

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Section 712.5
Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Re: Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife Form 2026 Updates

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: July 3, 2026

II. Public Hearing

Date of Hearing: November 24, 2026

Online: Teleconference Details will be provided at least seven days in advance of the meeting at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/Regulations

Time 11:00 am - Noon

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)]

The Department proposes two new forms incorporated by reference in Section 712.5: Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals (Form DFW 901a); and new form Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (Form DFW 901b). New regulatory provisions will aid in understanding the purpose and content of the forms.

The current Form DFW 901 Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife was adopted in 2021. Form DFW 901 allows the public to conveniently declare fish and wildlife taken (legally hunted, fished, etc.) out-of-state upon entry into California. The information requested/provided in the form is necessary to establish the legality of the importation of fish and wildlife per the statutory requirements provided in Fish and Game Code Section 2353. The importer is given two options: complete, sign and submit the form online for instant compliance; or complete, sign and submit the paper form by mail. The Department maintains the forms to track the number and species imported, and to follow-up with persons importing fish and wildlife.

- The requirement, per Fish and Game Code Section 2353, for declaring the importation of fish and wildlife, legally taken and legally possessed, has been in place since 1957, and prior to 2021 was only available in paper form and returned by mail.
- Whether online or on paper, the form must be completed, signed and a copy in possession (electronic device or paper) of the importer at the time of entry for immediate review by authorized law enforcement personnel.

- The Department makes the form easily available online and ‘advertises’ the requirement in various publications and in regulation.

Because the proposed forms will be ‘incorporated by reference,’ they are treated as any other regulation and are subject to all applicable laws under the Administrative Procedure Act, Section 20(e), Title 1, CCR:

“Where a regulation which incorporates a document by reference is approved by OAL and filed with the Secretary of State, the document so incorporated shall be deemed to be a regulation subject to all provisions of the APA.”

Correction Necessary

The current Form DFW 901 has an inadvertent error in the instructions which is contrary to the language of the regulation in Section 712.5 and is inconsistent with Fish and Game Code Section 2353. The error concerns a 24-hour period of time allowed to mail the required form.

As a convenience, a 24-hour period was given for mailing the paper form. Unfortunately, the error could be wrongly interpreted as allowing the ‘preparation’ of the form 24 hours beyond the time of entry. Correction of the error is needed, and staff has identified other minor issues that need resolution as part of this rulemaking. The proposed amended forms DFW 901a, DFW 901b, and the amended text of Section 712.5 correct the error.

Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV)

Of particular concern is the difficulty of anglers fishing in out-of-state ocean waters (Mexico, and to a smaller extent Oregon) to complete the DFW 901 declaration form when entering California on a CPFV. The ocean fish taken outside of California waters fall into the same declaration requirement as any terrestrial animals.

- The CPFV often has a large number of anglers on board taking fish in out-of-state waters. Internet access may be limited while at sea and therefore it is difficult for each angler to access the online form.
- CPFV Operators are required to maintain a logbook (Section 190) of all fishing activities.
- The logbook is not permitted as a substitute for the required Declaration of Importation form.
- CPFV Operators have requested that marine staff provide a Declaration of Importation form that the Operator may complete on behalf of the passengers and crew.
- The proposed amended text of Section 712.5, subsection (c), will enable the CPFV Operator to record and report on a new Form DFW 901b (online or print) the take/import of fish on behalf of all passengers and crew.

Regulatory Proposal

Section 712.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) is proposed to be amended as follows:

712.5 Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife Form

Subsection (a) Unlawful Without Declaration of Importation.

The first paragraph of the current text is deleted and revised as subsection (a).

Purpose and Necessity. Due to a large amount of editing of the first paragraph, it was determined that a full rewrite would clarify the change. The current Form DFW 901 is deleted. The renumbering begins a sequence of added subsections.

New language paraphrases the authorizing statute (FGC Section 2353) that animals taken out of state and imported dead to California “shall be unlawful” unless declared prior to entry. The words “including state waters” has been added, though this has always been true (California has both terrestrial and ocean borders); this clarifies our ocean boundaries. The provision further indicates the two forms to be utilized for such declarations:

- Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals Form DFW 901a (New 01/01/ 2027).
- Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel” Form DFW 901b (New 01/01/2027).

Both forms are to be incorporated by reference as regulatory provisions.

- Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals Form DFW 901a, incorporated by reference, is a new form to be used by an “individual” hunter, angler, or other individual importing dead fish and wildlife. This does include an angler’s take from out of state ocean or other water bordering California. Also, the “24 hour” language that was on the prior form has been removed.
- Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Form DFW 901b, incorporated by reference, is a new form that may be completed by the Operator of a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV, Fish and Game Code sections 7920-7925) by sea entering California (as set forth in FGC Section 2353) with dead fish imported by passengers and crew while fishing in ocean waters outside the boundary of California (e.g., Mexico and Oregon). Form DFW 901b is necessary in order to provide an easier method of reporting the importation of all on board as an alternative to Form DFW 901a.

Subsection (a)(1) restates the provision in the first paragraph of current Section 712.5 and the statute, FGC Section 2353(c), that animals legally taken and brought into the state “by a common carrier” are not subject to Section 712.5.

Subsection (a)(2) is added clarifying that this section does not apply to fishing trips within California waters or the United States Exclusive Economic Zone.

The provision of the forms satisfies the requirement of FGC Section 2353(a)(3) that “A declaration is submitted to the department or a designated state or federal agency at or immediately before the time of entry, in the form and manner prescribed by the department.”

Subsection (b) Possession and Submission of Form by Individuals.

Subsection (b) specifies that at or immediately before the time of entry into the state each individual (hunter, angler, importer, etc.) must have completed and signed the Form DFW

901a and have it in possession at the time of entry to California. An exception to the form is provided in subsection (c) for the Operator of a CPFV. Two methods are given specifying the submission of the form:

Subsection (b)(1) The Form DFW 901a is accessed on the Department website and may be completed online. This option provides the most convenient method of reporting, since importers may have online access on their cellphones, electronic notepads, laptops, etc. All individuals hunting, fishing, or taking for lawful purposes that may be in possession of dead fish and wildlife entering the state should be familiar with this requirement and should therefore be prepared to use their device online while in an area with cellular and/or internet access. This provision is necessary to satisfy the requirements of FGC Section 2353.

Subsection (b)(1)(A) Electronically sign Form DFW 901a and submit the form. Electronic submission to the Department is instant and a confirmation number is given and the form stored in the device as necessary for compliance with FGC Section 2353.

Subsection (b)(1)(B) Retain a copy on an electronic device in possession at the time of entry and for the following period of *24 hours, thus ensuring that it will be available for review by law enforcement whether at the border or at some other point later.

Subsection (b)(2) Complete the Form DFW 901a on paper, this option is available to anyone without an electronic device, or not desiring or unable to use the online form. This provision is necessary to satisfy the requirements of FGC Section 2353.

- (b)(2)(A) specifies that the Form DFW 901a is available online on the Department website, therefore the form must be downloaded and printed prior to entering the state. Printing options are widely available such as home, office, printing outlets, library, etc. The most advisable action would be to prepare the printed copy before hunting, etc., and certainly before entering the state.
- (b)(2)(B) specifies that a copy of the completed and signed paper form (or a photograph maintained on an electronic device) must be in possession at the time of entry, and for the following period of *24 hours, thus ensuring that it will be available for review by law enforcement whether at the border or at some other point later.
- (b)(2)(C) specifies that the completed form shall be signed and submitted by mail to the Department. Anticipating that importers may not have had occasion to place the form in the mail prior to the time of entry, this subsection allows for the form to be postmarked within *24 hours of entry.

****Note: The 24-hour period is not an extension of time for the completion and signing of the form, which must occur at or prior to entry. Not every inspection occurs at the border or the moment of crossing, therefore maintaining a copy for 24 hours assures that the importer is prepared. The form may be sent to the Department during this time.***
Subsection (c) Possession and Submission of Form by an Operator of CPFV.

Form DFW 901b is an alternative to Form DFW 901a. Each angler taking fish has the responsibility to ensure that fish being imported are declared in compliance with Section 712.5. When a CPFV returns from fishing (Mexico or Oregon) to California waters, the

Operator may complete Form DFW 901b, documenting in a single form the catch and importing information for all crew and passengers aboard that vessel. When submitted to the Department, electronically or by mail, this demonstrates compliance with the requirements of FGC Section 2353 for all individuals on board and in possession of dead imported wildlife.

Operators of CPFV in possession of fish entering the state should be familiar with this requirement, and should therefore be prepared to use their electronic device online while in an area of internet access or be prepared with paper copies of Form DFW 901b (and good practice, for the convenience of the anglers, copies of Form DFW 901a) in hand in order to comply with FGC Section 2353.

Two methods for completing form 901b are given:

Subsection (c)(1) Complete Form DFW 901b electronically online, on the Department website. This option is perhaps the most convenient since it is common for Operators to have online access on their cellphones, electronic notepads, laptops, etc. The Operator of a CPFV that may be in possession of fish when sea crossing into state waters should be familiar with this requirement and should therefore be prepared to use their device online while in an area with internet access.

