

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 1.95, Title 14, CCR is amended as follows:

§ 1.95. Process to Conform State Recreational Fishing Regulations to Federal Regulations.

(a) The commission establishes the process in subsection (b) to automatically conform state recreational fishing regulations for the fish species listed in subsections (a)(1) through ~~(a)(2)~~ (a)(3). Conforming regulations established through subsection (b) shall govern unless the commission adopts regulations for said species using the regular rulemaking process [Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code] and specifically declares at the time of adoption the intent to deviate from the automatic conformance process.

(1) Salmon as defined in Section 1.73.

(2) Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*).

(3) Federal groundfish, as defined in subsection 1.91(a).

(b) Automatic Process to Conform State Recreational Fishing Regulations to Federal Regulations.

(1) For purposes of this section, a federal regulation includes, but is not limited to, a federal action that is published in the Federal Register or noticed via the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) hotline [(800) 662-9825] or a bulletin or notice on the NMFS website (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/rules-and-announcements/>).

~~(1)(2)~~ Recreational fishing regulations in state waters for fish species listed in subsections ~~(a)(1)~~ through ~~(a)(2)~~ subsection (a) in state waters shall conform to applicable federal regulations enacted by the National Marine Fisheries Service NMFS by the process described in subsection ~~(b)(2)~~ or by the process described in subsection (b)(3).

~~(2)(3) Process for Annual or Corrective Actions.~~ Actions to Conform State Regulations.

(A) No later than 10 days after publication in the Federal Register or notification via the NMFS hotline or website of any ~~National Marine Fisheries Service annual a NMFS~~ regulation for the species listed in subsection (a), or any correction to an annual regulation affecting such species, that necessitates a change to state regulations, the commission shall submit amended recreational fishing regulations to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the California Code of Regulations, and shall file amended recreational fishing regulations with the Secretary of State.

(B) Notification of State Conformance Action.

1. No later than 10 days after publication in the Federal Register or notification via the NMFS hotline or website of any National Marine Fisheries Service annual a NMFS regulation for the species listed in subsection (a) that necessitates a change to state regulations, or any correction to an annual regulation affecting such species, the following shall occur:

4. a. The department shall inform the public, via its website or other electronic notification, news release, of the Federal Register, or NMFS bulletin, notice or hotline in which the applicable fishing regulations are published and the effective date of the conformed regulations.

2. b. The commission shall mail or email a notice ~~the department news release~~ to any person, group of persons or small business enterprise that has filed with the commission a request for notice of, or the commission believes to be interested in, recreational fishing regulations for the species listed in subsection (a).

3. To the extent practicable, the department shall provide information on any changes to applicable fishing regulations through public contact, electronic notification, and online and printed publications.

(C) An update on the conformed recreational fishing regulations for the species listed in subsection (a) shall be included on the agenda of the next ~~regularly scheduled~~ regularly scheduled commission meeting.

~~(3) Process for In-Season Changes.~~

~~(A) Salmon. Recreational fishing regulations for salmon in state waters shall conform to applicable in-season changes to federal regulations. Public notification of any in-season change to state salmon regulations to conform to in-season changes to federal regulations is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825.~~

~~(B) Pacific Halibut. Recreational fishing regulations for Pacific halibut in state waters shall conform to applicable in-season changes to federal regulations. Public notification of any in-season change to state Pacific halibut regulations to conform to in-season changes to federal regulations is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service Area 2A Pacific halibut hotline at (800) 662-9825.~~

(c) Effective Date. The effective date of regulations conformed pursuant to subsection (b) shall be the same as the effective date of the federal regulation.

(d) Nothing in this section controls the adoption or validity of commission regulations pertaining to the species identified in subsection (a) on matters that federal regulations do not address.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 7110, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Section 7110, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 27.80, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 27.80. Salmon.

(a) Methods of take:

(1) General Provisions. Only by angling as defined in Section 1.05. No sinkers or weights exceeding four pounds may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line and the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked. See sections 28.65 and 28.70.

(2) Barbless Hooks. No more than two (2) single point, single shank barbless hooks shall be used in the ocean north of Point Conception (34°27'00" N. lat.) when salmon fishing or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

(3) Other Hook Restrictions. When fishing with bait in the ocean between 40°10'00" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino) and Point Conception, if angling by any means other than trolling, then no more than two (2) single point, single shank, barbless circle hooks shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed five inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook, and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied). A circle hook is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape, and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90 degree angle. Trolling is defined as angling from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions. See Section 28.65(g).

