	barbless hooks may be used.	4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) Noyo River main stem from the confluence with the South Fork Noyo River to the Sonoma/Mendocino Boy Scout Council Camp Noyo. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(7473) Pajaro River (Monterey, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Benito Cos.) from mouth to Uvas Creek. Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(74) Paynes Creek (Tehama Co.)		
(A) Paynes Creek above Manton Road Bridge (Co. Road A6) and all Tributaries.	<u>Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov.15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(B) From Manton Road Bridge (Co. Road A6) to the confluence of the Sacramento River.	<u>Jun. 16 through Sep. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>
(7275) Upper Penitencia Creek (Santa Clara Co.), a tributary to Coyote Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(7376) Pescadero Creek (San Mateo Co.) from the	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed.,	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
mouth to the Stage Road bridge at Pescadero. Also see Section 8.00(eb) Low-Flow Restrictions.	legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(7477) Pescadero Creek tributaries and main stem above the Stage Road bridge at Pescadero (Santa Clara and San Mateo Cos.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(7578) Pinole Creek (Contra Costa Co.) and tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(7679) Redwood Creek and tidewaters (Marin Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(7780) Redwood Creek (Humboldt Co.). Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Redwood Creek main stem, within a radius of 200 yards of its mouth. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Redwood Creek main stem, from 200 yards above the mouth to the mouth of Prairie Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(C) Redwood Creek main stem, from the mouth of Prairie Creek to the mouth of Bond Creek. Also see	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
<u>Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>		4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(D) Redwood Creek and tributaries, above the mouth of Bond Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(7881) Russian Gulch and tributaries (Sonoma Co.). Main stem below the confluence of <u>with</u> the East Branch. Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(7982) Russian River and tributaries (Sonoma and Mendocino Cos.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Russian River main stem below the confluence of <u>with</u> the East Branch Russian River. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from Apr. 1 through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Russian River main stem above the confluence of the East Branch and all River tributaries. (See Laguna de Santa Rosa (in subsection <u>7.40(b)(52)</u>) and Santa Rosa Creek (in subsection <u>7.40(b)(98)</u>) for non-salmonids only.)	Closed to all fishing all year.	

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(C) Russian River within 250 feet of the Healdsburg Memorial Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(D) Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area. See Title 14, Section 632(b)(37).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(8083) Sacramento River and tributaries below Keswick Dam (Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Solano, Sutter, Tehama, and Yolo cos.).		
<i>[...No changes to 7.40(b)(83)(A) through (E)...]</i>		
(8184) Salinas River and tributaries (Monterey and San Luis Obispo Cos.). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) The main stem Salinas River.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) All Salinas River tributaries upstream of Arroyo Seco River confluence (including the San Antonio River below San Antonio Reservoir and Dam, Paso Robles Creek and tributaries, Atascadero Creek, and Santa Margarita Creek and	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
tributaries but excluding the Nacimiento River). See subsection <u>7.40(b)</u> (67) .		
(8285) Salmon Creek and tributaries (Sonoma Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) <u>Low-Flow Restrictions</u> .		
(A) Salmon Creek main stem below Highway 1. Also see Section 8.00(a) <u>Low-Flow Restrictions</u> .	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Salmon Creek main stem above Highway 1 and all Salmon Creek tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(8386) Salmon River (Siskiyou Co.).	See Klamath River, in subsection <u>7.40(b)</u> (50) .	
(8487) San Benito River and tributaries (San Benito Co.).	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(8588) San Clemente Creek and tributaries (Monterey Co.) except for Trout Lake.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(8689) San Diego Creek (Orange Co.), downstream	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Nov. 30. Only artificial lures with	Open to fishing for non-salmonids only.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
of the MacArthur Blvd. bridge only.	barbless hooks may be used.	Closed to the take of trout and steelhead.
(87 90) San Francisquito Creek and tributaries (Santa Clara and San Mateo Cos.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(88 91) San Gabriel River (Los Angeles and Orange Cos.) Upstream of the Highway 22 bridge to the start of concrete-lined portion of the river channel.	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Nov. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	Open to fishing for non-salmonids only. Closed to the take of trout and steelhead.
(89 92) San Gregorio Creek (San Mateo Co.) from the mouth to the Stage Road bridge at San Gregorio. Also see Section 8.00(e b) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(90 93) San Joaquin River (Fresno, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Cos.).		
(A) From Friant Dam downstream to the Highway 140 bridge.	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From the Highway 140 bridge downstream to the Interstate Highway 5 bridge at Mossdale.	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(91 <u>94</u>) San Juan Creek main stem (Orange Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(92 <u>95</u>) San Lorenzo River (Santa Cruz Co.) from the mouth to the Lomond Street bridge in the town of Boulder Creek. Also see Section 8.00(eb) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(93 <u>96</u>) San Luis Obispo Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.) from the mouth to the first and most southwestern Highway 1/101 bridge.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(94 <u>97</u>) San Luis Rey River (San Diego Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(95 <u>98</u>) San Mateo Creek and tributaries downstream from the falls between the Tenaja Road crossing and Fisherman's Camp (San Diego and Riverside Cos.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(96 <u>99</u>) San Simeon Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.) from mouth to the pedestrian bridge in San Simeon Beach State Park.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead in possession**.
(97 <u>100</u>) Santa Margarita River and tributaries downstream from the Interstate Highway 15 bridge (San Diego and Riverside Cos.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(98 <u>101</u>) Santa Rosa Creek (Sonoma Co. tributary to Russian River) from Laguna de Santa Rosa to Highway 12 bridge.	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15.	Open to fishing for non-salmonids only. Closed to the take of trout and steelhead.
(99 <u>102</u>) Santa Ynez River and tributaries downstream from Bradbury Dam (Santa Barbara Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(400 <u>103</u>) Scott Creek (Santa Cruz Co.) from <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the</u> confluence with Big Creek. Also see Section 8.00(e) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout.
(401 <u>104</u>) Scott River (Siskiyou Co.).	See Klamath River, <u>in</u> subsection <u>7.40(b)</u> (50).	
(402 <u>105</u>) See Canyon Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(403 <u>106</u>) Shasta River (Siskiyou Co.).	See Klamath River, <u>in</u> subsection <u>7.40(b)</u> (50).	
(404 <u>107</u>) Sisquoc River and tributaries (Santa Barbara Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(405 <u>108</u>) Smith River (Del Norte Co.). Yearly limits apply for entire river.	Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions also apply.	
(A) <u>Main stem from the mouth to the confluence with Rowdy Creek.</u>	<u>Fourth Sat. in May through Apr. 30.</u> <u>Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31.</u>	<u>2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.</u> <u>4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.</u>

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
	<u>Only barbless hooks may be used from Sep. 1 through Apr. 30.</u>	<u>2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length.</u> <u>1 Chinook Salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook Salmon* over 22 inches per year.</u>
(AB) Main stem from the <u>mouth confluence with Rowdy Creek to the confluence of with the Middle Fork and South forks Fork</u> . Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Apr. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Sep. 1 through Apr. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 1 Chinook Salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook Salmon* over 22 inches per year.
(BC) Middle Fork Smith River		
1. From <u>the mouth to the confluence with Patrick Creek</u> . Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Apr. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Sep. 1 through Apr. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 1 Chinook Salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook Salmon* over 22 inches per year.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
2. Above the mouth of Patrick Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(GD) South Fork Smith River.		
1. From the mouth upstream approximately 1,000 feet to the County Road (George Tyron) Tryon bridge <u>Bridge</u> and <u>from the confluence with</u> Craigs Creek to <u>the confluence with</u> Jones Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Apr. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Sep. 1 through Apr. 30.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 1 Chinook Salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook Salmon* over 22 inches per year.
2. From the George Tyron Tryon bridge <u>Bridge</u> upstream to the mouth of Craigs Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
3. Above the mouth of Jones Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
		4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(DE) North Fork Smith River.		
1. From the mouth to <u>the confluence with</u> Stony Creek. Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Aug. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Sep. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. 2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 1 Chinook Salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook Salmon* over 22 inches per year.
2. Above the mouth of Stony Creek.	Fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 Cutthroat Trout, minimum size limit: 10 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(406109) Sonoma Creek and tributaries (Sonoma Co.). Sonoma Creek and tributaries between the Sonoma Creek seasonal waterfall in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park (located 0.2 miles upstream of the west end of the Canyon	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
Trail) and the Highway 121 bridge. Note: Sonoma Creek below the Highway 121 bridge is tidewater, and is under regulations for the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District (see Sections 1.53 and 27.00).		
(407 <u>110</u>) Soquel Creek (Santa Cruz Co.) from <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the</u> confluence of <u>with</u> East and West branch. Also see Section 8.00(eb) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(408 <u>111</u>) Stanislaus River.		
(A) From Goodwin Dam down-stream to the Highway 120 bridge in Oakdale.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From the Highway 120 bridge in Oakdale to the mouth.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Bait may be used from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. However, from Apr. 1 through the Fri. preceding the fourth Sat. in May, bait may be used only with single hooks having a gap between ½ and 1 inch, or with multiple hooks having a gap between ¼ and ½ inch.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(409 <u>112</u>) Stevens Creek (Santa Clara Co.)	Last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**.

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
downstream of Stevens Reservoir.	barbless hooks may be used.	4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(440113) Stone Lagoon (Humboldt Co.).	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Cutthroat Trout minimum size limit: 14 inches.	2 Cutthroat Trout. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(441114) Ten Mile River (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Ten Mile River main stem below the confluence with the <u>North Fork Ten Mile River</u> North Fork , and the <u>North Fork Ten Mile River</u> North Fork below the confluence with Bald Hill Creek. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures With <u>with</u> barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through May 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(442115) Topanga Canyon Creek and tributaries (Los Angeles Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(443116) Trabuco Creek (a.k.a. Arroyo Trabuco Creek) (Orange Co.). Downstream of the Interstate Highway 5 bridge to the confluence with San Juan Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(444117) Trinity River and tributaries downstream of Lewiston Dam.	See Klamath River, subsection (b)(50).	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(115 <u>118</u>) Tuolumne River (Stanislaus and Tuolumne Cos.).		
(A) From La Grange Dam downstream to Hickman Bridge.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From Hickman Bridge to the mouth.	Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. Bait may be used from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31. However, from Apr. 1 through the Fri. preceding the fourth Sat. in May, bait may be used only with single hooks having a gap between ½ and 1 inch, or with multiple hooks having a gap between ¼ and ½ inch.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(116 <u>119</u>) Usal Creek and tributaries (Mendocino Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions. Usal Creek main stem below the Usal-Shelter Cove Road. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(117 <u>120</u>) Uvas or Carnadero Creek (Santa Clara Co.). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) From Highway 152 bridge to Uvas Dam.	Closed to all fishing all year.	

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(B) From mouth to Highway 152 bridge.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only on Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(418 <u>121</u>) Van Duzen River (Humboldt Co.).	See Eel River (subsection (b)(40)) and Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.	
(419 <u>122</u>) Waddell Creek (Santa Cruz Co.) from <u>the</u> mouth to <u>the</u> Highway 1 bridge. Also see Section 8.00(e <u>b</u>) Low-Flow Restrictions.	Dec. 1 through Mar. 7, but only Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days. Only barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(420 <u>123</u>) Walker Creek and tributaries (Marin Co.). Also see Section 8.00(b) Low-Flow Restrictions.		
(A) Walker Creek main stem below Highway 1. <u>Also see Section 8.00(a) Low-Flow Restrictions.</u>	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Sat. in May through Oct. 31. Only barbless hooks may be used from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Walker Creek main stem above Highway 1 and all Walker Creek tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(421 <u>124</u>) Walnut Creek (Contra Costa Co.).		

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Restrictions</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(A) Upstream of the confluence with Grayson Creek.	Fourth Sat. in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) Downstream of the confluence with Grayson Creek.	All year.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(422125) Wildcat Creek and tributaries (Contra Costa Co.).	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(423126) Yuba River (Yuba and Nevada Cos.) from mouth to Englebright Dam.		
(A) From mouth to the Highway 20 bridge.	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.
(B) From Highway 20 bridge to Englebright Dam.	Dec. 1 through Aug. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**. 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.

* 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).

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.

Section 7.50, Subsection (b) of Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 7.50. Alphabetical List of Trout Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

[...No changes to subsection (a)...]

(b)

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(1) through (b)(5)...]</i>		
(6) Arroyo Seco River (Monterey) Co.). Also see Section 8.00(c) Low-Flow Restrictions. The main stem Arroyo Seco and tributaries above the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles upstream from the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station.	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Sep. 30. <u>Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	5 trout <u>5 Brown Trout.</u> <u>0 Rainbow Trout.</u>
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(7) through (b)(46)...]</i>		
(47) Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Cos.).		
(A) Fall River (from the confluence with Pit River <u>Pit No. 1 PG&E Diversion Dam</u> upstream to origin at Thousand Springs).	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
(B) Lava Creek		
(C) Little Tule River		
(D) Tule River		
(E) Horr Pond		
(F) Ja She Creek		
(G) Big Lake		

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
(H) Bear Creek (downstream of Pondosa Way bridge)		
(I) Spring Creek		
(J) Ahjumawi Lava Springs		
(K) Eastman Lake		
(L) Fall River Pond		
(M) Fall River Lake		
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(48) through (b)(89)...]</i>		
(90) McCloud River and tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Cos.).		
(A) Moosehead Creek and all tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) Edson Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(C) Swamp Creek and all tributaries	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through the last day in Feb. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
(D) Sheepheaven Creek.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(E) Bull Creek and tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(F) Dry Creek south of upper McCloud River and tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
<u>(F) Swamp Creek and all tributaries.</u>	<u>Sat. preceding Memorial Day through the last day in Feb. Only artificial lures</u>	<u>0 trout</u>

Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
	<u>with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	
<u>(G) Trout Creek and all tributaries.</u>	<u>Sat. preceding Memorial Day through the last day in Feb. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>0 trout</u>
<u>(GH) McCloud River from McCloud Dam downstream to confluence of Ladybug Creek.</u>	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Sep. 30. Only Artificial lures may be used. Oct. 1 through the Fri. preceding Memorial Day. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 trout 0 trout
<u>(H) McCloud River from confluence of Ladybug Creek downstream to Shasta Lake.</u>	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(91) through (b)(145)...]</i>		
<u>(146) Squaw Valley Yét Atwam Creek and tributaries (Shasta Co.).</u>	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(146) through (b)(149)...]</i>		
<u>(150) Susan River (Lassen Co.)</u> <u>Also, see Section 8.10 for special open season for youths participating in Youth Fishing Derby.</u>	Sat. preceding Memorial Day through the last day in Feb. <u>Last Saturday in April through Nov. 15.</u>	5 trout
<i>[...No changes to subsections (b)(151) through (b)(171)...]</i>		

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

Section 8.00, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 8.00. Low-Flow Restrictions.