- (c)(1)(A) Electronically sign Form DFW 901b and submit the form. Submission to the Department is instant and a confirmation number is given and the form stored in the device as necessary for compliance with (B).
- (c)(1)(B) Retain a copy on an electronic device in possession and for the following period of *24 hours, thus ensuring that it will be available for review by law enforcement whether at the border or at some other point later.

Subsection (c)(2) Complete Form DFW 901b on paper, this option is available to an Operator without an electronic device, or not desiring or unable to use the online form.

- (c)(2)(A) specifies that Form DFW 901b is available online on the Department website, therefore the form must be downloaded and printed prior to entering the state.
- (c)(2)(B) specifies that a copy of the completed and signed paper form (or a photograph maintained on an electronic device) must be in possession at the time of entry, and for the following period of *24 hours, thus ensuring that it will be available for review by law enforcement whether at the border or at some other point later
- (c)(2)(C) specifies that the completed paper form shall be signed and submitted by mail to the Department. Anticipating that importers may not have had occasion to place the form in the mail prior to the time of entry, this subsection allows for the form to be postmarked within *24 hours of entry. This allowance for mailing is not an extension of time for the completion and signing of the form.
- (c)(3) The provision further clarifies that if the CPFV Operator is not in possession of a completed Form DFW 901b, then each individual on board the CPFV must be in possession of a completed and signed Form DFW 901a. This clarifies that the responsibility for the declaration rests with each individual in possession, the Operator,

crew and passengers may be cited for violations of this section.

All persons taking fish outside of California waters (e.g., Mexico, Oregon) that may be in possession of fish entering the state should be familiar with these alternatives, online or paper. Each angler should be prepared if necessary, to complete Form DFW 901a.

**Note: The 24-hour period is not an extension of time for the completion and signing of the form which must occur at or prior to entry. Not every inspection occurs at the border or the moment of crossing, therefore maintaining a copy for 24 hours assures that the importer is prepared.*

Subsection (d) Signed Certification.

The importer signs the Declaration of Importation certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided is a complete and accurate record and that the fish and wildlife described were legally taken and legally possessed outside of this state. The certification is specified to establish that the importer is reporting an accurate record of take brought into the state.

Form DFW 901a, Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals.

Form DFW 901a is a new form, incorporated by reference in Section 712.5, based on a revised version of the current Form DFW 901. Form DFW 901a is required to be completed “at or immediately before the time of entry” into the state or its ocean waters by each individual entering California (FGC Section 2353) with fish and wildlife legally taken and legally possessed while hunting, fishing, or for other lawful purposes. This form is available online, or print to paper to be completed by hand, for submission to the Department. The purpose of the form is to provide a convenient method of reporting birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians imported into California in accordance with FGC Section 2353.

- The name is “Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals DFW 901a (New 01/01/2027).”
- In the top block the language is the same text that appears in subsection 712.5(a) of the proposed regulation. This will aid in the understanding of the language and purpose of the form.
- **SECTION 1** Importer’s Information. Requires the importer’s name and identifying information, the vehicle used transporting the animals into the state and the location/date of importation.
- **SECTION 2** Fish and Wildlife Information. Requires a description of the fish and wildlife imported.
- **SECTION 3 CERTIFICATION** The importer certifies under penalty of perjury that the information submitted in this Declaration of Importation is complete and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief, and that the fish and wildlife described herein were legally taken and legally possessed outside of the State of California.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that, prior to entry, hunters and anglers ensure their own access to the online Individual Form DFW 901a or a paper copy in hand in order to report

their take. No form will be provided by Law Enforcement officers.

Form DFW 901a satisfies the requirements of FGC Section 2353(a)(3) that “A declaration is submitted to the department or a designated state or federal agency at or immediately before the time of entry, in the form and manner prescribed by the department.”

Form DFW 901b Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV)

Form DFW 901b is a new form, incorporated by reference in Section 712.5. Form DFW 901b is only available to a licensed CPFV. The form may be used by the Operator of the CPFV to declare the take of ocean fish by all passengers and crew taken while fishing in ocean waters outside the boundary of California (e.g., Mexico and Oregon). Fishing excursions by CPFV out of California ports will often have many individuals on board anticipating taking a number of fish. Form DFW 901b enables the Operator of the CPFV to track the catch for all passengers and crew and submit a single Declaration of Importation for all imported dead fish entering California waters.

