

Committee Staff Summary for September 10, 2026 WRC

3. Annual Regulation Changes**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Receive and discuss Department recommended regulatory amendments, and develop potential recommendations, for 2027-28 seasons related to:

- (A) Waterfowl hunting
- (B) Central Valley sport fishing
- (C) Klamath River Basin sport fishing

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Initial vetting May 14, 2026; WRC
- **Today's discussion and potential recommendations** **September 10, 2026; WRC**
- Present recommendations to the Commission October 13-16, 2026

Background

This item provides the public an opportunity to engage in discussions with the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) and Department about potential regulation changes for waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, and Klamath River sport fishing.

Waterfowl Hunting (2027-28)

Annually, the Commission amends waterfowl hunting regulations to conform State regulations with federal regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopts federal regulations each October based, in part, on recommendations from four regional flyway councils. Migratory waterfowl include American coot, common moorhen, ducks, black brant, and geese, among others.

Central Valley Sport Fishing (2028)

The Commission adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align State regulations with federal regulations for the American, Feather, Sacramento and Mokelumne rivers. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adopts federal Central Valley salmon escapement goals each April based, in large part, on recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC); the Department then proposes State regulation changes for consistency with those goals.

Today, the Department will present its proposed regulatory options for the 2027 Sacramento fall-run Chinook salmon fishery (Exhibit 1).

Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing (2028)

The Commission adopts Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align State regulations with federal regulations. NMFS adopts federal Klamath River Basin fall-run Chinook salmon allocations each April based, in large part, on recommendations from

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PFMC, after which the Department proposes State regulation changes based upon those allocations and the status of the stock.

PFMC does not make recommendations for Klamath River Basin spring-run Chinook salmon; beginning last year (2025), the Department makes recommendations for Klamath River Basin spring-run Chinook salmon seasons and bag and possession limits based on stock status, environmental conditions, and fisheries management outcomes for the Klamath River Basin fall-run Chinook salmon fishery.

Today, the Department will present its proposed regulatory options for Klamath River Basin 2027 spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon fisheries (Exhibit 2).

Today's Meeting

This meeting is an opportunity for interested parties to make suggestions to WRC regarding potential regulation changes for each of the three topics. WRC may make recommendations to the Commission for consideration for each rulemaking.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Recommend the Commission support future rulemakings regarding waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, and Klamath River Basin sport fishing, based on today's discussion.

Department: Support future rulemakings regarding waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, and Klamath River Basin sport fishing, as recommended.

Exhibits

1. [Department presentation](#), Central Valley sport fishing
2. [Department presentation](#), Klamath River Basin sport fishing

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support future rulemakings regarding waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, and Klamath River Basin sport fishing, based on the Department's recommendations and today's discussion.



CENTRAL VALLEY CHINOOK SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS – 2027 OPTIONS