~~(a) Eel River, Mad River, Mattole River, Redwood Creek, Smith River and Van Duzen River. Stream closures: Special Low Flow Conditions.~~

~~(1) From September 1 through April 30:~~

~~(A) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (a)(2) through (8) below shall be closed to all angling on Tuesday and Wednesday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Monday at any of the designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (a)(2) through (8).~~

~~(B) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (a)(2) through (8) below shall be closed to all angling on Thursday and Friday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Wednesday at any of the designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (a)(2) through (8).~~

~~(C) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (a)(2) through (8) below shall be closed to all angling from Saturday through Monday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Friday at any of the designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (a)(2) through (8). Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.~~

~~(D) Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1)(A) through (C), the department may close or keep a stream reach closed to fishing when the minimum flow is exceeded on the scheduled flow determination day if the department is reasonably assured that the stream flow is likely to decrease below the minimum flow as specified in subsections (a)(2) through (8) before or on the next flow determination date.~~

~~(E) The department may reopen a stream at any time during a closed period if the minimum flow as specified in subsections (a)(2) through (8) is exceeded and the department is reasonably assured that it will remain above the minimum flow until the next scheduled Monday, Wednesday, or Friday flow determination. The department shall make information available to the public by a webpage updated, as necessary, no later than 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as to whether any stream will be open or closed to fishing. It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the webpage designated in the sport fishing regulations booklet to obtain information on the status of any stream.~~

~~(2) Eel River~~

~~(A) From the mouth to Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of Eel River. Closed to angling, except:~~

~~1. Legal fishing methods other than angling are permitted.~~

~~2. From the mouth to Cock Robin Island Bridge, angling from shore for non-salmonids is permitted.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 350 cfs at the gauging station near Scotia.~~

~~(B) The main stem Eel River from the paved junction of Fulmor Road with the Eel River to the South Fork Eel River. Minimum Flow: 350 cfs at the gauging station near Scotia.~~

~~(3) The South Fork of the Eel River downstream from Rattlesnake Creek and the Middle Fork Eel River downstream from the Bar Creek. Minimum Flow: 340 cfs at the gauging station at Miranda.~~

~~(4) Van Duzen River: The main stem Van Duzen River from its junction with the Eel River to the end of Golden Gate Drive near Bridgeville (approximately 4,000 feet upstream from the Little Golden Gate Bridge).~~

~~Minimum Flow: 150 cfs at the gauging station near Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park.~~

~~(5) Mad River: The main stem Mad River from the Hammond Trail Railroad Trestle to Cowan Creek.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 200 cfs at the gauging station at the Highway 299 bridge.~~

~~(6) Mattole River: The main stem of the Mattole River from the mouth to Honeydew Creek.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 320 cfs at the gauging station at Petrolia.~~

~~(7) Redwood Creek: The main stem of Redwood Creek from the mouth to its confluence with Bond Creek.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 300 cfs at the gauging station near the Highway 101 bridge.~~

~~(8) Smith River: The main stem Smith River from the mouth of Rowdy Creek to the mouth of Patrick Creek (tributary of the Middle Fork Smith River); the South Fork Smith River from the mouth upstream approximately 1000 feet to the County Road (George Tyron-) bridge and Craigs Creek to its confluence with Jones Creek; and the North Fork Smith River from the mouth to its confluence with Stony Creek.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 600 cfs at the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park gauging station.~~

~~Check the Department's regulations page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations for Low Flow Restrictions and Information.~~

~~(b) Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin County coastal streams: Stream Closures: Special Low Flow Conditions.~~

~~(1) From September 1 through April 30:~~

~~(A) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (b)(2) through (5) below shall be closed to all angling on Tuesday and Wednesday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Monday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (b)(2) through (5).~~

~~(B) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (b)(2) through (5) below shall be closed to all angling on Thursday and Friday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Wednesday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (b)(2) through (5).~~

~~(C) Any of the stream reaches listed in subsections (b)(2) through (5) below shall be closed to all angling from Saturday through Monday when the department determines that the flow on the previous Friday at the applicable designated gauging stations is less than the minimum flows set forth in subsections (b)(2) through (5).~~

~~(D) Notwithstanding subsections (b)(1)(A) through (C), the department may close or keep a stream reach closed to fishing when the minimum flow is exceeded on the scheduled flow determination day if the department is reasonably assured that the stream flow is likely to decrease below the minimum flow as specified in subsections (b)(2) through (5) before or on the next flow determination date.~~

~~(E) The department may reopen a stream at any time during a closed period if the minimum flow as specified in subsections (b)(2) through (5) is exceeded and the department is reasonably assured that it will remain above the minimum flow until the next scheduled Monday, Wednesday, or Friday flow determination.~~

~~(F) The department shall make information available to the public by a webpage updated, as necessary, no later than 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as to whether any stream will be open or closed to fishing. It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the webpage designated in the sport fishing regulations booklet to obtain information on the status of any stream.~~

~~Check the Department's regulations page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations for Low Flow Restrictions and information.~~

~~(2) All rivers, creeks, and streams that flow directly into the Pacific Ocean (and its bays) in Mendocino County, except for the Russian and Gualala rivers. This excludes sections and reaches above fish migration barriers, dams, and natural features that prevent upstream anadromous migration.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 200 cfs at the USGS gauging station on the main stem Navarro River near Navarro, CA.~~

~~(3) All rivers, creeks, and streams that flow directly into the Pacific Ocean (and its bays) in Sonoma and Marin Counties, except for the Russian River. This excludes sections and reaches above fish migration barriers.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 150 cfs at the gauging station on the South Fork Gualala River near Sea Ranch (Sonoma County).~~

~~(4) Russian River main stem below the confluence of the East Branch Russian River (Mendocino and Sonoma Counties), Laguna de Santa Rosa, and Santa Rosa Creek.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 300 cfs at the gauging station located on the main stem Russian River near Guerneville (Sonoma County).~~

~~(5) The Napa River (Napa County) between Trancas Avenue in Napa and Oakville Cross Bridge near Yountville.~~

~~Minimum Flow: 15 cfs at the gauging station at the Oak Knoll Bridge on the main stem Napa River.~~

~~(c) South Central Coast Streams — Special Low Flow Closures: During December 1 through March 7, the following streams (subsections (c)(1) through (5)) will be closed to fishing when the department determines that stream flows are inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon. Closed streams will be reopened when the department determines flows are adequate for fish passage.~~

~~(1) Pescadero Creek and all anadromous reaches of San Mateo Co. coastal streams normally open for fishing, from Elliot Creek through Milagro Creek, shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Pescadero Creek flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station is on Pescadero Creek.)~~

~~(2) Aptos and Soquel Creeks (Santa Cruz Co.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Soquel Creek flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station on Soquel Creek.)~~

~~(3) The Pajaro River and Uvas, Llagas, and Corralitos Creeks (Santa Cruz, Monterey, & Santa Clara Cos.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the Pajaro River flows are impeding fish passage. (U. S. G. S. gauging station on the lower Pajaro River.)~~

~~(4) The main stem of the Salinas River (Monterey Co.), below its confluence with the Arroyo Seco River, shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flows are impeding fish passage (U. S. G. S. Spreckels gauging station on the Salinas River.)~~

~~(5) The Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.) shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flows are impeding fish passage. (Flows to be evaluated at U. S. G. S. Spreckels gauging station on the Salinas River and the U. S. G. S. gauging station near Geenfield on the Arroyo Seco River.)~~

~~(6) The San Lorenzo River and all its tributaries, as well as all anadromous reaches of coastal streams normally open for fishing in Santa Cruz Co. from the San~~

~~Lorenzo River north through Waddell Creek, shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flow at the U.S.G.S. gauging station (#11160500) in the San Lorenzo River at Big Trees is less than 40 cfs.~~

~~(7) The Carmel River main stem, and the adjacent waters of San Jose, Gibson, Malpaso, and Soberanes Creeks that are west of Highway 1 (Monterey Co.), shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flow at the U. S. G. S. gauging station near Carmel is less than 80 cfs.~~

~~(8) The Big Sur River main stem west of the Highway 1 bridge, all of Limekiln Creek and its tributaries, and the anadromous portions of all other Big Sur Coast streams west of Highway 1 in Monterey Co., from Granite Creek south to Salmon Creek, shall be closed to all fishing when the department determines that the flow at the U. S. G. S. gauging station on the Big Sur River is less than 40 cfs.~~

~~(9) The stream flow gauges referred to above in subsections (c)(6) through (8) will be checked on Tuesday and Friday of each week. The decision as to whether these rivers will be open or closed to fishing will take place only on Tuesday and Friday of each week. In the event that river flow differs later in the week, the fishing status for each specific river will not change until the day following the next scheduled reading.~~

~~(10) It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the webpage designated in the sport fishing regulations booklet to obtain information on the status of any of the rivers or creeks listed above in subsections (c)(1) through (8).~~

~~Check the Department's regulations page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations for Low Flow Restrictions and information.~~

(a) Special low-flow conditions that determine stream closures for designated reaches in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties from September 1 through April 30 (also see Section 7.40(b) Alphabetical List of Hatchery Trout, Hatchery Steelhead, and Salmon Waters with Special Fishing Regulations):

(1) Streams may be closed if the flow at any of the designated gauging stations in subsections (a)(4) through (13) is inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon, as defined by the minimum flows set forth.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the department's low-flow fishing regulations website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Low-Flow> to determine whether any stream in subsections (a)(4) through (13) will be open to fishing. The website will be updated no later than 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to determine stream closures on subsequent days, based on the following weekly schedule:

(A) If minimum flows are not met on Monday, the stream shall be closed the following Tuesday and/or Wednesday.

(B) If minimum flows are not met on Wednesday, the stream shall be closed the following Thursday and/or Friday.

(C) If minimum flows are not met on Friday, the stream shall be closed the following Saturday, Sunday, and/or Monday.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) through (2), the department may close or keep a stream reach closed to fishing even when the flow exceeds the minimum level on the scheduled flow determination day if the department is reasonably assured that the stream flow will fall below the minimum level on any day before the next flow determination day. The department may also reopen a stream at any time during a closed period if the flow exceeds the minimum level and the department is reasonably assured that it will remain above the minimum level until the next flow determination day.

(4) Smith River:

(A) The main stem Smith River from the confluence with Rowdy Creek to the confluence with the Middle Fork and South Fork. Minimum flow: 600 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11532500 on the Smith River near Crescent City, CA.

(B) The Middle Fork Smith River from the mouth to the confluence with Patrick Creek. Minimum flow: 600 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11532500 on the Smith River near Crescent City, CA.

(C) The South Fork Smith River from the mouth upstream approximately 1000 feet to the George Tryon Bridge and from the confluence with Craigs Creek to the confluence with Jones Creek. Minimum flow: 600 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11532500 on the Smith River near Crescent City, CA.

(D) The North Fork Smith River from the mouth to the confluence with Stony Creek. Minimum flow: 600 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11532500 on the Smith River near Crescent City, CA.

(5) Redwood Creek: The main stem Redwood Creek from the mouth to the confluence with Bond Creek. Minimum flow: 300 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11482500 on Redwood Creek at Orick, CA.

(6) Mad River: The main stem Mad River from the Hammond Trail Railroad Trestle to the confluence with Cowan Creek. Minimum flow: 200 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11481000 on the Mad River near Arcata, CA.

(7) Eel River:

(A) The mouth of the Eel River to the Cock Robin Island Bridge. Minimum flow: 350 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11477000 on the Eel River at

Scotia, CA. Exceptions to subsection 8.00(a)(7)(A), the mouth of the Eel River to the Cock Robin Island Bridge:

1. Legal fishing methods other than hook and line angling are permitted under all flows.

2. Hook and line angling from shore for non-salmonids is permitted under all flows.

(B) Main stem Eel River: The main stem Eel River from the Cock Robin Island Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Eel River. Minimum flow: 350 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11477000 on the Eel River at Scotia, CA.

(C) South Fork Eel River: The South Fork Eel River from the mouth to the confluence with Rattlesnake Creek. Minimum flow: 340 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11476500 on the South Fork Eel River near Miranda, CA.

(D) Middle Fork Eel River: The Middle Fork Eel River from the mouth to the confluence with Bar Creek. Minimum flow: 340 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11476500 on the South Fork Eel River near Miranda, CA.

(8) Van Duzen River: The main stem Van Duzen River from the confluence with the main stem Eel River upstream to the end of Golden Gate Drive near Bridgeville (approximately 4,000 feet upstream from the Little Golden Gate Bridge). Minimum flow: 150 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11478500 on the Van Duzen River near Bridgeville, CA.

(9) Mattole River: The main stem Mattole River from 200 yards upstream of the mouth to the confluence with Honeydew Creek. Minimum flow: 320 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11469000 on the Mattole River near Petrolia, CA.

(10) All rivers, creeks, and streams that flow directly into the Pacific Ocean (and its bays), in Mendocino County, except for the Russian and Gualala rivers. This excludes sections and reaches above fish migration barriers. Minimum flow: 200 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11468000 on the Navarro River near Navarro, CA.

(A) Albion River: Main stem below the confluence with the South Fork Albion River.

(B) Alder Creek: Main stem below Tramway Gulch.

(C) Big River: Main stem below the confluence with Two Log Creek.

(D) Brush Creek: Main stem below the Lawson Bridge.

(E) Cottaneva Creek: Main stem below the confluence with South Fork Cottaneva Creek.

(F) Elk Creek: Main stem below the confluence with South Fork Elk Creek.

(G) Garcia River: Main stem below the Eureka Hill Road bridge.

(H) Greenwood Creek: Main stem below the log bridge about 1-½ miles east of Highway 1.

(I) Navarro River: Main stem below the Greenwood Road bridge.

(J) Noyo River: Main stem below Camp Noyo.

(K) Ten Mile River: Main stem below the confluence with the North Fork Ten Mile River, and the North Fork Ten Mile River below the confluence with Bald Hill Creek.

(L) Usal Creek: Main stem below Usal Road.

(11) All rivers, creeks, and streams that flow directly into the Pacific Ocean (and its bays), in Sonoma and Marin counties, except for the Russian River. This excludes sections and reaches above fish migration barriers. Minimum flow: 150 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11467510 on the South Fork Gualala River near Sea Ranch, CA.

(A) Gualala River: Main stem below the confluence with Wheatfield Fork and South Fork.

(B) Russian Gulch: Main stem below the confluence with the East Branch.

(C) Salmon Creek: Main stem below Highway 1.

(D) Walker Creek: Main stem below Highway 1.

(12) Russian River: The main stem Russian River below the confluence with the East Branch Russian River. Minimum flow: 300 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11467000 on the Russian River at Hacienda Bridge near Guerneville, CA.

(13) Napa River: The Napa River from the Oakville Cross Road bridge near Yountville to the Trancas Street bridge in Napa. Minimum flow: 15 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11458000 on the Napa River near Napa, CA.

(b) Special low-flow conditions that determine stream closures for designated reaches in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties from December 1 through March 7 (also see Section 7.40(b) Alphabetical List of Hatchery Trout, Hatchery Steelhead, and Salmon Waters with Special Fishing Regulations):

(1) Streams may be closed if the flow at any of the designated gauging stations in subsections (b)(4) through (10) is inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon, as defined by the minimum flows set forth.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of the angler to use the department's low-flow fishing regulations website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Low-Flow> to determine whether any stream in subsections (b)(4) through (10) will be closed to fishing. The website will be updated no later than 1:00 p.m. each Tuesday and Friday to determine stream closures on subsequent days, based on the following weekly schedule. Note fishing is only legally allowed on Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, legal holidays, and opening and closing days for the streams listed in subsections (b)(4) through (10).

(A) If minimum flows are not met on Tuesday, the stream shall be closed the following Wednesday.

(B) If minimum flows are not met on Friday, the stream shall be closed the following Saturday and/or Sunday.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (b)(1) through (2), the department may close or keep a stream reach closed to fishing even when the flow exceeds the minimum level on the scheduled flow determination day if the department is reasonably assured that the stream flow will fall below the minimum level on any day before the next flow determination day. The department may also reopen a stream at any time during a closed period if the flow exceeds the minimum level and the department is reasonably assured that it will remain above the minimum level until the next flow determination day.

(4) Pescadero Creek: Pescadero Creek and all anadromous reaches of San Mateo County coastal streams normally open for fishing, from Elliot Creek through Milagro Creek. Minimum flow: 8 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11162500 on Pescadero Creek near Pescadero, CA.

(A) Butano Creek: Butano Creek from the mouth to county bridge on Pescadero-Bean Hollow Road.

(B) Pescadero Creek: Pescadero Creek from the mouth to the Stage Road bridge at Pescadero.

(C) San Gregorio Creek: San Gregorio Creek from the mouth to the Stage Road bridge at San Gregorio.