- The name is “Declaration Of Importation Of Dead Fish and Wildlife For Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel DFW 901b (New 01/01/2027).”
- In the top block on the form is the same text that appears in subsection 712.5(a) of the proposed regulation. This will aid in the understanding of the language and purpose of the form.
- **SECTION 1. VESSEL OPERATOR/IMPORTER INFORMATION** requires the specifics of the Operator name, licensing, and trip information.
- **SECTION 2. FISH INFORMATION** requires the specifics of the species of fish, number possessed by passengers and crew.
- **SECTION 3. CERTIFICATION** requires that the Operator certify that the information provided on the form is complete and accurate. It further states their understanding that violations of the Fish and Game Code or regulations may result in the Operator, any passenger, and any crew on board the vessel being cited for illegal importation or possession.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that, prior to departure and re-entry, that anglers ensure their own access to the online Individual Form DFW 901a or a paper copy in hand in order to declare their take. No form will be provided by Law Enforcement officers.

Form DFW 901b satisfies the requirement of FGC Section 2353(a)(3) that “A declaration is submitted to the department or a designated state or federal agency at or immediately before the time of entry, in the form and manner prescribed by the department.”

(b) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

The proposed amendments to Section 712.5 will prescribe the forms and contents for use by the public in satisfying the requirements of FGC Section 2353. The public is required by statute to declare the legal take and possession of fish and wildlife taken by hunting, fishing, or other legal purposes out of state and imported to California. The Declaration of Importation

of Dead Fish and Wildlife forms will allow the fishing and hunting public to conveniently declare fish and wildlife from out of state upon entry into the state.

The forms will provide the specific benefit of providing a simple method for the public to declare their legal take, identifying the species, license/tags and out of state location of their hunting and fishing, that demonstrate compliance with other state hunting and fishing laws and that they may legally import such animals, parts, and may possess them in California. The illegal take of animals and fish is detrimental to the environment; it is prohibited in California and enforced by the Department. The forms provide the individual declarant a record for the purpose of demonstrating their legal take and possession of the listed items.

The regulation and forms do not have significant direct or indirect non-monetary benefits, including the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity, and the increase in transparency in business and government. The state's environment may have a slight benefit from prohibiting the importation of illegal take.

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

Authority: Section 2353, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 80 and 2353, Fish and Game Code

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change. None

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change. None

(f) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication. None

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No alternatives have been proposed. FGC Section 2353 requires the Department to prescribe a form for public use in declaring the importation fish and wildlife.

(b) No Change Alternative

The no change alternative does not resolve the error in the present form and does not address the issue of fish brought into California on board a CPFV, and does not fully comply with FGC Section 2353.

V. Description of Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business.
None

VI. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action. None.

VII. 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 Department concludes that it is unlikely that any adverse economic impact will affect any business, the Declaration of Importation forms impose no fees or costs, and do not require any action by any business aside from the time it takes to complete the form. The Department estimates that it will take CPFV Operators approximately 5-10 minutes to fill out Form DFW 901b; however, this is approximately the same amount of time that it takes for them to fill out the summary data into their logbook, and that summary data is what will be transcribed into Form DFW 901b. Using California hourly wage estimates for First Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (\$29.23/hour)¹ yields a reporting cost of approximately \$2.44 - \$4.87 for the 5-10 minutes it will take for a CPFV Operator to complete the form, averaging to \$3.66 per form. Applied to the approximately 200 distinct vessels identified by the logbooks submitted to the Department between 2019-2024 yields a range of total annual costs of \$488 - \$974 per year, assuming that 200 vessels make the trip from Mexico back to state waters each year, with an average of \$731 per year.

There are no other fees or costs associated with the proposed forms that would increase the costs for businesses, small businesses, or individuals. Additionally, the required information can be provided by the fishers who use CPFVs using form 901a, which would negate any costs associated with completing the Form DFW 901b.

- (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 Department concludes that it is unlikely that any economic impact will adversely affect or benefit any business. The regulation and forms do not have direct or indirect non-monetary benefits to the health and welfare of California residents or to worker safety. The state's environment may have a slight benefit from prohibiting the importation of illegally imported dead wildlife.

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Individual or Business.

The Department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private individual or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. The Declaration of Importation forms impose no fees or costs, other than time needed for the preparation and completion online or paper of the forms, which can be done at the time that they use to prepare their logbooks.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State. None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies. None.

¹ [First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers](#), Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed March 10, 2025

- (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.
- (i) Effect on Small Business. None.

The Department concludes that it is unlikely that any adverse economic impact will affect small business because the regulation does not impose any new fees or require any action by any business that would impose any significant direct or indirect costs.