**Presentation to the
Wildlife Resources Committee of the
California Fish and Game Commission**



September 10, 2026

Jonathan Nelson

Anadromous Fisheries Program Manager

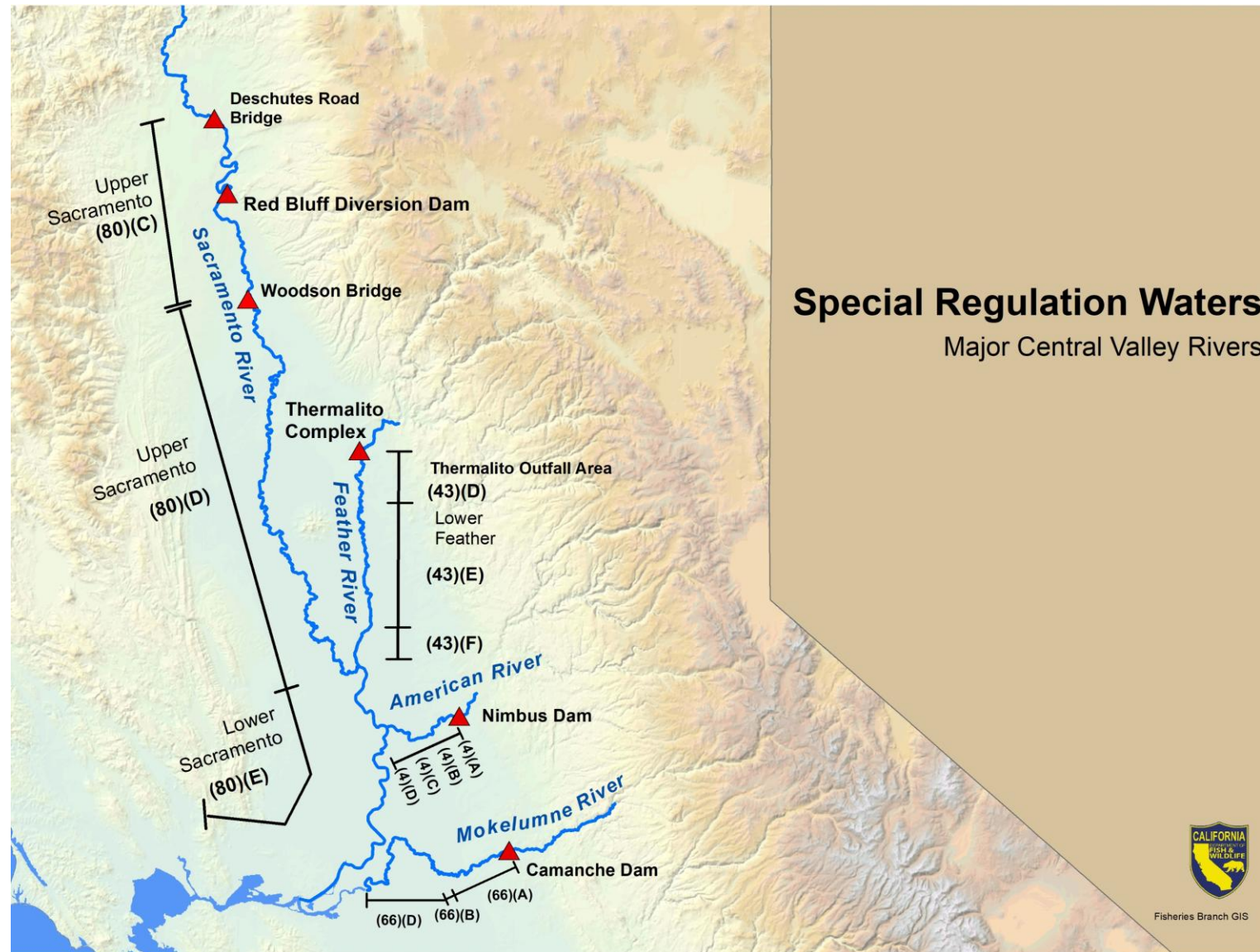
Fisheries Branch

Presentation Overview



- Map of Sacramento Fall-run Chinook Salmon (SRFC) special regulations waters
- Current SRFC Sport Fishing Regulations for Sacramento, Feather, American, and Mokelumne rivers
- Proposed 2027 SRFC regulatory options for Sacramento, Feather, American, and Mokelumne rivers
- Timeline

SRFC Special Regulation Waters



2026 SRFC Sport Fishing Regulations



PFMC Sacramento River Basin Sport Fish Harvest Target: **35,808**

- Sacramento River and Delta:
 - All sections open full seasons; 2 bag/4 possession limit any size
- Feather River:
 - All sections open full seasons; 2 bag/4 possession limit any size
- American River:
 - All sections open full seasons; 2 bag/4 possession limit any size
- Mokelumne River:
 - All sections open full seasons; 2 bag/4 possession limit any size

Proposed SRFC Regulatory Options for 2027



1. Any size Chinook Salmon fishery
 - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
2. Adult and grilse fishery
 - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
 - Could limit number of adults, with grilse making up the remainder
3. Grilse-only fishery
 - 0-4 bag limit, 0-12 possession limit
4. Season Length
5. Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon

Note: All options can be used independently or in combination for the same water body, as specified by river reach(es) in subsection 7.40(b)

Proposed Timeline – 2027



- February 10-11 – Notice hearing
- April 14-15 – Discussion hearing (post PFMC recommendation)
- May 6 – Adoption Hearing (teleconference)
- New regulations requested to go into effect July 16, 2027



Questions | Contact



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Photo credit: CDFW



Photo Credit: CDFW

KLAMATH RIVER BASIN SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Updates for 2027 Season



**Presentation to the Wildlife Resources Committee of the
California Fish and Game Commission**

September 10, 2026 | Jonathan Nelson
Fisheries Branch

Presentation Overview



- Management of Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC) and Spring Chinook (KRSC) Salmon runs in the Klamath River Basin
- Current KRSC Sport Fishing Regulations
- Proposed 2027 Regulatory Options for KRSC in the Klamath River Basin
- Current KRFC Sport Fishing Regulations
- Map of Klamath River Basin Sub-quota Areas
- Proposed 2027 Regulatory Options for KRFC in the Klamath River Basin
- Timeline

KRFC and KRSC Management



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

- The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) establishes annual harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals for adult KRFC
- KRFC recreational river sport fishery quota allocation typically conforms to PFMC recommendations (minimum of 15% of non-tribal allocation)
- CDFW makes annual recommendations for KRFC season, bag, and possession limits based on status of stock and/or quota

Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

- As of 2025, CDFW makes **annual recommendations** for the KRSC season, bag, and possession limits based on stock status, environmental conditions, and fisheries management outcomes for the KRFC fishery
- PFMC does not make recommendations for this fishery

2026 KRSC Sport Fishing Regulations



Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

Seasons:

- July 1- August 14 - Klamath River [Section 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.e]
- July 1- August 31 - Trinity River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E)6.b,c,e]

Daily Bag and Possession Limit:

- 1 daily bag; 2 possession limit for any size Chinook Salmon

NOTE: CDFW is collecting tissues samples during Angler Surveys in Klamath River section to determine the genetics of harvested fish and evaluate potential impacts to KRSC stock.

KRSC Proposed Regulatory Options for 2027



Klamath River Spring Chinook (KRSC)

Option 1:

Seasons:

- July 1- August 14 - Klamath River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E)2.e]
- July 1- August 31 - Trinity River [Sections 7.40(b)(50)(E) 6.b, 6.c, 6.e]

Daily Bag and Possession limit range:

- 0-1 bag limit, 0-2 possession limit

Option 2

- Closed to the take and possession of Chinook Salmon

2026 KRFC Sport Fishing Regulations



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

KRFC River Sport Fish Harvest Quota: **3,248** adult fish

Seasons:

- August 15 – December 31 - Klamath River (Closed above I-5 Bridge)
- September 1 – December 31 - Trinity River

Adult/Grilse Size Cutoff Range: $\geq$ 23 inches total length (TL)