(5) The San Lorenzo River and all its tributaries, as well as all anadromous reaches of coastal streams normally open for fishing in Santa Cruz County from the San Lorenzo River north through Waddell Creek. Minimum flow: 40 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11160500 on the San Lorenzo River at Big Trees, CA.

(A) San Lorenzo River: San Lorenzo River from the mouth to the Lomond Street bridge in the town of Boulder Creek.

(B) Scott Creek: Scott Creek from the mouth to the confluence with Big Creek.

(C) Waddell Creek: Waddell Creek from the mouth to the Highway 1 bridge.

(6) Soquel Creek: Soquel Creek from the mouth to the confluence with East and West branch. Minimum flow: 40 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11160500 on the San Lorenzo River at Big Trees, CA.

(7) Aptos Creek: Aptos Creek from the mouth to the first bridge on Aptos Creek Road. Minimum flow: 40 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11160500 on the San Lorenzo River at Big Trees, CA.

(8) The main stem Carmel River, and the adjacent waters of San Jose, Gibson, Malpaso, and Soberanes creeks that are west of Highway 1 in Monterey County. Minimum flow: 80 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11143250 on the Carmel River near Carmel, CA.

(A) Carmel River: Carmel River main stem below the bridge at Robles Del Rio/ Esquiline Roads (Rosie's Bridge).

(B) Gibson Creek: Gibson Creek from the mouth to the Highway 1 bridge.

(C) Malpaso Creek: Malpaso Creek from the mouth to the Highway 1 bridge.

(D) San Jose Creek: San Jose Creek from the mouth to the Highway 1 bridge.

(E) Soberanes Creek: Soberanes Creek from the mouth to the Highway 1 bridge.

(9) The main stem Big Sur River west of the Highway 1 bridge, and the anadromous portions of all other Big Sur Coast streams west of Highway 1 in Monterey County, from Granite Creek south to Salmon Creek, except for Limekiln Creek. Minimum flow: 40 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11143000 on the Big Sur River near Big Sur, CA.

(10) Limekiln Creek: All of Limekiln Creek and its tributaries. Minimum flow: 40 cfs at the USGS gauging station 11143000 on the Big Sur River near Big Sur, CA.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265 and 270, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 8.10, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 8.10. Youth Fishing Derby, Susan River (Lassen County).

The Susan River, from the second railroad tunnel (the westernmost) on the Biz Johnson Trail downstream to the Riverside Bridge in the City of Susanville, is open to fishing on the Saturday preceding the trout season opener on ~~the Saturday preceding Memorial Day~~ last Saturday in April, only to persons under 16 years of age who are registered for the fishing derby sponsored by the Lassen County Sportsmen's Club. See Section 7.50(b)(149) for fishing regulations for the Susan River.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 270, 275 and 315, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205 and 215, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.25, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.25. Barracuda, California.

Minimum size: Twenty-eight inches total length ~~or seventeen inches alternate length.~~

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.30, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§28.30. Kelp Bass, Barred Sand Bass and Spotted Sand Bass.

- (a) Minimum size: Fourteen inches total ~~length or ten inches alternate length~~.
- (b) Limit: Five in any combination of species, except as provided in subsection (c).
- (c) Barred Sand Bass Limit: Notwithstanding subsection (b), a maximum of 4 barred sand bass may be taken or possessed.
- (d) Sunset Provision: Subsection (c) shall remain in effect until June 1, 2028, and as of that date is repealed.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 205, 219, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.32, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.32. Pacific Bonito.

(a) Limit: Ten.

(b) Minimum size: Twenty-four inches fork length ~~or five pounds~~ except that:

Five fish less than twenty-four inches fork length ~~or weighing less than five pounds~~ may be taken and possessed.

~~(c) The provisions of this section shall only remain operative if the provisions of Section 8377 of the Fish and Game Code, pertaining to the commercial take of Pacific bonito, become operative on March 1, 1982 and remain operative.~~

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255, 265, 270 and 275, Fish and Game Code.

Section 28.35, Title 14 CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.35. White Seabass.

(a) Minimum size: Twenty-eight inches total length ~~or twenty and one-half inches alternate length.~~

(b) Season: Open all year.

(c) Limit: Three, except that only one fish may be taken in waters south of Pt. Conception between March 15 and June 15.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 255 and 265, Fish and Game Code.

Section 230 Subsection (g)(2) of, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 230. Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prize for the Taking of Game Fish.

[...No changes to subsections (a) through (f)...]

(g) Permit Adjustments.

(1) The department will evaluate requests for adjustments to approved permits if such requests are received by the issuing regional office at least 30 days prior to the contest date. The department will accept or deny requests based on whether the date and water combination requested is available, whether the change violates any special conditions, and whether the change would be detrimental to the resource.

(2) Permittees may submit up to three ~~changes~~change requests, whether approved or denied, to the approved permit. Any additional change requests will require the submittal of a new application and fee payment.

[...No changes to subsections (h) through (o)...]

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 37, 67, 711, 713, 1050 and 2003, Fish and Game Code.

Section 701, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 701. Sport Fishing Forms and Fees.

<i>Subsection</i>	<i>Application Type</i>	<i>Permit Fees (US\$)</i>	<i>Replacement Processing Fees (US\$)</i>
(a)	Declaration for Multi-Day Fishing Trip (FG 935 (Rev. 2/13)), incorporated by reference herein	5.75	
(b)	2014 North Coast Salmon Report Card	5.75	
(c)(1)	2025-2026 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card	0.00	
(c)(2)	2026-2027 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card	7.50	
(d)	2014 Spiny Lobster Report Card	8.75	
(e)	2014 Spiny Lobster Report Card NonReturn Fee	20.00	
(f)	2014 Abalone Replacement Report Card and Replacement Fee	9.50	7.50
(g)	2021 Recreational Crab Trap Validation	2.25	
<u>(h)*</u>	<u>2027 Steelhead Report Card</u>	<u>9.50</u>	
<u>(i)</u>	<u>2027-2028 Steelhead Report Card</u>	<u>9.50</u>	
<u>(j)</u>	<u>2027-2028 Steelhead Report Card NonReturn Fee</u>	<u>20.00</u>	

*Purchasing the 2027 Steelhead Report Card qualifies the report card holder for a no-fee 2027-2028 Report Card. Report card holder must abide by the applicable requirements set forth in Section 1.74 of these regulations.

(~~h~~k) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 699, Title 14, the department shall annually adjust the fees of all licenses, stamps, permits, tags, or other entitlements required by regulations set forth in this section.

Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 275, 713, 1050, 1053.1, 1055.1 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Subject: Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to Sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Sport Fishing Regulations Update

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has prepared the enclosed *Initial Study and Negative Declaration for Proposed Amendments to 2026 Sport Fish Annual Update, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)*. The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend the sport fishing regulations as set forth in sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. The proposed regulatory changes are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries and clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, and protect fish populations. Based on the initial study, the Department assesses that the proposed amendments to the 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 or need additional information, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch or Maggie McCann, Senior Environmental Scientist, at Fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
May 29, 2026
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**State of California
Natural Resources Agency**

California Fish and Game Commission

**Draft Negative Declaration for
Proposed Amendments to 2026 Sport Fishing Regulations
(Inland and Marine)
Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch
for consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission

April 2026

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

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

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701 related to sport fishing for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle (Project). This proposal contains multiple amendments that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. The proposed amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement. The Department has evaluated the proposed amendments and presented its findings to the Commission for consideration.

The proposed amendments fall into two major categories, those that have no effect on fishing restrictions and are primarily administrative in nature, and those that affect restrictions on fishing including seasons, size limits, boundaries, and/or gear restrictions.

1. Amendments with no effect to fishing restrictions and are necessary to enhance clarity, consistency, or fix errors; they do not alter the application or enforcement of the regulations. These amendments include:
 - Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County: In 2014, Clear Lake hitch was listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as threatened and can no longer be taken without a CESA incidental take permit or MOU. The language in Section 2.11 conflicts with take prohibitions for Clear Lake hitch and needs to be removed from Title 14, CCR.
 - Section 5.65, Shad, American: In 2025 there was a regulatory amendment in Section 2.30 to allow spearfishing as a method of take for American shad in the Valley District. The proposed amendment to Section 5.65 would add spearfishing as a method of take allowable for American shad in the Valley District, making Section 5.65 consistent with Section 2.30.
 - Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout: The proposed amendment would add Section 7.00, which lists general regulations in each District, to the list of sections excepted from general statewide trout regulations. The change would remove ambiguities associated with wildlife officers enforcing fishing regulation violations.
 - Section 6.34, Southern District Definition: The current definition of the “Southern District” in Section 6.34 erroneously copies the Sierra District definition. The proposed amendment would correct the language to the as-intended definition of the Southern District.

- Section 7.40: Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124) to account for the addition of multiple special waters to this section. Section 7.40, like Section 7.50, are listed by special water in alphabetical order to help anglers find the water they search for in this regulation. Amendments to other regulation sections have been made in this proposal to revise or remove unnecessary references to 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) due to the continual changes in the numbering of these sections when waters are added or removed. There are minor edits to text to align subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) language with the Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal, which will clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between Section 8.00 and subsection 7.40(b), where needed. Subsection (b)(43)(D)(1) has been consolidated into subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D) to provide clarification and removal of the additional box and subsection (1). In subsection 7.40(b)(72)(C), the boundary feature has a name change from “Sonoma/Mendicino Boy Scout Council Camp” to “Camp Noyo” to reflect the name change of the property. For the Smith River, subsection 7.40(b)(108)(A) was added to match the language in proposed subsection 8.00(a)(4) describing the Smith River from the mouth to the confluence with Rowdy Creek; this amendment is proposed to align with the Smith River sections described in subsections 7.40(b)(108)(B) and (C).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries: This amendment would clean up, reorganize, and group streams with similar regulations in subsection 7.50(b)(90) for the McCloud River and tributaries; this would simplify the regulation, making it easier to understand by grouping waters with similar regulations.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek: The name of Sq. Valley Creek was changed by federal legislation through the U.S. Department of Interior’s Order 3404 on September 8, 2022 to Yét Atwam Creek. The amendment would make the regulation text consistent with federal legislation.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2): Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prize for the Taking of Game Fish: There is a minor grammar error in subsection 230(g)(2); the word “changes” would become “change.”

2. Amendments with effects to restrictions on sport fishing including seasons, size limits, and/or gear restrictions are discussed individually in this document. There is no substantial evidence that any of the proposed amendments will result in a significant effect on the environment.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations: This proposed amendment would revise Section 1.62 to more clearly define the method to determine total length of fin fish. The change would clarify that total length is measured with the fish’s mouth closed, lying flat on a horizontal surface, and that the tail may be pinched, fanned, or naturally swung (see Figures 1-3 for a photograph of the tail positions). Fanning and swinging of a fish’s tail is expressly allowed for salmon and halibut but not specified in the general maximum length in Section 1.62. It has been a long-time practice for law enforcement officers to allow the fanning and swinging technique, but it is not consistently understood

by anglers. Importantly, crew onboard commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFVs) have requested clarification, to ensure they are measuring passengers' fish correctly.

- The proposed amendment also includes revising the phrase “fish, mollusks or crustaceans” to “fin fish or invertebrates” and clarifies that measurement of invertebrate species is specified within the individual invertebrate regulations. The proposed amendment also includes revising existing language that refers to “mollusks, or crustaceans” to the term “invertebrates,” which is more inclusive and encompasses other groups like echinoderms. It clarifies that methods to determine length for invertebrates are found in the individual subsections for those species. Recreational fishing groups including American Sportfishing Association, Sportfishing Association of California, and Coastal Conservation Association of California were contacted and support these changes.
- The proposed amendment removes alternate length measurements from Section 1.62, and from the sections for barracuda, kelp and sand basses, and white sea bass (sections 28.25, 28.30, and 28.35, respectively). Alternate length is proposed to be removed as it causes unnecessary confusion and concerns with law enforcement. The allowance of retaining filleted fish (i.e., Section 27.65), with associated minimum fillet lengths provided for these species, makes the use of an alternate length unnecessary.
- Section 1.73, Salmon: This proposed amendment would require any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon in which an adipose fin is present to provide the Department a tissue sample upon request. This includes the additional requirement of all persons fishing for salmon to provide a tissue sample from unmarked (i.e., adipose fin present) salmon upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department. Amending biological sample collection requirements allows for the use of Parentage-Based Tagging (PBT) in fisheries surveys advances fisheries monitoring in a number of ways. PBT is highly efficient, as the tagging process requires only genotyping the parents to produce a 100% tag rate of offspring, which can lead to higher tag recovery rates and improved statistical precision of estimates. Additionally, there is no physical tag loss or handling mortality associated with PBT; parentage assignments can be obtained non-lethally via a small tissue sample, and large-scale tagging can occur at a much lower cost compared to physical marking and tagging methods. This proposal would allow the Department to integrate PBT recovery data into the current salmon management framework, allowing tissue samples to be collected from unmarked salmon contacted in monitoring programs.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes: To better align with seasonal adult steelhead run timing, improve data management, and assess non-compliant reporting, the Commission proposes to amend the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (Card; steelhead report card) reporting period from a 12-month calendar period to a 9-month reporting period. The adjusted Card reporting period would be August 1 through April 30 the following year, and required to be returned or reported to the Department by May 31. The Card would be required for anglers targeting any steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters during this 9-month period. Anglers would be able to obtain the subsequent Card starting July 1 to

allow time for the Department to process the previous season's Cards returned by May 31. Any Card holder who fails to return or report by the May 31 deadline shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee, and will not be able to obtain the subsequent Card until that fee is paid. From May 1 through July 31 of each year, anglers would not need a Card to fish for steelhead or rainbow trout in anadromous waters.

- The amendments are necessary because there is currently lack of data collection and inability to analyze data in a timely fashion. Shifting the reporting months to mirror the 9-month period run timing of steelhead would allow the Department to process Cards more efficiently and have data readily available to inform management strategies for the steelhead fishery statewide. By shifting the reporting period to 9 months, the Department will have time between seasons to assess non-compliance and the opportunity to implement penalties prior to the issuance of the subsequent year's Card, including fees and prohibitions for non-compliant report card holders. This amendment is expected to increase reporting and therefore increase data quality.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions: This proposed amendment would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling.
- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed amendment would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. Generally, declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time, Striped bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River, which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. It may also increase harvest of these non-native species, which could have a potential benefit on vulnerable salmonid populations.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co): The proposed amendment would remove the black bass minimum size requirement from waters in Lassen and Modoc counties, except for Mountain Meadows Reservoir where the minimum size would remain at 12 inches. Growth rates of largemouth bass are typically slow within Lassen and Modoc counties due to the shorter growing season in the region, attributable to the high elevation. Additionally, reservoirs containing large bass

populations are often overrun with stunted bass, and few bass are able to reach the 12-inch minimum size requirement for harvest. The 12-inch minimum size requirement reduces the number of harvested bass, which could affect the bass populations by further stunting their growth. Removing the minimum size requirement in these locations would increase the harvest of smaller bass and improve the size class structure within the bass populations. Mountain Meadows Reservoir is still recovering from being drained in 2015 and has the potential to grow trophy class bass as it has in the past. The 12-inch minimum size requirement at Mountain Meadows Reservoir would be maintained under the General Statewide Restrictions regulations allowing the bass population to grow, and allow more young bass to grow to the 12-inch size minimum and larger. Subsection numbers (b)(3) through (b)(14) have been re-numbered to allow for the two counties added into this section.

- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations: This proposed amendment would modify the Sierra district boundary in Section 6.35 to include a small section of Yuba County (“Yuba County east of New Bullards Bar Dam;”) to protect experimentally reintroduced Chinook salmon. This change would also close Chinook salmon fishing in the North Fork Feather River above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River above New Bullards Bar Dam all year in subsection 7.00(b)(2). This proposal also adds two specific subsections in Section 7.00, the Sierra District (adding (b)(3) and (b)(4), the North Fork Feather River above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River above New Bullards Bar Dam, which will be closed to Chinook salmon fishing all year). Scientific studies are currently being implemented within the North Fork Feather River, led by the California Department of Water Resources, and in the North Yuba River, led by the Department, evaluating Spring-Run Chinook salmon reintroduction to these historical habitats. Changing the regulation to close fishing of Chinook salmon at all times of the year in these waterways will allow for study fish through various developmental stages (eggs, alevin, fry, parr, smolt, adult) to remain in the study area informing study results and reintroduction efforts.
- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.): This proposed amendment would increase fishing opportunity by allowing the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes: This proposed amendment would reorganize, condense, and clean up the language in the low-flow regulations, standardize the identification of stream gauges, and remove streams from 8.00 that lack low-flow criteria.
 - Section 7.00, District General Regulations: This amendment would add Section 8.00, which lists low-flow restrictions to the paragraph about existing restrictions (such as methods, gear, fishing hours, and use of bait) when angling in District waters. This amendment would remove ambiguities associated with anglers following regulations for low flow conditions, as well as wildlife officers enforcing fishing regulation violations.

- Section 7.40, subsection (b) and 7.50 subsection (b), Updates to Special Water Bodies regarding Low-Flow: Proposed amendments throughout the special waters tables in subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) serve to better align subsection 7.40(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal. Organizational changes, such as moving the text “...Also see Section 8.00(a, b, or c) Low Flow Restrictions” to the end of the “Body of Water” description improves consistency informing the angler to be aware of low-flow considerations for the re-organized subsections 8.00(a), (b), or (c). These amendments are necessary to clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between 8.00, 7.40(b), and 7.50(b) as needed. In subsection (b) for Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek references to Section 8.00 are removed, as these waters are proposed to be removed from the Low Flow restrictions due to lack of low flow threshold.
- Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions: A new website for low-flow fishing restrictions was launched in early 2025, which brought more attention to the language and content in Section 8.00. Subsections 8.00(a) and (b), which previously directed anglers to different regional phone lines, may now be combined and condensed into the revised subsection 8.00(a) now that there is an online platform during the time period of September 1 through April 30. Subsection 8.00(c) for the San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey county water bodies is restructured to the revised subsection 8.00(b). These amendments will make the regulations easier to understand, thereby reducing angler confusion.
 - New subsection 8.00(a): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties.
 - New subsection 8.00(b): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties.
- The proposed amendments to subsections 8.00(a)(1) through (3) and (b)(1) through (3), would allow the ability to make split block decisions instead of solid block decisions. Allowing split block decisions has the potential to provide additional opportunity by adding angling days and reduce angler frustration. Split block decisions will allow the Department to be more flexible and precise in applying closures only to days when flows are predicted to fall below minimum thresholds.
- Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek are proposed to be removed from Section 8.00 as these waters currently lack low flow thresholds. Until the Department

determines the appropriate low flow thresholds, these waters do not need to be listed in the restricted list. Additionally, some waters in Section 7.40 reference Section 8.00 even though these waters are not, and have not been, proposed to be added to Section 8.00. For clarity, the proposed amendments to subsections would also remove the waters that were listed in error (see proposed subsections 7.40(b)(108)(C)(2) and (D)(3)).

- The proposed amendments includes language and grammar clean-up, as well as some changes to standardize the naming of stream gauges and consistency in boundaries between 7.40 and 8.00, update to location names (Usal Road and correcting spelling of George Tryon Bridge) and a property name change (Camp Noyo).
- Section 7.40
 - Subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): Re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento June 30 to December 31, with the restriction “Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.” This amendment would provide recreational angling opportunity for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead.
 - Lower Battle Creek from the mouth to Coleman Fish Hatchery weir is currently closed to angling year-round. Allowing angler access to lower Battle Creek beginning June 30 will increase fishing opportunities on striped and black bass. Battle Creek was historically a popular steelhead fishery but was closed to angling in the early 1990’s to ensure that Coleman National Fish Hatchery would annually secure sufficient adult steelhead broodstock.
 - Returns of hatchery-origin steelhead to Coleman National Fish Hatchery are now routinely in excess of broodstock collection targets. Presently, these fish are only available to recreational anglers in the mainstem Sacramento River. However, due to a variety of factors, contact with these fish in the mainstem Sacramento River is extremely low. Furthermore, the mainstem Sacramento River steelhead fishery is primarily boat-based. Shore-based steelhead fishing on lower Battle Creek would provide opportunity to much broader angling interest groups.
 - The harvest of Coleman Hatchery steelhead is expected to be minimal based on observed creel data from neighboring hatchery steelhead fisheries on the American and Feather Rivers due to angler preference for catch and release angling.
 - Subsections (b)(28), (35), (37), (74): Addition of Creeks with Special Regulations: This proposed amendment would add new special regulation sections for Clear Creek (added as subsection (b)(28)), Cow Creek (added as subsection (b)(37)), Cottonwood Creek (added as subsection (b)(35)), and Paynes Creek (added as subsection (b)(74)). This amendment would also change the Antelope Creek

- boundary under (b)(5) from the confluence with the North Fork downstream to Ponderosa Way crossing on the North Fork and South Fork to make angling more protective for Central Valley steelhead in this subsection. Local fishing opportunities are currently very limited due to a variety of overlapping regulations, some of which are not necessary. Allowing the public, especially children, to catch warm water fish with bait in anadromous streams in the middle of the summer when anadromous fish species are not present would be very beneficial to the public and the Department's Recruit, Retain, Reactivate (R3) goals. With the exception of Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek, the majority anadromous tributaries have specific protective regulations already present in 7.40; adding Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek will complete this protective set of regulations. These additions result in renumbering most of subsection 7.40(b) bodies of water to maintain the alphabetical listing.
- Subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River: This proposed amendment would update the gear restriction boundary to align with more recognizable features, providing clarity for both anglers and law enforcement. The boundary line would change from the mouth of the Eel River to Fulmor Road, and instead be the mouth to Cock Robin Island, resulting in a slight shift downstream (~.5 miles).
 - Subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: This proposed amendment would increase fishing opportunity in the Klamath River by allowing catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the mainstem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. The proposed summer season regulations would provide consistency with currently open waters adjacent to and upstream of this subsection.
- Section 7.50
 - Subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.): On the Arroyo Seco River, above the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles above the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, change the trout bag limit from 5 trout to 5 brown trout and 0 rainbow trout, and add a Special Restriction of "only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used". The upper Arroyo Seco River contains a population of native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), offering a unique sport fishing opportunity in the Salinas River watershed in Monterey County. Like other trout populations throughout California, this population of native coastal rainbow trout has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions. The population has also likely been impacted by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the

Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of coastal rainbow trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids. Additionally, the upper Arroyo Seco contains a non-native population of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) which offers sport fishing opportunities, though they may negatively impact native coastal rainbow trout through competition and predation. Changing the upper Arroyo Seco trout regulations to a 5 brown trout and 0 rainbow trout bag limit, with a restriction of only artificial lures with barbless hooks, will protect the rainbow trout fishery while allowing anglers the option of harvesting non-native brown trout.

- Subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): This proposed amendment would remove subsections (47)(L) Fall River Pond and (47)(M) Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b)(47) Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou counties). The removal of these two paragraphs Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b) means that these stretches of waters would then fall under subsection 5.85(a)(1), which outlines the statewide general trout regulations for take allowances. Owing to the removal of subsections (b)(47)(L) and (b)(47)(M), the language for subsection (b)(47)(A) is shifted from the confluence of the Fall River with the Pit River, to Pit No. 1 PG&E Diversion Dam.
 - The Fall River is a unique river in that it is fed by multiple natural springs (i.e., spring-fed system) and is a prime trout fishing water. The “Fall River Complex” was added to the freshwater sport fishing regulations in 2021. The angling regulation addition coincided with an expansion of the Fall River wild trout designation. Department justified the addition and expansion by citing its unique spring-fed system and genetic differences and life histories among rainbow trout within the Fall River system, which is a research project led by U.C. Davis with assistance from the Department. The regulation was put in place to provide protections for rainbow trout in the Fall River Complex and was the result of litigation by the Fall River Conservancy. Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake were not included in the U.C. Davis research and there is limited data to suggest that rainbow trout from the Fall River Complex mix with rainbow trout in Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond, so the inclusion of these two locations is not necessary. The current regulations have been unpopular with anglers, and research suggests they are not effective in protecting the population of rainbow trout that was intended to be protected by this regulation. CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, and Fall River Conservancy have sent support letters for the proposed change.
- Subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): This proposed amendment would add Trout Creek into subsection 7.50(b)(90),

McCloud River and Tributaries under proposed paragraph (G), to provide angling regulation protections for McCloud River Redband Trout (MRRT), consistent with other streams in the MRRT refugium. Trout Creek is identified as a high priority conservation stream but not included as a “Core Conservation Stream” in MRRT Conservation Agreement (CA) (2017). Confounding genetic results prior to the completion of the CA was the justification for Trout Creek to be excluded as a core conservation stream. However, since the genetics results, the Department has identified a “95% barrier” where MRRT collected upstream of the barrier were shown to be genetically distinct, and rainbow trout collected downstream of the barrier were shown to be slightly introgressed (rainbow trout cross with MRRT). Additionally, non-native brown trout are found downstream of the barrier but not upstream. The Department is currently working with the private landowner to improve the 95% barrier to ensure introgressed and non-native trout are unable to pass upstream at all flows, thence protecting the genetically distinct population upstream. In addition to improving the barrier, angling regulation changes are necessary to provide further protection for this population. Other organizational changes are made to group streams with similar regulations for clarity purposes. Former 7.50(b)(90)(C) Swamp Creek is re-numbered to paragraph (F) to occur below those creeks in the McCloud River watershed that are closed to all fishing all year. With the addition of Trout Creek and all tributaries as proposed paragraph (G), the remaining paragraphs for subsection 7.50(b)(90) are re-numbered.

- Subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: This proposed amendment would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (last Saturday in April through November 15) that was updated by previous amendment in 2020 (OAL file #2020-1204-02s). The amendment would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start. Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. During much of the winter the river is typically unfishable (due to ice and snow), so the winter provides little to no opportunity. Water in the Susan River can warm significantly in the late spring and early summer, as releases from McCoy Flat and Hog Flat reservoirs increase. Having the season open earlier will provide more opportunity while angling conditions are good, while not impacting spawning.

The Findings

The Commission subjected the draft negative declaration 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. The Commission finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed initial study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the bases for this finding and the Commission’s determination that the Project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and that there is no substantial evidence, in

light of the whole record before the Commission, that the Project may have significant effects on the environment. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The initial study concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, this negative declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

Basis of the Findings

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

Project Description and Background Information For Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing 2026

Introduction

Annually the Department recommends updates to sport fishing regulations, which the Commission generally notices as the Commission's proposed amendments to its regulations consistent with the California Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed amendments are considered and evaluated by the Commission during three scheduled public hearings. The Commission makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be adopted at the Commission's adoption hearing. The Commission is the lead agency for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project. Under California Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish, including take for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's conservation policy as set forth in Section 1700 of the Fish and Game Code. The conservation policy includes the following objectives:

- (a) The maintenance of sufficient populations of all species;
- (b) The recognition of the importance of recreational uses;
- (c) The maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use;
- (d) The growth of local commercial fisheries; and
- (e) The management of the fisheries under the state's jurisdiction.

Background

The Department recommends amendments to inland sport fishing regulations, generally every year. For the 2025 proposed amendments, the decision was made to postpone a rulemaking due to staff limitations. Therefore, this project includes amendments for two years of recommendations. Additionally, the Department chose to consolidate a marine-inclusive sport fish regulation amendment into this project.

Project Location

The sport fishing regulation amendments addressed by the initial study/negative declaration occur throughout the inland and ocean waters of California.

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission at its August 12-13, 2026, meeting, and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments are expected to go into effect on January 1, 2027.

Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title:
Sport Fishing Regulations Update
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location:
Inland and ocean waters of California.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
6. General Plan designation:
N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning:
N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project:
The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Title 14 sections related to sport fishing for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle. The proposal contains multiple amendments that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve the steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. The proposed amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement. The amendments are necessary to maintain consistency with the Commission's mission to ensure that California will have abundant, healthy, and diverse fish and wildlife that thrive within dynamic ecosystems, managed with public confidence and participation, through actions that are thoughtful, bold, and visionary in an ever-changing environment.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting:
N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:
None.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31? On January 14, 2026, the Commission mailed a tribal notification to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. No tribes have requested consultation.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture and Forestry | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology/Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality | ☐ Land Use/Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population/Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities/Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

This project will not have a “Potential Significant Impact” on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

July 13, 2026

Date

Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
I. Aesthetics. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
II. Agriculture And Forestry Resources. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
III. Air Quality. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
IV. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
V. Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VI. Energy. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VII. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	NI
IX. Hazards And Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	NI
X. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
XI. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XII. Mineral Resources. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIII. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
XIV. Population and Housing. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XV. Public Services. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVI. Recreation.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVII. Transportation. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☐	☐	NI
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XX. Wildfire. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

- a) The project will have a Less Than Significant Impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on certain species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project will have a significant effect on these biological resources as explained below.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on biological resources:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact or a beneficial impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species:

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes. Potential to minimally decrease steelhead fishing effort, no expected impact to species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co.).
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations. This change would protect Spring-Run Chinook Salmon.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County):
 - The project proposes to eliminate harvest of Rainbow Trout in the Arroyo Seco River. The purpose of this amendment is to protect native Coastal Rainbow Trout which has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions and by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in relatively close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of Coastal Rainbow Trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids.
 - Further, Rainbow Trout produced above the Arroyo Seco Gorge are likely capable of travelling downstream of the waterfall (possible total barrier to upstream migration) to the Salinas River, and eventually the Pacific Ocean, possibly supplementing anadromous federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead productivity in the Salinas River watershed. This amendment will have a beneficial effect on native Coastal Rainbow Trout and a potential beneficial effect on South-Central California Coast Steelhead Trout.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries:

- The project proposes to add Trout Creek to the Special Fishing Regulations for Trout which would shorten the current fishing season from year-round to the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through the last day in February. The current daily bag and possession limits of 5 fish and 10 fish, respectively, would be reduced to zero (i.e., catch and release only). This amendment will provide angling protections for McCloud River Redband Trout which is a California Species of Special Concern. This amendment will have a beneficial effect on McCloud River Redband Trout.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species:

- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions: This proposed amendment would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. Although listed fish species including Central Valley Steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon occur the project area, these species are unlikely to be present when the use of treble hooks are allowed. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling. It may also increase harvest on non-native predatory fish species, which could have a potential benefit on salmonid populations. Under the proposed project, these listed species will be protected by gear restrictions that reduce fish mortality if one of these listed species is inadvertently caught, and if caught, these fish must be returned to the water immediately. This proposed amendment is expected to have a less than significant effect on listed fish species.
- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed amendment would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped

bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon occur in the Sacramento River in the region of river where use of live bait is currently allowed. These two listed species are not known to be incidentally taken by anglers using live fin fish for bait in the river sections currently open to use of live bait. Moving the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge is therefore not expected to result in increased incidental take of these species. The proposed amendment will have a less than significant effect on spring-run and winter-run Chinook Salmon.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed amendment would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This change applies to those anadromous streams not listed in the Special Fishing Regulations for Salmon and Steelhead and these streams are closed to salmon fishing year-round. Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon which are federally and state-listed as threatened, could occur in anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties but are generally not present during the summer months when the use of bait would be allowed. The majority of Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon spawning occurs in Butte, Mill, and Deer creeks which have special fishing regulations to protect spring-run Chinook Salmon. Allowing use of bait within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties at appropriate times when anadromous fish are not present will increase angling opportunity for non-listed native and non-native warmwater fish species that are present in these streams. It may also increase harvest on non-native predatory fish species, which could have a potential benefit on salmonid populations. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact on Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Listed fish species that occur in the project area include endangered winter-run Chinook Salmon, threatened spring-run Chinook Salmon and federally threatened Central Valley Steelhead. Although these listed species could occur in the project area between June and December, Battle Creek is and will remain closed to the take of Chinook Salmon and wild steelhead year-round. Under the proposed project, these listed species will be protected by gear restrictions that reduce fish mortality if

one of these listed species is inadvertently caught during the proposed open fishing season for warmwater fishes and hatchery trout. If caught, these fish must be returned to the water immediately. This proposed amendment is expected to have a less than significant effect on listed fish species.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek are tributaries to the Sacramento River and are habitat for threatened Central Valley Steelhead. The regulations for these creeks currently fall under the Sierra District Regulations and are open to fishing from the Last Saturday in April through Nov 15th, with a gear restriction of “only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.” To increase fishing opportunities, the project would remove the artificial lures only gear restriction between June 16th and September 30th in the lower reaches of these streams to allow the use of bait during the summer months when anadromous fish species are not present. The proposed amendments will have a less than significant effect on Central Valley Steelhead.
 - Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. Federal and state listed fish species including Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon and Upper Klamath/Trinity River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon occur in the project area but are generally not present in the summer months when fishing would be allowed. These amendments will have a less than significant effect on Coho Salmon and spring-run Chinook Salmon.
- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. The project does not involve ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus has no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.
- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence

of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.

- ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- a) The project will have a less than significant impact on the indirect generation of greenhouse gas emissions and will not have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on GHG emissions:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.

- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Changes to fishing regulations which would have no impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on GHG emissions. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties).
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on GHG emissions.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on GHG emissions:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d) Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the Sacramento River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the project's

impact of GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations – Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Counties): The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to these waters because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the project's impacts on GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. While increased local participation is expected, anglers are not expected to travel from farther away. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will have a less than significant impact.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County) from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Prior to the Klamath Dam Removal project, recreational anglers fished in Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs for warmwater fish species such as largemouth bass, black and white crappie, green sunfish, catfish, and others. With the removal of Iron Gate, Copco 1, and Copco 2 dams, most of the project area has become anadromous waters with a coldwater fisheries including Chinook Salmon and steelhead trout. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the upper Klamath River is unknown, increased participation is expected. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters during the angling season, and their internal combustion engines will produce some emissions. The project area is located in Siskiyou County, which is a sparsely populated, rural region in Northern California. Due to the remoteness of the project area, the number of

additional angler trips to the project area will most likely be low. Thus, the impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be negligible. Additionally, the transition from a warmwater fishery on Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs where powerboats are used year-round to access productive fishing spots to a coldwater fishery on the Klamath River where drift boats are used, will likely result in a negligible or net decrease over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will have a less than significant impact.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The proposal to remove the “artificial lure” requirement on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months could result in additional angler trips to these waters. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will a less than significant impact.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to a five fish daily bag limit and a 10 fish possession limit from the last Saturday in April through November 15th. As a result, the project could result in additional angler trips to each water between April and November. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will not have a less than significant impact on GHG emissions.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: The proposal to revert the fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing season. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access the Susan River and their internal combustion engines will produce some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at Susan River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the impact of GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.

- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. The project would result in the production of very low greenhouse gas emissions.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion

or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

- ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or would be accelerated.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on recreational facilities:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)

- Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
- (72)(C), boundary feature name change
- Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact on recreational facilities. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties):
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on recreation.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on recreational facilities:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream of Deschutes Road. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunity, existing facilities on the Sacramento River between the Highway 32 Bridge and Deschutes Road Bridge are adequate to accommodate new or additional anglers. The Sacramento River is primarily a boat-based fishery and there are eight boat ramps on this section of the river. The project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District: The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. Allowing appropriate live fin fish bait to be used further up the Sacramento River would increase fishing opportunities on Striped Bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to lures and other methods. Fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunities, existing facilities such as boat ramps and parking lots utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. Additionally, the project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek: The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. It is expected that the proposed project will result in more angler trips to the area. Much of this section of lower Battle Creek is within the State Battle Creek Wildlife Area which provides three public access points to the creek with parking. The project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. This change would provide a new recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. During the dam removal process, three boat ramps were built each with newly constructed parking and a vault toilet. All three sites are open to the public during daylight hours. This is a new fishing area on the Klamath River with new facilities to accommodate anglers. This amendment will not affect existing facilities or require new facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The project proposes to remove the “artificial lure” gear restriction on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months to increase fishing opportunities for warmwater species. The number of fishing trips to these waters could increase during the summer months. However, because these waters are located in relatively remote and sparsely populated areas of the state, the number of additional anglers/visitors to each water would be

minimal. The amendments are not expected to result in an overall increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.

- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex: The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to 5 fish per day and 10 fish in possession between April and November. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to these waters with the new opportunity to harvest fish. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunity, existing facilities utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. The current facilities were appropriate to accommodate angler use prior to 2021 when the harvest of trout was allowed, and they are still appropriate today. The project will not require any new facilities or repurposing of existing facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: This proposal would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) that was updated by previous amendment in 2021. The proposed amendment would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start.
 - Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing seasons. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunities, existing facilities utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. The current facilities were appropriate to accommodate angler use prior to the regulation change in 2021, and they are still appropriate today. The project will not require any new facilities or repurposing of existing facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.

b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), which describes criteria for analyzing a project's transportation impacts. The project will not result in significant impacts to transportation, as the amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on transportation:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact on transportation. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties):
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on transportation.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on transportation:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This amendment would allow live fin fish to be used further up the

Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations – Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Counties): The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to these waters because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek: The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, anglers are expected to be travelling locally. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County) from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the upper Klamath River is unknown, the area is rural and difficult to access due to the condition of the roads, which will limit the number of trips. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The proposal to remove the “artificial lure” requirement on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months could result in additional angler trips to these waters. is not anticipated to result in an increase in new anglers to these waters. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the effect on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex: The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to a five fish daily bag limit and a 10 fish possession limit from the last Saturday in April through November 15th. As a result, the project could result in additional angler trips to each water between April and November. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the effect on transportation will be less than significant.

Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River: Reverting the fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing season. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at Susan River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impacts on transportation will be less than significant.

- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

- a) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. Furthermore,

- i) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k). The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- ii) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The project does not involve construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings and Significance

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, and their use for the public's enjoyment.

- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation in all impact analyses except for one. Where there is a potential adverse impact to certain species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species, that impact is less than significant and the project would not incrementally contribute to a cumulative impact in combination with other projects causing related impacts because establishing an upper HSL at 30 inches will not likely contribute to population level impacts to salmonid and smelt populations.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.

References

- CDFW Strategic Management Plan for Trout Management. 2022. Available: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213738&inline>
- Clemento, A. J., Anderson, E. C., Boughton, D., Girman, D., & Garza, J. C. 2009. Population genetic structure and ancestry of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* populations above and below dams in south-central California. *Conservation Genetics*, 10, 1321-1336. Available: [\(PDF\) Population genetic structure and ancestry of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* populations above and below dams in South-Central California](#)
- DuBois, R. B., & Kuklinski, K. E. 2004. Effect of hook type on mortality, trauma, and capture efficiency of wild, stream-resident trout caught by active baitfishing. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, 24(2):617–623. Available: [\(PDF\) Effect of Hook Type on Mortality, Trauma, and Capture Efficiency of Wild, Stream-Resident Trout Caught by Active Baitfishing](#)
- Upper McCloud River Redband Trout Core Group. Conservation Agreement for Upper McCloud River Redband Trout. 2017.

**State of California
Natural Resources Agency**

California Fish and Game Commission

**Draft Negative Declaration for
Proposed Amendments to 2026 Sport Fishing Regulations
(Inland and Marine)
Title 14, California Code of Regulations**

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch
for consideration by the California Fish and Game Commission

April 2026

This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant to the
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

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

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701 related to sport fishing for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle (Project). This proposal contains multiple amendments that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. The proposed amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement. The Department has evaluated the proposed amendments and presented its findings to the Commission for consideration.

The proposed amendments fall into two major categories, those that have no effect on fishing restrictions and are primarily administrative in nature, and those that affect restrictions on fishing including seasons, size limits, boundaries, and/or gear restrictions.

1. Amendments with no effect to fishing restrictions and are necessary to enhance clarity, consistency, or fix errors; they do not alter the application or enforcement of the regulations. These amendments include:
 - Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County: In 2014, Clear Lake hitch was listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as threatened and can no longer be taken without a CESA incidental take permit or MOU. The language in Section 2.11 conflicts with take prohibitions for Clear Lake hitch and needs to be removed from Title 14, CCR.
 - Section 5.65, Shad, American: In 2025 there was a regulatory amendment in Section 2.30 to allow spearfishing as a method of take for American shad in the Valley District. The proposed amendment to Section 5.65 would add spearfishing as a method of take allowable for American shad in the Valley District, making Section 5.65 consistent with Section 2.30.
 - Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout: The proposed amendment would add Section 7.00, which lists general regulations in each District, to the list of sections excepted from general statewide trout regulations. The change would remove ambiguities associated with wildlife officers enforcing fishing regulation violations.
 - Section 6.34, Southern District Definition: The current definition of the “Southern District” in Section 6.34 erroneously copies the Sierra District definition. The proposed amendment would correct the language to the as-intended definition of the Southern District.

- Section 7.40: Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124) to account for the addition of multiple special waters to this section. Section 7.40, like Section 7.50, are listed by special water in alphabetical order to help anglers find the water they search for in this regulation. Amendments to other regulation sections have been made in this proposal to revise or remove unnecessary references to 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) due to the continual changes in the numbering of these sections when waters are added or removed. There are minor edits to text to align subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) language with the Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal, which will clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between Section 8.00 and subsection 7.40(b), where needed. Subsection (b)(43)(D)(1) has been consolidated into subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D) to provide clarification and removal of the additional box and subsection (1). In subsection 7.40(b)(72)(C), the boundary feature has a name change from “Sonoma/Mendicino Boy Scout Council Camp” to “Camp Noyo” to reflect the name change of the property. For the Smith River, subsection 7.40(b)(108)(A) was added to match the language in proposed subsection 8.00(a)(4) describing the Smith River from the mouth to the confluence with Rowdy Creek; this amendment is proposed to align with the Smith River sections described in subsections 7.40(b)(108)(B) and (C).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries: This amendment would clean up, reorganize, and group streams with similar regulations in subsection 7.50(b)(90) for the McCloud River and tributaries; this would simplify the regulation, making it easier to understand by grouping waters with similar regulations.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek: The name of Sq. Valley Creek was changed by federal legislation through the U.S. Department of Interior’s Order 3404 on September 8, 2022 to Yét Atwam Creek. The amendment would make the regulation text consistent with federal legislation.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2): Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prize for the Taking of Game Fish: There is a minor grammar error in subsection 230(g)(2); the word “changes” would become “change.”

2. Amendments with effects to restrictions on sport fishing including seasons, size limits, and/or gear restrictions are discussed individually in this document. There is no substantial evidence that any of the proposed amendments will result in a significant effect on the environment.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations: This proposed amendment would revise Section 1.62 to more clearly define the method to determine total length of fin fish. The change would clarify that total length is measured with the fish’s mouth closed, lying flat on a horizontal surface, and that the tail may be pinched, fanned, or naturally swung (see Figures 1-3 for a photograph of the tail positions). Fanning and swinging of a fish’s tail is expressly allowed for salmon and halibut but not specified in the general maximum length in Section 1.62. It has been a long-time practice for law enforcement officers to allow the fanning and swinging technique, but it is not consistently understood

by anglers. Importantly, crew onboard commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFVs) have requested clarification, to ensure they are measuring passengers' fish correctly.

- The proposed amendment also includes revising the phrase “fish, mollusks or crustaceans” to “fin fish or invertebrates” and clarifies that measurement of invertebrate species is specified within the individual invertebrate regulations. The proposed amendment also includes revising existing language that refers to “mollusks, or crustaceans” to the term “invertebrates,” which is more inclusive and encompasses other groups like echinoderms. It clarifies that methods to determine length for invertebrates are found in the individual subsections for those species. Recreational fishing groups including American Sportfishing Association, Sportfishing Association of California, and Coastal Conservation Association of California were contacted and support these changes.
- The proposed amendment removes alternate length measurements from Section 1.62, and from the sections for barracuda, kelp and sand basses, and white sea bass (sections 28.25, 28.30, and 28.35, respectively). Alternate length is proposed to be removed as it causes unnecessary confusion and concerns with law enforcement. The allowance of retaining filleted fish (i.e., Section 27.65), with associated minimum fillet lengths provided for these species, makes the use of an alternate length unnecessary.
- Section 1.73, Salmon: This proposed amendment would require any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon in which an adipose fin is present to provide the Department a tissue sample upon request. This includes the additional requirement of all persons fishing for salmon to provide a tissue sample from unmarked (i.e., adipose fin present) salmon upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department. Amending biological sample collection requirements allows for the use of Parentage-Based Tagging (PBT) in fisheries surveys advances fisheries monitoring in a number of ways. PBT is highly efficient, as the tagging process requires only genotyping the parents to produce a 100% tag rate of offspring, which can lead to higher tag recovery rates and improved statistical precision of estimates. Additionally, there is no physical tag loss or handling mortality associated with PBT; parentage assignments can be obtained non-lethally via a small tissue sample, and large-scale tagging can occur at a much lower cost compared to physical marking and tagging methods. This proposal would allow the Department to integrate PBT recovery data into the current salmon management framework, allowing tissue samples to be collected from unmarked salmon contacted in monitoring programs.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes: To better align with seasonal adult steelhead run timing, improve data management, and assess non-compliant reporting, the Commission proposes to amend the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (Card; steelhead report card) reporting period from a 12-month calendar period to a 9-month reporting period. The adjusted Card reporting period would be August 1 through April 30 the following year, and required to be returned or reported to the Department by May 31. The Card would be required for anglers targeting any steelhead or Rainbow Trout in anadromous waters during this 9-month period. Anglers would be able to obtain the subsequent Card starting July 1 to

allow time for the Department to process the previous season's Cards returned by May 31. Any Card holder who fails to return or report by the May 31 deadline shall be subject to a non-refundable non-return fee, and will not be able to obtain the subsequent Card until that fee is paid. From May 1 through July 31 of each year, anglers would not need a Card to fish for steelhead or rainbow trout in anadromous waters.

- The amendments are necessary because there is currently lack of data collection and inability to analyze data in a timely fashion. Shifting the reporting months to mirror the 9-month period run timing of steelhead would allow the Department to process Cards more efficiently and have data readily available to inform management strategies for the steelhead fishery statewide. By shifting the reporting period to 9 months, the Department will have time between seasons to assess non-compliance and the opportunity to implement penalties prior to the issuance of the subsequent year's Card, including fees and prohibitions for non-compliant report card holders. This amendment is expected to increase reporting and therefore increase data quality.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions: This proposed amendment would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling.
- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed amendment would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. Generally, declining fish populations associated with drought and climate change have limited many fishing opportunities. At the same time, Striped bass populations have expanded into more areas of the Sacramento River, especially after the Red Bluff Diversion Dam was permanently opened. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River, which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. It may also increase harvest of these non-native species, which could have a potential benefit on vulnerable salmonid populations.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co): The proposed amendment would remove the black bass minimum size requirement from waters in Lassen and Modoc counties, except for Mountain Meadows Reservoir where the minimum size would remain at 12 inches. Growth rates of largemouth bass are typically slow within Lassen and Modoc counties due to the shorter growing season in the region, attributable to the high elevation. Additionally, reservoirs containing large bass

populations are often overrun with stunted bass, and few bass are able to reach the 12-inch minimum size requirement for harvest. The 12-inch minimum size requirement reduces the number of harvested bass, which could affect the bass populations by further stunting their growth. Removing the minimum size requirement in these locations would increase the harvest of smaller bass and improve the size class structure within the bass populations. Mountain Meadows Reservoir is still recovering from being drained in 2015 and has the potential to grow trophy class bass as it has in the past. The 12-inch minimum size requirement at Mountain Meadows Reservoir would be maintained under the General Statewide Restrictions regulations allowing the bass population to grow, and allow more young bass to grow to the 12-inch size minimum and larger. Subsection numbers (b)(3) through (b)(14) have been re-numbered to allow for the two counties added into this section.

- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations: This proposed amendment would modify the Sierra district boundary in Section 6.35 to include a small section of Yuba County (“Yuba County east of New Bullards Bar Dam;”) to protect experimentally reintroduced Chinook salmon. This change would also close Chinook salmon fishing in the North Fork Feather River above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River above New Bullards Bar Dam all year in subsection 7.00(b)(2). This proposal also adds two specific subsections in Section 7.00, the Sierra District (adding (b)(3) and (b)(4), the North Fork Feather River above Chester Diversion Dam, and on the North Yuba River above New Bullards Bar Dam, which will be closed to Chinook salmon fishing all year). Scientific studies are currently being implemented within the North Fork Feather River, led by the California Department of Water Resources, and in the North Yuba River, led by the Department, evaluating Spring-Run Chinook salmon reintroduction to these historical habitats. Changing the regulation to close fishing of Chinook salmon at all times of the year in these waterways will allow for study fish through various developmental stages (eggs, alevin, fry, parr, smolt, adult) to remain in the study area informing study results and reintroduction efforts.
- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.): This proposed amendment would increase fishing opportunity by allowing the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes: This proposed amendment would reorganize, condense, and clean up the language in the low-flow regulations, standardize the identification of stream gauges, and remove streams from 8.00 that lack low-flow criteria.
 - Section 7.00, District General Regulations: This amendment would add Section 8.00, which lists low-flow restrictions to the paragraph about existing restrictions (such as methods, gear, fishing hours, and use of bait) when angling in District waters. This amendment would remove ambiguities associated with anglers following regulations for low flow conditions, as well as wildlife officers enforcing fishing regulation violations.

- Section 7.40, subsection (b) and 7.50 subsection (b), Updates to Special Water Bodies regarding Low-Flow: Proposed amendments throughout the special waters tables in subsections 7.40(b) and 7.50(b) serve to better align subsection 7.40(b) language with the updated Section 8.00 language that is part of this proposal. Organizational changes, such as moving the text “...Also see Section 8.00(a, b, or c) Low Flow Restrictions” to the end of the “Body of Water” description improves consistency informing the angler to be aware of low-flow considerations for the re-organized subsections 8.00(a), (b), or (c). These amendments are necessary to clarify boundaries in both sections where descriptions are unclear, provide consistent placement of text, and update subsection references between 8.00, 7.40(b), and 7.50(b) as needed. In subsection (b) for Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek references to Section 8.00 are removed, as these waters are proposed to be removed from the Low Flow restrictions due to lack of low flow threshold.
- Section 8.00, Low-Flow Restrictions: A new website for low-flow fishing restrictions was launched in early 2025, which brought more attention to the language and content in Section 8.00. Subsections 8.00(a) and (b), which previously directed anglers to different regional phone lines, may now be combined and condensed into the revised subsection 8.00(a) now that there is an online platform during the time period of September 1 through April 30. Subsection 8.00(c) for the San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey county water bodies is restructured to the revised subsection 8.00(b). These amendments will make the regulations easier to understand, thereby reducing angler confusion.
 - New subsection 8.00(a): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, and Marin counties.
 - New subsection 8.00(b): consolidate and update the low-flow conditions for river and stream closures including those water bodies listed from north to south within San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties.
- The proposed amendments to subsections 8.00(a)(1) through (3) and (b)(1) through (3), would allow the ability to make split block decisions instead of solid block decisions. Allowing split block decisions has the potential to provide additional opportunity by adding angling days and reduce angler frustration. Split block decisions will allow the Department to be more flexible and precise in applying closures only to days when flows are predicted to fall below minimum thresholds.
- Arroyo Seco Corralitos Creek, Llagas Creek, Pajaro River, Salinas River and tributaries, Uvas or Carnadero Creek are proposed to be removed from Section 8.00 as these waters currently lack low flow thresholds. Until the Department

determines the appropriate low flow thresholds, these waters do not need to be listed in the restricted list. Additionally, some waters in Section 7.40 reference Section 8.00 even though these waters are not, and have not been, proposed to be added to Section 8.00. For clarity, the proposed amendments to subsections would also remove the waters that were listed in error (see proposed subsections 7.40(b)(108)(C)(2) and (D)(3)).

- The proposed amendments includes language and grammar clean-up, as well as some changes to standardize the naming of stream gauges and consistency in boundaries between 7.40 and 8.00, update to location names (Usal Road and correcting spelling of George Tryon Bridge) and a property name change (Camp Noyo).
- Section 7.40
 - Subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): Re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento June 30 to December 31, with the restriction “Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.” This amendment would provide recreational angling opportunity for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead.
 - Lower Battle Creek from the mouth to Coleman Fish Hatchery weir is currently closed to angling year-round. Allowing angler access to lower Battle Creek beginning June 30 will increase fishing opportunities on striped and black bass. Battle Creek was historically a popular steelhead fishery but was closed to angling in the early 1990’s to ensure that Coleman National Fish Hatchery would annually secure sufficient adult steelhead broodstock.
 - Returns of hatchery-origin steelhead to Coleman National Fish Hatchery are now routinely in excess of broodstock collection targets. Presently, these fish are only available to recreational anglers in the mainstem Sacramento River. However, due to a variety of factors, contact with these fish in the mainstem Sacramento River is extremely low. Furthermore, the mainstem Sacramento River steelhead fishery is primarily boat-based. Shore-based steelhead fishing on lower Battle Creek would provide opportunity to much broader angling interest groups.
 - The harvest of Coleman Hatchery steelhead is expected to be minimal based on observed creel data from neighboring hatchery steelhead fisheries on the American and Feather Rivers due to angler preference for catch and release angling.
 - Subsections (b)(28), (35), (37), (74): Addition of Creeks with Special Regulations: This proposed amendment would add new special regulation sections for Clear Creek (added as subsection (b)(28)), Cow Creek (added as subsection (b)(37)), Cottonwood Creek (added as subsection (b)(35)), and Paynes Creek (added as subsection (b)(74)). This amendment would also change the Antelope Creek

- boundary under (b)(5) from the confluence with the North Fork downstream to Ponderosa Way crossing on the North Fork and South Fork to make angling more protective for Central Valley steelhead in this subsection. Local fishing opportunities are currently very limited due to a variety of overlapping regulations, some of which are not necessary. Allowing the public, especially children, to catch warm water fish with bait in anadromous streams in the middle of the summer when anadromous fish species are not present would be very beneficial to the public and the Department's Recruit, Retain, Reactivate (R3) goals. With the exception of Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek, the majority anadromous tributaries have specific protective regulations already present in 7.40; adding Clear Creek, Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek will complete this protective set of regulations. These additions result in renumbering most of subsection 7.40(b) bodies of water to maintain the alphabetical listing.
- Subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River: This proposed amendment would update the gear restriction boundary to align with more recognizable features, providing clarity for both anglers and law enforcement. The boundary line would change from the mouth of the Eel River to Fulmor Road, and instead be the mouth to Cock Robin Island, resulting in a slight shift downstream (~.5 miles).
 - Subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: This proposed amendment would increase fishing opportunity in the Klamath River by allowing catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the mainstem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. The proposed summer season regulations would provide consistency with currently open waters adjacent to and upstream of this subsection.
- Section 7.50
 - Subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey Co.): On the Arroyo Seco River, above the waterfall located approximately 3.5 miles above the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station, change the trout bag limit from 5 trout to 5 brown trout and 0 rainbow trout, and add a Special Restriction of "only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used". The upper Arroyo Seco River contains a population of native coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), offering a unique sport fishing opportunity in the Salinas River watershed in Monterey County. Like other trout populations throughout California, this population of native coastal rainbow trout has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions. The population has also likely been impacted by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the

Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of coastal rainbow trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids. Additionally, the upper Arroyo Seco contains a non-native population of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) which offers sport fishing opportunities, though they may negatively impact native coastal rainbow trout through competition and predation. Changing the upper Arroyo Seco trout regulations to a 5 brown trout and 0 rainbow trout bag limit, with a restriction of only artificial lures with barbless hooks, will protect the rainbow trout fishery while allowing anglers the option of harvesting non-native brown trout.

- Subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): This proposed amendment would remove subsections (47)(L) Fall River Pond and (47)(M) Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b)(47) Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou counties). The removal of these two paragraphs Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake from subsection 7.50(b) means that these stretches of waters would then fall under subsection 5.85(a)(1), which outlines the statewide general trout regulations for take allowances. Owing to the removal of subsections (b)(47)(L) and (b)(47)(M), the language for subsection (b)(47)(A) is shifted from the confluence of the Fall River with the Pit River, to Pit No. 1 PG&E Diversion Dam.
 - The Fall River is a unique river in that it is fed by multiple natural springs (i.e., spring-fed system) and is a prime trout fishing water. The “Fall River Complex” was added to the freshwater sport fishing regulations in 2021. The angling regulation addition coincided with an expansion of the Fall River wild trout designation. Department justified the addition and expansion by citing its unique spring-fed system and genetic differences and life histories among rainbow trout within the Fall River system, which is a research project led by U.C. Davis with assistance from the Department. The regulation was put in place to provide protections for rainbow trout in the Fall River Complex and was the result of litigation by the Fall River Conservancy. Fall River Pond and Fall River Lake were not included in the U.C. Davis research and there is limited data to suggest that rainbow trout from the Fall River Complex mix with rainbow trout in Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond, so the inclusion of these two locations is not necessary. The current regulations have been unpopular with anglers, and research suggests they are not effective in protecting the population of rainbow trout that was intended to be protected by this regulation. CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, and Fall River Conservancy have sent support letters for the proposed change.
- Subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): This proposed amendment would add Trout Creek into subsection 7.50(b)(90),

McCloud River and Tributaries under proposed paragraph (G), to provide angling regulation protections for McCloud River Redband Trout (MRRT), consistent with other streams in the MRRT refugium. Trout Creek is identified as a high priority conservation stream but not included as a “Core Conservation Stream” in MRRT Conservation Agreement (CA) (2017). Confounding genetic results prior to the completion of the CA was the justification for Trout Creek to be excluded as a core conservation stream. However, since the genetics results, the Department has identified a “95% barrier” where MRRT collected upstream of the barrier were shown to be genetically distinct, and rainbow trout collected downstream of the barrier were shown to be slightly introgressed (rainbow trout cross with MRRT). Additionally, non-native brown trout are found downstream of the barrier but not upstream. The Department is currently working with the private landowner to improve the 95% barrier to ensure introgressed and non-native trout are unable to pass upstream at all flows, thence protecting the genetically distinct population upstream. In addition to improving the barrier, angling regulation changes are necessary to provide further protection for this population. Other organizational changes are made to group streams with similar regulations for clarity purposes. Former 7.50(b)(90)(C) Swamp Creek is re-numbered to paragraph (F) to occur below those creeks in the McCloud River watershed that are closed to all fishing all year. With the addition of Trout Creek and all tributaries as proposed paragraph (G), the remaining paragraphs for subsection 7.50(b)(90) are re-numbered.

- Subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: This proposed amendment would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (last Saturday in April through November 15) that was updated by previous amendment in 2020 (OAL file #2020-1204-02s). The amendment would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start. Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. During much of the winter the river is typically unfishable (due to ice and snow), so the winter provides little to no opportunity. Water in the Susan River can warm significantly in the late spring and early summer, as releases from McCoy Flat and Hog Flat reservoirs increase. Having the season open earlier will provide more opportunity while angling conditions are good, while not impacting spawning.

The Findings

The Commission subjected the draft negative declaration 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. The Commission finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed initial study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the bases for this finding and the Commission’s determination that the Project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and that there is no substantial evidence, in

light of the whole record before the Commission, that the Project may have significant effects on the environment. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The initial study concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, this negative declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

Basis of the Findings

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

Project Description and Background Information For Proposed Amendments to Sport Fishing 2026

Introduction

Annually the Department recommends updates to sport fishing regulations, which the Commission generally notices as the Commission's proposed amendments to its regulations consistent with the California Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed amendments are considered and evaluated by the Commission during three scheduled public hearings. The Commission makes the final determination on what amendments to the regulations should be adopted at the Commission's adoption hearing. The Commission is the lead agency for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project. Under California Fish and Game Code Section 200, the Commission has the authority to regulate the taking or possession of fish, including take for the purpose of sport fishing.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to amend the sport fishing regulations in furtherance of the state's conservation policy as set forth in Section 1700 of the Fish and Game Code. The conservation policy includes the following objectives:

- (a) The maintenance of sufficient populations of all species;
- (b) The recognition of the importance of recreational uses;
- (c) The maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use;
- (d) The growth of local commercial fisheries; and
- (e) The management of the fisheries under the state's jurisdiction.

Background

The Department recommends amendments to inland sport fishing regulations, generally every year. For the 2025 proposed amendments, the decision was made to postpone a rulemaking due to staff limitations. Therefore, this project includes amendments for two years of recommendations. Additionally, the Department chose to consolidate a marine-inclusive sport fish regulation amendment into this project.

Project Location

The sport fishing regulation amendments addressed by the initial study/negative declaration occur throughout the inland and ocean waters of California.

Schedule

If adopted by the Commission at its August 12-13, 2026, meeting, and approved by the Office of Administrative Law, the proposed regulatory amendments are expected to go into effect on January 1, 2027.

Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title:
Sport Fishing Regulations Update
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:
California Fish and Game Commission
715 P Street, 16th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:
Melissa Miller-Henson, (916) 653-4899
4. Project Location:
Inland and ocean waters of California.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605
6. General Plan designation:
N/A (statewide)
7. Zoning:
N/A (statewide)
8. Description of Project:
The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Title 14 sections related to sport fishing for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle. The proposal contains multiple amendments that would clarify sport fishing regulations, increase angler opportunities, change gear requirements, change fish measurement and sampling protocols, improve the steelhead report card and low-flow regulations, and protect vulnerable fish populations. The proposed amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to reduce public confusion and improve regulatory enforcement. The amendments are necessary to maintain consistency with the Commission's mission to ensure that California will have abundant, healthy, and diverse fish and wildlife that thrive within dynamic ecosystems, managed with public confidence and participation, through actions that are thoughtful, bold, and visionary in an ever-changing environment.
9. Surrounding land uses and setting:
N/A
10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:
None.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31? On January 14, 2026, the Commission mailed a tribal notification to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. No tribes have requested consultation.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture and Forestry | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology/Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality | ☐ Land Use/Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population/Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities/Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

This project will not have a “Potential Significant Impact” on any of the environmental factors listed above; therefore, no boxes are checked.