VIII. Economic Impact Assessment

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

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral with regard to the creation or elimination of jobs within the State because the proposed changes to the Declaration of Importation forms impose no fees or costs and do not require any action by any business aside from the time it takes to complete the form, which would essentially be economically neutral and would not affect a business's decision to create or eliminate jobs.

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

The proposed changes to the Declaration of Importation forms impose no fees or costs and do not require any action by any business aside from the time it takes to complete the form. As such, the cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral with regard to the creation or elimination of businesses within the State.

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

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral with regard to the expansion of businesses within the State as they impose no fees or costs that would materially affect whether a business expands its operations.

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

The cumulative effects of the proposed changes to the Declaration of Importation form are expected to be neutral with regard to the health and welfare of California residents.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral with regard to worker safety.

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

The cumulative effects of the changes statewide are expected to be neutral with regard to the state's environment, however there may have a slight benefit from prohibiting the importation of illegal take.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Section 712.5 of Title 14, CCR, is proposed to be amended incorporating by reference two new forms, Form DFW 901a Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Individuals, and Form DFW 901b Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish and Wildlife for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV). The current Form DFW 901 will be deleted.

These forms allow the public to conveniently declare fish and wildlife from out-of-state upon entry into California either online or on paper. The information requested/provided in the form is necessary to establish the legality of the importation of fish and wildlife per the statutory requirements provided in Fish and Game Code Section 2353. The Department maintains the forms to track the number and species imported into the state. If there are questions or concerns about the imported species, or licensing, the Department will follow up with individuals importing fish and wildlife.

The current form has an inadvertent error in the instructions which is contrary to the language of the regulation in Section 712.5, and is inconsistent with Fish and Game Code Section 2353. Correction of the error is needed and staff has identified other issues that need resolution.

Of particular concern is the difficulty of anglers fishing in out-of-state ocean waters (Mexico, and to a smaller extent Oregon) to complete the form when entering California at sea on a CPFV. The ocean fish taken outside of California waters fall into the same declaration requirement as any terrestrial animals.

Regulatory Proposal

Section 712.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), is proposed to be amended creating two (2) forms:

- Form DFW 901a is a new form updating the previous version of DFW 901. This form is required to be completed by each individual entering California by land or sea with fish or wildlife taken while hunting, fishing, or for other lawful purposes. This form will be available for completion and submittal online and, alternatively, in print to paper form to be completed by hand and submitted by mail to the Department. Form DFW 901a is required to be completed and submitted by any individual(s) fishing in ocean waters outside the state and returning with their catch.
- Form DFW 901b is a new form. This form may be completed by the Operator of a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV, Section 190, Title 14, CCR) entering California waters with fish taken while fishing in ocean waters outside the boundary of California (e.g., Mexico and Oregon). CPFV fishing excursions out of California ports will often have many persons on board anticipating taking a number of fish. Form DFW 901b enables the Operator of the CPFV to track the catch for all passengers and crew, and submit a declaration for all imported catch entering California. The new form relieves the need for each passenger to complete their own Form DFW 901a. However, in the event that the CPFV Operator elects not to provide Form DFW 901b, completing Form DFW 901a will still be required for each individual on board the vessel.
- The form instructions are not incorporated by reference, as they are not regulatory.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

The proposed amendments to Section 712.5 will prescribe the forms and contents for use by the public in satisfying the requirements of Fish and Game Code Section 2353. The public is required by statute to declare the legal take and possession of fish and wildlife taken by hunting, fishing, or other legal purposes out-of-state and imported into California. The forms will allow the fishing and hunting public to conveniently declare their fish and wildlife imported into the state.

The forms will provide the specific benefit of providing a simple method for the public to declare their legal take, identifying the species, license/tags and out of state location of their hunting and fishing, that demonstrate compliance with other state hunting and fishing laws and that they may legally import such animals, and parts, and may possess them in California. The illegal take of animals and fish is detrimental to the environment, it is prohibited in California and enforced by the Department. The form provides the individual declarant a record for the purpose of demonstrating their legal take and possession of the listed items. The regulation and forms do not have significant direct or indirect non-monetary benefits including the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity, and the increase in transparency in business and government. The state's environment may have a slight benefit from prohibiting the importation of illegal take.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

The Legislature has delegated authority to the Department to adopt regulations prescribing the form and manner of the required Declaration of Importation. The Department has reviewed existing regulations in Title 14, CCR, and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. Department staff conducted a search of the CCR and has found no other state regulations that set forth these requirements.