Daily Bag Limit: 2 Chinook salmon

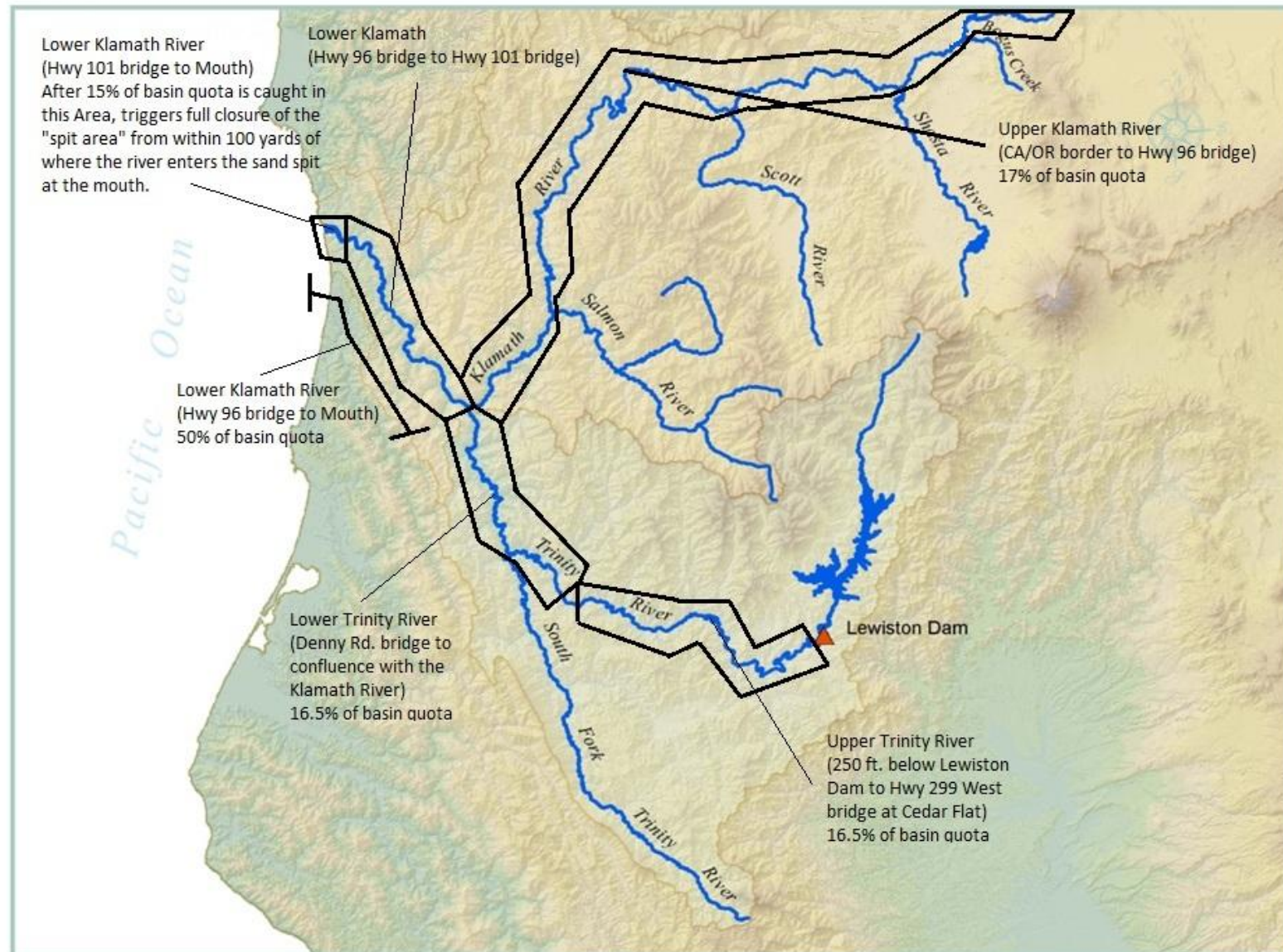
- no more than 1 fish $\geq$ 23 inches TL may be retained

Possession Limit: 6 Chinook salmon

- no more than 3 fish $\geq$ 23 inches TL may be retained

NOTE: Once the sub-quota is met for each area (except for the Spit) then only fish under 23 inches TL may be retained for the seasons with same bag and possession limits

Klamath River Basin Sub-Quota Areas



KRFC Proposed Regulatory Options for 2027



Klamath River Fall Chinook (KRFC)

Option 1:

Seasons:

- August 15 – December 31 - Klamath River
- September 1 – December 31 - Trinity River

KRFC quota range: 0-67,600 adult fish

Daily Bag and Possession limit range: 0-4 bag limit; 0-12 possession limit

Adult/Grilse size cutoff range: 20-24 inches

Option 2:

- Closed to the take and possession of KRFC

Proposed Timeline – 2027



- February 10-11 – Notice hearing
- April 14-15 – Discussion hearing
 - Post PFMC recommendation
- May 6 – Adoption Hearing
 - Teleconference
- New regulations requested to go into effect on:
 - July 1, 2027 – KRSC
 - August 15, 2027 – KRFC



Photo credit: CDFW

Questions | Contact



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