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director

July 13, 2026

Date

Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
I. Aesthetics. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
II. Agriculture And Forestry Resources. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	NI
III. Air Quality. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
IV. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
V. Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VI. Energy. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VII. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	NI
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	NI
IX. Hazards And Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	NI
X. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
XI. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XII. Mineral Resources. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIII. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
XIV. Population and Housing. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XV. Public Services. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	NI
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVI. Recreation.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVII. Transportation. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	LTS	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☐	☐	NI
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	NI
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XX. Wildfire. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	☐	☐	☐	NI
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	NI
XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact (NI)
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

III. Air Quality

- a) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

- a) The project will have a Less Than Significant Impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on certain species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project will have a significant effect on these biological resources as explained below.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on biological resources:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact or a beneficial impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species:

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes. Potential to minimally decrease steelhead fishing effort, no expected impact to species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Co.).
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations. This change would protect Spring-Run Chinook Salmon.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County):
 - The project proposes to eliminate harvest of Rainbow Trout in the Arroyo Seco River. The purpose of this amendment is to protect native Coastal Rainbow Trout which has likely been negatively impacted by increasingly severe drought conditions and by degradation of instream habitat conditions due to recent wildfires, such as the Dolan fire. The current fishing regulations allow for the harvest of 5 trout per person per day above the waterfall on the Arroyo Seco River. The upper Arroyo Seco River is in relatively close proximity to urban areas; thus, with the current 5 trout bag limit, there is the potential for high angler harvest of Coastal Rainbow Trout. The lack of a gear restriction for trout currently allows the potential for high deep-hooking and catch and release mortality rates that can be associated with the use of bait and barbed hooks when angling non-anadromous salmonids.
 - Further, Rainbow Trout produced above the Arroyo Seco Gorge are likely capable of travelling downstream of the waterfall (possible total barrier to upstream migration) to the Salinas River, and eventually the Pacific Ocean, possibly supplementing anadromous federally threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead productivity in the Salinas River watershed. This amendment will have a beneficial effect on native Coastal Rainbow Trout and a potential beneficial effect on South-Central California Coast Steelhead Trout.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries:

- The project proposes to add Trout Creek to the Special Fishing Regulations for Trout which would shorten the current fishing season from year-round to the Saturday preceding Memorial Day through the last day in February. The current daily bag and possession limits of 5 fish and 10 fish, respectively, would be reduced to zero (i.e., catch and release only). This amendment will provide angling protections for McCloud River Redband Trout which is a California Species of Special Concern. This amendment will have a beneficial effect on McCloud River Redband Trout.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species:

- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions: This proposed amendment would allow for the usage of a small lightweight weight directly attached below a hook and expansion of fishable waters with treble hooks on non-buoyant lures. The amendment of subsections 2.10(b)(3) and (4) would clarify regulations for the public and wildlife officers. The change to weights being allowed below a hook would not apply to lakes and reservoirs, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, or the Colorado River as outlined in subsection 2.10(b). The change to the use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would have an expanded boundary within the Valley District. The use of treble hooks on non-buoyant lures would be permissive in portions of the mainstem Sacramento, American, Feather, and Yuba rivers. Although listed fish species including Central Valley Steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon occur the project area, these species are unlikely to be present when the use of treble hooks are allowed. The gear type allowed in the newly permissive sections would be limited to lures made of soft or hard plastics, or wood, which would reduce snagging risk to salmonid species while creating more opportunity for non-salmonid angling. It may also increase harvest on non-native predatory fish species, which could have a potential benefit on salmonid populations. Under the proposed project, these listed species will be protected by gear restrictions that reduce fish mortality if one of these listed species is inadvertently caught, and if caught, these fish must be returned to the water immediately. This proposed amendment is expected to have a less than significant effect on listed fish species.
- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed amendment would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped

bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. Federally and state listed fish species including Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook Salmon occur in the Sacramento River in the region of river where use of live bait is currently allowed. These two listed species are not known to be incidentally taken by anglers using live fin fish for bait in the river sections currently open to use of live bait. Moving the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge is therefore not expected to result in increased incidental take of these species. The proposed amendment will have a less than significant effect on spring-run and winter-run Chinook Salmon.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed amendment would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This change applies to those anadromous streams not listed in the Special Fishing Regulations for Salmon and Steelhead and these streams are closed to salmon fishing year-round. Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon which are federally and state-listed as threatened, could occur in anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties but are generally not present during the summer months when the use of bait would be allowed. The majority of Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon spawning occurs in Butte, Mill, and Deer creeks which have special fishing regulations to protect spring-run Chinook Salmon. Allowing use of bait within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties at appropriate times when anadromous fish are not present will increase angling opportunity for non-listed native and non-native warmwater fish species that are present in these streams. It may also increase harvest on non-native predatory fish species, which could have a potential benefit on salmonid populations. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact on Central Valley spring-run Chinook Salmon.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Listed fish species that occur in the project area include endangered winter-run Chinook Salmon, threatened spring-run Chinook Salmon and federally threatened Central Valley Steelhead. Although these listed species could occur in the project area between June and December, Battle Creek is and will remain closed to the take of Chinook Salmon and wild steelhead year-round. Under the proposed project, these listed species will be protected by gear restrictions that reduce fish mortality if

one of these listed species is inadvertently caught during the proposed open fishing season for warmwater fishes and hatchery trout. If caught, these fish must be returned to the water immediately. This proposed amendment is expected to have a less than significant effect on listed fish species.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek are tributaries to the Sacramento River and are habitat for threatened Central Valley Steelhead. The regulations for these creeks currently fall under the Sierra District Regulations and are open to fishing from the Last Saturday in April through Nov 15th, with a gear restriction of “only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.” To increase fishing opportunities, the project would remove the artificial lures only gear restriction between June 16th and September 30th in the lower reaches of these streams to allow the use of bait during the summer months when anadromous fish species are not present. The proposed amendments will have a less than significant effect on Central Valley Steelhead.
 - Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31, with a restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Additional restrictions include a zero harvest limit for hatchery trout and steelhead as well as being closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon. This change would provide recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. Federal and state listed fish species including Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon and Upper Klamath/Trinity River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon occur in the project area but are generally not present in the summer months when fishing would be allowed. These amendments will have a less than significant effect on Coho Salmon and spring-run Chinook Salmon.
- b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- c) The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

- d) The project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. The project does not involve ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus has no potential to affect historical resources.
- b) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not use energy resources.
- b) The project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence

of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.

- ii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- iii) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- iv) The project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not create any structures for human habitation.
- b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- d) The project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The project will not create any sources of waste water requiring a septic system.
- f) The project will not indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- a) The project will have a less than significant impact on the indirect generation of greenhouse gas emissions and will not have a significant impact on the environment. The project will not involve construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on GHG emissions:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.

- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Changes to fishing regulations which would have no impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, on GHG emissions. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties).
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on GHG emissions.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on GHG emissions:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d) Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the Sacramento River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the project's

impact of GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations – Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Counties): The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to these waters because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the project's impacts on GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek (Shasta and Tehama Co.): The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. While increased local participation is expected, anglers are not expected to travel from farther away. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will have a less than significant impact.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County) from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Prior to the Klamath Dam Removal project, recreational anglers fished in Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs for warmwater fish species such as largemouth bass, black and white crappie, green sunfish, catfish, and others. With the removal of Iron Gate, Copco 1, and Copco 2 dams, most of the project area has become anadromous waters with a coldwater fisheries including Chinook Salmon and steelhead trout. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the upper Klamath River is unknown, increased participation is expected. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters during the angling season, and their internal combustion engines will produce some emissions. The project area is located in Siskiyou County, which is a sparsely populated, rural region in Northern California. Due to the remoteness of the project area, the number of

additional angler trips to the project area will most likely be low. Thus, the impact of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be negligible. Additionally, the transition from a warmwater fishery on Iron Gate and Copco reservoirs where powerboats are used year-round to access productive fishing spots to a coldwater fishery on the Klamath River where drift boats are used, will likely result in a negligible or net decrease over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will have a less than significant impact.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The proposal to remove the “artificial lure” requirement on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months could result in additional angler trips to these waters. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will a less than significant impact.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex (Shasta and Siskiyou Co.): The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to a five fish daily bag limit and a 10 fish possession limit from the last Saturday in April through November 15th. As a result, the project could result in additional angler trips to each water between April and November. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access these waters and their internal combustion engines will produce some GHG emissions. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the small amount of GHG emissions resulting from the project would represent a very small increase over emissions occurring under existing regulations and, thus, will not have a less than significant impact on GHG emissions.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: The proposal to revert the fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing season. Vehicles that use fuel will be used to access the Susan River and their internal combustion engines will produce some greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at Susan River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the impact of GHG emissions produced by the use of vehicles will be less than significant.

- b) The project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. The project would result in the production of very low greenhouse gas emissions.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.
- c i) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion

or siltation on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.

- ii) The project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- iii) The project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- iv) The project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation because the project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The project will not physically divide an established community. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or would be accelerated.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on recreational facilities:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)

- Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
- (72)(C), boundary feature name change
- Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact on recreational facilities. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties):
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on recreation.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on recreational facilities:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream of Deschutes Road. This proposed change would allow live fin fish to be used further up the Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunity, existing facilities on the Sacramento River between the Highway 32 Bridge and Deschutes Road Bridge are adequate to accommodate new or additional anglers. The Sacramento River is primarily a boat-based fishery and there are eight boat ramps on this section of the river. The project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations—Sierra District: The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. Allowing appropriate live fin fish bait to be used further up the Sacramento River would increase fishing opportunities on Striped Bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to lures and other methods. Fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunities, existing facilities such as boat ramps and parking lots utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. Additionally, the project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek: The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. It is expected that the proposed project will result in more angler trips to the area. Much of this section of lower Battle Creek is within the State Battle Creek Wildlife Area which provides three public access points to the creek with parking. The project will not require any new facilities or repurpose existing facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin Regulations: The project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County). The open season would be a summer season from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. This change would provide a new recreational angling opportunity for freshwater fish during the summer months within the Klamath Dam Removal project area. During the dam removal process, three boat ramps were built each with newly constructed parking and a vault toilet. All three sites are open to the public during daylight hours. This is a new fishing area on the Klamath River with new facilities to accommodate anglers. This amendment will not affect existing facilities or require new facilities. Therefore, the project will not have a significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The project proposes to remove the “artificial lure” gear restriction on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months to increase fishing opportunities for warmwater species. The number of fishing trips to these waters could increase during the summer months. However, because these waters are located in relatively remote and sparsely populated areas of the state, the number of additional anglers/visitors to each water would be

minimal. The amendments are not expected to result in an overall increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.

- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex: The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to 5 fish per day and 10 fish in possession between April and November. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to these waters with the new opportunity to harvest fish. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunity, existing facilities utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. The current facilities were appropriate to accommodate angler use prior to 2021 when the harvest of trout was allowed, and they are still appropriate today. The project will not require any new facilities or repurposing of existing facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River Youth Derby: This proposal would revert fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) that was updated by previous amendment in 2021. The proposed amendment would also update language to include a special open season for youth participating in the Youth Fishing Derby in Section 8.10 to start prior to the proposed earlier season start.
 - Reverting to the traditional trout season will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing seasons. While some anglers will take advantage of the new fishing opportunities, existing facilities utilized by anglers are designed for such use and no deterioration would occur or be accelerated. The current facilities were appropriate to accommodate angler use prior to the regulation change in 2021, and they are still appropriate today. The project will not require any new facilities or repurposing of existing facilities, and will have a less than significant impact on recreation.

b) The project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), which describes criteria for analyzing a project's transportation impacts. The project will not result in significant impacts to transportation, as the amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.

The following amendments are administrative in nature and would have no effect on transportation:

- Section 2.11, Special Fishing Methods – Lake County.
- Section 5.65, Shad, American.
- Section 5.85, subsection (a)(2), Trout.
- Section 6.34, Southern District Definition.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b):
 - Renumber subsections (b)(28) through (b)(124)
 - Consolidate subsection 7.40(b)(43)(D)
 - (72)(C), boundary feature name change
 - Addition of 7.40(b)(108)(A)
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(146), Sq. Valley Creek.
- Section 230, subsection (g)(2)

Amendments to fishing regulations which would have no impact on transportation. The proposed amendments listed below are not expected to increase the number of fishing trips to these waters.

- Sections 1.62, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, and 28.35, Minimum and Maximum Size and Alternate Length and Species Specific Regulations.
- Section 1.73, Salmon.
- Sections 1.74, 5.88, and 701, Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Changes.
- Section 2.10, Hook and Weight Restrictions.
- Section 5.00, subsection (b), Black Bass (Lassen and Modoc Counties):
 - The fishing seasons and bag limits on these waters will not change. As a result, the project is not expected to result in additional angler/visitor trips to these waters. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations. Therefore, the project would not have an impact on transportation.
- Section 6.35 and subsection 7.00(b)(2), Sierra District Definition and District General Regulations.
- Sections 7.00, 7.40(b), 7.50(b), and 8.00, Low-Flow Regulation Changes.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(40)(A)1. and 2., Eel River.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(6), Arroyo Seco River (Monterey County).
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(90), McCloud River and Tributaries.

Amendments to fishing regulations that would have less than significant impact on transportation:

- Section 4.20, subsection (d), Bait Fish Use in the Sacramento River: The proposed project would move the upper boundary for bait fish on the Sacramento River from the Highway 32 Bridge upstream to Deschutes Road Bridge. This amendment would allow live fin fish to be used further up the

Sacramento River which would increase fishing opportunities for striped bass and other non-native fishes that are currently limited to use of lures and other methods. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to the Sacramento River because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.

- Section 7.00, subsection (b)(2), District General Regulations – Sierra District (Shasta and Tehama Counties): The proposed project would allow the use of bait during summer months within anadromous streams in Shasta and Tehama counties when anadromous fish are not present. This amendment could result in increased angler trips/visits to these waters because the use of live fin fish would increase angler success. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(11), Battle Creek: The proposed project would re-open lower Battle Creek from 1,250 feet below Coleman Fish Hatchery weir to its confluence with the Sacramento River from June 30 to December 31, with the restriction that only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. This change would provide recreational angling opportunities for native and non-native warmwater fish species and hatchery-origin trout and steelhead. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at these waters is unknown, anglers are expected to be travelling locally. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.40, subsection (b)(50), Klamath River Basin: The proposed project would allow catch and release fishing within anadromous sections of the main stem Klamath River from the Copco Road bridge at Copco to Lakeview Road bridge near Iron Gate (Siskiyou County) from the fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity on the upper Klamath River is unknown, the area is rural and difficult to access due to the condition of the roads, which will limit the number of trips. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impact on transportation will be less than significant.

- Section 7.40(b), Addition of Creeks to the Special Fishing Regulations: The proposal to remove the “artificial lure” requirement on Cow Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Paynes Creek during the summer months could result in additional angler trips to these waters. is not anticipated to result in an increase in new anglers to these waters. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the effect on transportation will be less than significant.
- Section 7.50, subsection (b)(47), Fall River Complex: The project proposes to increase the daily bag and possession limits for trout on Fall River Lake and Fall River Pond from zero fish to a five fish daily bag limit and a 10 fish possession limit from the last Saturday in April through November 15th. As a result, the project could result in additional angler trips to each water between April and November. However, the number of additional fishing trips to these waters is anticipated to be low because these waters are located in remote and sparsely populated areas of the state. Therefore, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the effect on transportation will be less than significant.

Section 7.50, subsection (b)(149), Susan River (Lassen Co.) and Section 8.10, Susan River: Reverting the fishing regulations to the previous trout opener (Last Saturday in April through November 15th) will increase angler opportunity by lengthening the season in the spring and shortening the winter season. The project will likely result in additional fishing trips to the Susan River because of the extended fishing season. Although the number of anglers that may take advantage of this new recreational fishing opportunity at Susan River is unknown, the number of additional angler trips will most likely be low. Thus, the amount of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations and the impacts on transportation will be less than significant.

- c) The project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. There will be no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

- a) The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. Furthermore,

- i) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k). The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- ii) The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. The project does not involve ground disturbing work and thus has no potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The project does not involve construction or land alteration.
- b) The project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The project will not create solid waste. Thus, the project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- b) The project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings and Significance

- a) The project does not have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, and their use for the public's enjoyment.