(4) One Rod Restriction north of Point Conception. Salmon may be taken by angling with no more than one rod in ocean waters north of Point Conception. See Section 28.65(e).

(b) Statewide Coho (silver) Salmon Restrictions: No coho (silver) salmon may be retained.

(c) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect from May 16, 2026 through August 31, 2026. In-season action may be taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to close open days when total harvest is approaching an area-specific harvest guideline. Anglers are advised to check the department's website at: wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon for current information on harvest guidelines. ~~Public notification of any in-season change to state salmon regulations to conform to in-season changes to federal regulations is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service~~

~~ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825.~~ Anglers are advised to call the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825 before fishing.

(1) North of 40°10'00" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino) and in Humboldt Bay.

(A) Open to salmon fishing June 13 through July 19 and August 1 through 31.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Area-Specific Harvest Guideline: In-season action may be taken to close the fishery or remaining open days when total harvest is approaching an area-specific harvest guideline of 3,900 Chinook salmon.

(E) Salmon may not be possessed on a vessel in this area except when open to salmon fishing.

(2) Between 40°10'00" N. lat. and Point Arena (38°57'30" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing June 13 through July 19 and August 1 through 31.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Area-Specific Harvest Guideline: In-season action may be taken to close the fishery or remaining open days when total harvest is approaching an area-specific harvest guideline of 5,100 Chinook salmon.

(E) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(3) Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing June 27 through July 22 and August 1 through 31.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Area-Specific Harvest Guideline: In-season action may be taken to close the fishery or remaining open days when total harvest is approaching an area-specific harvest guideline of 34,900 Chinook salmon.

(E) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(4) Between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border.

(A) Open to salmon fishing May 16 through August 31.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Area-Specific Harvest Guideline: In-season action may be taken to close the fishery or remaining open days when total harvest is approaching an area-specific harvest guideline of 21,800 Chinook salmon.

(E) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(d) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect from September 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026. In-season action may be taken by the National Marine Fisheries Service to close open days when total harvest is approaching a fall harvest guideline of 20,000 Chinook salmon applicable to both open areas defined in (d)(3) and (d)(4) below. Anglers are advised to check the department's website at: wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon for current information on harvest guidelines. ~~Public notification of any in-season change to state salmon regulations to conform to in-season changes to federal regulations is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825.~~ Anglers are advised to call the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825 before fishing.

(1) North of 40°10'00" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino) and in Humboldt Bay. Closed.

(A) Salmon may not be possessed on a vessel in this area except when open to salmon fishing.

(2) Between 40°10'00" N. lat. and 38°02'00" N. lat. Closed.

(A) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(3) Between 38°02'00" N. lat. and Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. lat.).

(A) Open to salmon fishing September 1 through October 31.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(4) Between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border.

(A) Open to salmon fishing September 1 through 30.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(e) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect on or after November 1, 2026: Closed statewide until the 2027 opening dates prescribed in subsection (f), or as modified in-season.

(f) Open Fishing Days, Daily Bag Limits, and Minimum Size in effect on or after April 1, 2027. Open fishing days, harvest guidelines, size, and bag limits may be considered in-season. In-season action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when total sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. Anglers are advised to check the department's website at: wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon for current information on harvest guidelines. ~~Public notification of any in-season change to state salmon regulations to conform to in-season changes to federal regulations is made through the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825.~~ Anglers are advised to call the National Marine Fisheries Service ocean salmon hotline at (800) 662-9825 before fishing.

(1) North of 40°10'00" N. lat. (near Cape Mendocino) and in Humboldt Bay:

(A) Open to salmon fishing beginning May 1, 2027. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Salmon may not be possessed on a vessel in this area except when open to salmon fishing.

(2) Between 40°10'00" N. lat. and Point Arena (38°57'30" N. lat.):

(A) Open to salmon fishing beginning April 3, 2027. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 20 inches total length.

(D) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(3) Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point (37°11'00" N. lat.):

(A) Open to salmon fishing beginning April 3, 2027. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length.

(D) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(4) Between Pigeon Point and the U.S./Mexico border.

(A) Open to salmon fishing beginning April 3, 2027. Fishing is authorized 7 days per week.

(B) Daily Bag Limit: 2 salmon per day. See subsection (b) above and subsection (g) below.

(C) Minimum Size: 24 inches total length.

(D) Except when open to salmon fishing, no fishing gear may be deployed in this area with salmon in possession.

(g) Ocean salmon possession limit: No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit. See Section 1.17 and 27.60(c) of these regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 265, 316.5, 399, 2084 and 7110, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205, 265, 316.5, 2084 and 7110, Fish and Game Code.