- b) The project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to project implementation in all impact analyses except for one. Where there is a potential adverse impact to certain species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species, that impact is less than significant and the project would not incrementally contribute to a cumulative impact in combination with other projects causing related impacts because establishing an upper HSL at 30 inches will not likely contribute to population level impacts to salmonid and smelt populations.
- c) The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.

References

- CDFW Strategic Management Plan for Trout Management. 2022. Available: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213738&inline>
- Clemento, A. J., Anderson, E. C., Boughton, D., Girman, D., & Garza, J. C. 2009. Population genetic structure and ancestry of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* populations above and below dams in south-central California. *Conservation Genetics*, 10, 1321-1336. Available: [\(PDF\) Population genetic structure and ancestry of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* populations above and below dams in South-Central California](#)
- DuBois, R. B., & Kuklinski, K. E. 2004. Effect of hook type on mortality, trauma, and capture efficiency of wild, stream-resident trout caught by active baitfishing. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, 24(2):617–623. Available: [\(PDF\) Effect of Hook Type on Mortality, Trauma, and Capture Efficiency of Wild, Stream-Resident Trout Caught by Active Baitfishing](#)
- Upper McCloud River Redband Trout Core Group. Conservation Agreement for Upper McCloud River Redband Trout. 2017.

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #**Project Title:** Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine)

Lead Agency: California Fish and Game Commission

Contact Person: Melissa Miller-Henson

Mailing Address: PO Box 944209

Phone: (916) 653-4899

City: Sacramento

Zip: 94244-2090

County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: _____ City/Nearest Community: Statewide

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: All water bodies statewide

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR NEPA: ☐ NOI Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☒ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ ☐ FONSI

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Sport Fishing Regulations

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ ☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Power: Type _____ MW
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ ☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD
☐ Educational: _____ ☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Recreational: _____ ☒ Other: Sport Fishing Regulations
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☐ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: GHG, Fishing

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Existing fishing regulations

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The California Fish and Game Commission proposes to amend sport fishing regulations as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701. The proposed regulatory amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries by clarifying sport fishing regulations, increasing angler opportunities, and protecting fish populations.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".

If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☐ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☒ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☒ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # _____	☐ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☐ Regional WQCB # _____
☒ Caltrans Planning	☒ Resources Agency
☒ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☒ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☒ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☒ State Lands Commission
☒ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☒ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☐ Fish & Game Region # _____	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☐ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☒ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	☒ Other: Fish and Wildlife, Dept. of (Headquarters)
☐ Health Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	
☐ Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date _____ Ending Date _____

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Melissa A. Miller-Henson Date: July 13, 2026

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine)

Lead Agency: California Fish and Game Commission

Contact Name: Melissa Miller-Henson

Email: fgc@fgc.ca.gov Phone Number: (916) 653-4899

Project Location: Statewide

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The California Fish and Game Commission proposes to amend sport fishing regulations as set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701. The proposed amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries by clarifying sport fishing regulations, increasing angler opportunities, and protecting fish populations.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment and, therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT NAME California Fish and Game Commission	CONTACT PERSON David Thesell	EMAIL ADDRESS fgc@fgc.ca.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916 902-9291
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400 Amend sec. 1.62 . . . 701, T.14, CCR Re: Sport Fishing 2026			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:
- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ a. Impacts business and/or employees | ☒ e. Imposes reporting requirements |
| ☐ b. Impacts small businesses | ☐ f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance |
| ☐ c. Impacts jobs or occupations | ☒ g. Impacts individuals |
| ☐ d. Impacts California competitiveness | ☐ 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: 0
- Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): N/A as the regulation only affects individual recreational fishing license holders.
- Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: 0
4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: 0 eliminated: 0
- Explain: Proposed changes clarify existing fishing regulatios without significant adverse changes to angling opportunities.
5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☒ Statewide
☐ Local or regional (List areas): _____
6. Enter the number of jobs created: 0 and eliminated: 0
- Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: N/A. The proposed changes clarify existing fishing regulations and introduce a non-reporting fee for steelhead report cards that only affects individual anglers. No direct impact to businesses or jobs.

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? \$ 348,000 annually
 - 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: \$ 20 Annual ongoing costs: \$ 20 Years: 1
 - d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: The cost to individuals is for a non-reporting fee for steelhead report cards. The fee can be avoided entirely if anglers return their card(s) to the Department.
2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: N/A, affects individual recreational fishing license holders.
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.* \$ 20
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: Statute provides the California Fish and Game Commission the authority to establish sport fishing regulations (F&G Code sec. 200, 205).
- 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: Benefits to maintaining the state's sport fisheries are mostly non-monetary. Preserves angling opportunities while improving data collection with regard to steelhead via the proposed non-reporting fee, which will ideally improve angler reporting and help the Department better manage the fishery.
2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☒ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?
Explain: Statute provides Commission the authority to establish sport fishing regulations (F&G Code sec. 200, 205).
3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ Unknown
4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: None. These regulations reflect the annual changes to California's sport fishing regulations and do not induce a significant enough economic impact that would cause businesses to expand their operations in the short-term.

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 by or brought to the attention of Commission staff that would have the same desired regulatory effect. Thus, none were considered.

**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>Unknown</u>	Cost: \$	<u>348,000</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: Biological and ecological factors beyond the Department's control make it difficult to accurately quantify monetary costs and benefits for the annual adjustments to the state's sport fishing regulations.

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: Performance standards are not applicable and thus were not considered.

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: None.

The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: None.

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: Objectives of the policy

include, but not limited to, maintaining sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure continued existence, and to maintain a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use.

**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 This regulation does not affect any local entity or program, but there may be some gains to local tax revenue based on increased angler opportunity. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the CA Constitution.

**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 The Department anticipates that there will be some effects on steelhead report card sales and revenue due to the proposed non-reporting fee. 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

DATE

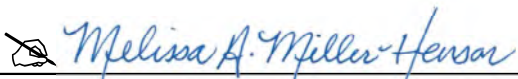
 DocuSigned by:
Dan Reagan

5/28/2026

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

DATE

 Melissa A. Miller-Henson Bryan Cash

6/3/2026

5/27/2026

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 Sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Regarding Sport Fishing Regulations 2026

This regulatory proposal combines California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and public requests for amendments to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), sections 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230 and 701, for the 2026 sport fishing regulatory cycle. This proposal contains multiple amendments that are grouped by general topic:

- Ensure clarity of regulatory language
 - Remove sections in conflict with other laws, correct definitions, re-organize and standardize regulations for fishing during low-flow periods in creeks and rivers, change the name of a waterbody consistent with federal legislation, and make grammatical corrections.
- Increase angler opportunities
 - Adjust fishing boundaries and allow for use of live bait to target striped bass and other non-native fish, remove minimum size requirements for black bass in Lassen and Modoc counties, re-open waters to fishing that were previously closed or under other restrictions, lengthen fishing seasons, and allow improved real-time adjustment in closures of waters by the Department during low-flow periods.
- Modify allowed fishing gear, and measurement and sampling methods
 - Adjust hook and weight restrictions, change gear boundaries, define the method to determine total length of fin fish, and amend biological sampling requirements for anglers or commercial fishermen to provide tissue samples from non-hatchery salmon upon request by Department staff.
- Protect vulnerable fish populations
 - modify fishing boundaries to protect Chinook salmon, add restrictions for certain anadromous and inland (trout) waters, adjust bag limit and gear requirements for trout, add quantitative low-flow criteria for coastal waters to protect steelhead.
- Clarify and improve administration of the steelhead report card, including changing to a nine-month reporting period and instituting a non-return fee.

The proposed regulatory amendments are needed to effectively manage California's sport fisheries, and correct errors and inaccuracies in the existing regulations to improve consistency, reduce public confusion, and improve regulatory enforcement.

While the majority of the proposed regulations do not impose any costs to businesses or individuals, the proposed amendment for steelhead report cards discussed under CCR,

Title 14, sections 1.74, 5.88 and 701, introduces a \$20 non-reporting fee that can be entirely avoided if the cardholder returns the card to the Department.

Steelhead Report Card changes

The card reporting period would change from a 12-month calendar period to a 9-month seasonal period to better align with seasonal adult steelhead run timing, improve data management, and assess non-compliant reporting. The reporting period would run from August 1 through April 30 of the following year, with the requirement for the card to be returned or reported to the Department by May 31.

The card would be required for anglers targeting any steelhead or rainbow trout in anadromous waters during the 9-month season. Anglers would be able to obtain the subsequent season card starting July 15, which would allow time for the Department to process the previous season's cards returned by May 31. Any card holder who fails to return/report by the May 31 deadline shall be subject to a non-return fee and will not be able to obtain any subsequent season's card until the fee is paid. From May 1 through July 31 of each year, anglers would not need a card to fish for steelhead or rainbow trout in anadromous waters.

Economic Impact Statement

A. Estimated Private Sector Costs Impacts

Answer 1: e. Imposes Reporting Requirements, and g. Impacts Individuals

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is not aware of any private sector cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the majority of the proposed regulations. The proposed amendments provide clarification of existing regulations that are necessary for the continued preservation of the resource, while providing sport fishing opportunities and, thus, the prevention of adverse economic impacts. The changes are not anticipated to impact the level of fishing activity enough to affect the demand for goods and services related to sport fishing enough to impact the demand for labor, nor induce the creation of new businesses, or eliminate or induce the expansion of businesses in California.

However, the proposed non-reporting fee for steelhead report cards would introduce a \$20 fee to any card holder failing to return/report by the May 31 deadline. Any angler who doesn't pay the non-reporting fee after the deadline will not be able to obtain any subsequent season's card until the fee is paid. The fee can be entirely avoided if the angler returns the card in compliance with the regulation, or if anglers choose to fish in anadromous waters from May 1 through July 31 of each year, as they would not need a card to fish for steelhead or rainbow trout during that period.

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?

The proposed non-reporting fee for steelhead report cards introduces a \$20 fee to any card holder failing to return/report by the May 31 deadline. Any angler who doesn't pay the non-reporting fee after the deadline will not be able to obtain any subsequent season's card until

that fee is paid. The fee can be entirely avoided if the angler returns the card in compliance with the regulation, or if anglers choose to fish in anadromous waters from May 1 through July 31 of each year, as they would not need a card to fish for steelhead or rainbow trout during that period.

Department staff estimate that currently 30-35% of anglers return their steelhead report card, with an average of approximately 43,500 cards sold over the last six years¹, for an average of 28,275 to 30,450 non-returned cards. The proposed \$20 non-return fee would mean that a maximum potential of \$565,500-\$609,000 would be accrued in fines. However, this does not take into account a likely increase in card return rates or the fact that not everyone will pay the fine, as suggested by similar changes to the lobster report card, which had an approximate 16% return rate from 2008-2011 without a non-return fee and increased reporting to 39%-54% after a non-return fee was implemented in 2014.

If the steelhead report card increased reporting rates similarly by 20-30%, the Department would have a projected 50-65% return rate and could potentially see only 13,050 to 21,750 unreturned cards with a maximum imposed cost potential of \$261,000 to \$435,000 in non-reporting fees (averaging **\$348,000 annually**). Several unknown factors may impact report card sales decreasing or increasing, such as anglers choosing to not purchase a card if a fine exists (lobster report card sales slightly increased, however, after implementation of a fine), anglers choosing not to pay fines and opting out of participation in the future, anglers purchasing a card to target rainbow trout in anadromous waters (previously it was only targeting the anadromous life history form of steelhead), or anglers who only purchased a card to fish in summer months (May-July) no longer needing to purchase a card due to the proposed changes.

C. Estimated Benefits

Question 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.

Under the proposed regulations, the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of inland fishery resources. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens 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 sport fish seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations sport fish to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are consistent with the sustainable management of California's sport fisheries, general health and welfare of California residents, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport fishing throughout California.

Shifting the reporting months to mirror the 9-month seasonal run timing of steelhead allows the Department to process cards more efficiently and have data readily available to inform

¹ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=178047&inline>

management strategies for the steelhead fishery statewide. By shifting the reporting period to 9 months, the Department will have time between seasons to assess non-compliance and can implement penalties prior to the subsequent year's card issues, including fees and prohibitions for non-compliant cardholders. This change is expected to increase reporting, which will increase data quality.

Additionally, the Department wants to better clarify that the card is required when targeting coastal rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, in anadromous waters. There is currently a loophole in the language that allows an angler to state they are not fishing for steelhead, only rainbow trout, which technically does not require a card. For improved enforcement, the language would be updated to include both terms and would require anglers to have a report card and fill it out when targeting either rainbow trout or steelhead in anadromous waters.

Additionally, shifting the reporting period to mirror the seasonal run timing of returning and spawning steelhead between August to April will increase the ability to more accurately analyze data and manage steelhead runs. Adult steelhead are generally not present in most anadromous waters from May through July, so there is no need to collect angler data during these months. Anglers will still be able to fish for rainbow trout/steelhead during these months in waters open to angling; however, a card will not be required. Anglers will also be able to continue to harvest a hatchery steelhead if caught during these months and not have to report on the card.

Fiscal Impact Statement

B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

Answer 4. Other.

Department staff estimate that currently 30-35% of anglers return their steelhead report card, with an average of approximately 43,500 cards sold over the last six years², for an average of 28,275 to 30,450 non-returned cards. The proposed \$20 non-return fee would mean a maximum potential of \$565,500-\$609,000 would be accrued in fines, representing additional revenue for the Department. However, this does not take into account a likely increase in return rates or the fact that not everyone will pay the fine, as suggested by the same changes in the lobster report card, which had an approximate 16% return rate from 2008-2011 without a non-return fee and increased reporting to 39%-54% from 2014 to 2025.³

If the steelhead report card increased reporting rates similarly by 20-30%, the Department would have a projected 50-65% return rate and could potentially see 13,050 to 21,750 unreturned cards, with a maximum revenue potential of \$261,000 to \$435,000 in accrued fines (averaging \$348,000). Unknown factors include report card sales decreasing or increasing depending on some of the language changes, anglers choosing to not purchase a card if a fine exists (lobster report card sales slightly increased after implementation of a fine), anglers may choose not to pay fines and opt to not participate in the future thus decreasing sales in future years, anglers may be required to purchase a card now that they are targeting rainbow trout (previously it was only targeting the anadromous life history form steelhead), or anglers who only purchased a card to fish in summer months (May-July) may not need to purchase a card

² <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=178047&inline>

³ <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Invertebrates/Lobster>

moving forward. Report card sales have also decreased significantly in the last three years, which may be establishing a new trend or reflect poor fishing years with subsequent bounce back years.

C. Fiscal Effect on Federal Funding of State Programs

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



1.62 Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine) Email in Lieu of PSOR

From McCann, Marguerite(Maggie)@Wildlife <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 07/01/2026 08:56 AM

To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>; Cornman, Ari [REDACTED]; Ashcraft, Susan [REDACTED];
[REDACTED]; Lopez, Gabriel [REDACTED]; Haug, David [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc Alminas, Ona [REDACTED]; McKim, Emily [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Greetings,

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Branch submits this email to notify the California Fish and Game Commission that there have been no substantive comments received, amendments to the proposed regulatory text, or additional information gathered for the proposed 1.62 Sport Fishing 2026 (Inland and Marine) rulemaking since the notice of the Initial Statement of Reason. At the June 18, 2026 Commission meeting, there were two comments in support of the rulemaking. There was a minor unsubstantive edit to the proposed regulatory text, in which the word "length" was mistakenly struck in the phrase "total length" in section 28.30. The proposed regulatory text was updated to correct this error. Because there are no substantial changes or comments, this email is submitted in lieu of a Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Maggie McCann (she/her)

Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

Regulations Specialist

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fisheries Branch
[REDACTED]



**Biodiversity is
Diversity**