

Staff Summary for October 13-16, 2026

22. Regulation Change Petitions (Marine)**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

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

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

Referred bin 2 marine protected area (MPA) petitions — and comments on those referred petitions — will be considered under individual MPA petition agenda items (beginning with item 26).

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

- Received Petition 2026-08 June 17-18, 2026
- **Today, potentially act on petition** **October 13-16, 2026**

(B) New Petitions for Regulation Change – Receipt

- **Today, receive new petitions** **October 13-16, 2026**
- Potentially act on new petitions December 16-17, 2026

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

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

Today, one petition is scheduled for action.

- I. *Petition 2026-08: Request to exempt commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFVs) departing north of Point Arguello from the requirement to hold a sport-caught fish processing permit (Exhibit A1)*

The petitioner's stated intent is to eliminate fish waste from landfills by allowing its return to the ocean, establish a more efficient process for cleaning and returning filleted fish to sport anglers, and reduce record-keeping requirements that they state do not serve the intended purpose of sport-caught fish regulations.

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Staff Evaluation

Subsection 231(a)(1) provides an exemption for CPFVs from the sport-caught fish processing permit requirement for fish taken under the authority of a sport fishing license that are filleted on board a licensed CPFV. However, this exemption specifies that the fish must be filleted on board the vessel prior to passenger departure. The exemption does not address fish that are prohibited from being filleted onboard (e.g., salmon and striped bass) which are commonly filleted by CPFV operators or crew at the dock, immediately upon passenger departure.

Department staff have identified a practical challenge for CPFV operators regarding sport-caught fish processing permits, warranting regulatory change to address fish that are commonly filleted by CPFV operators or crew at the dock, immediately upon passenger departure. (Exhibit A2)

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

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

Under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, the Commission cannot discuss or act on any matter not included on the agenda, other than to determine whether to schedule issues raised by the public for consideration at future meetings. Thus, petitions for regulation change generally follow a two-meeting cycle of receipt and decision. The Commission will act on petitions received at today’s meeting at its next regularly scheduled meeting (December 16-17, 2026) following staff evaluation, unless the petition is rejected under the 10-day staff review as prescribed in subsection 662(b).

The Commission received no new petitions for regulation change by the comment deadline for this meeting.

(C) *Comments Received on Referred Petitions*

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

No comments were received by the public comment deadline for referred petitions.

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

Commission staff: Support the Department’s recommendation for Petition 2026-08 and schedule for rulemaking under Agenda Item 25B (Administrative Items – Rulemaking Timetable Updates).

Department: Grant Petition 2026-08, except apply the regulation change statewide, based on rationale provided in the Department memo (Exhibit A2).

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Exhibits

- A1. [Petition 2026-08](#), received May 27, 2026
- A2. [Department memo](#), received September 4, 2026

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendation to grant Petition 2026-08 as recommended by the Department.



Tracking Number: (2026-08)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: Michael Rescino, GGFA

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address [REDACTED]

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

3.

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

5.

6. Rationale (Required) - Proposed Regulatory Change

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

8. Proposed Amendment

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



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

11. Reduction of records.

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

SECTION II: Optional Information

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

13. Category of Proposed Change

☒ Sport Fishing

☐ Commercial Fishing

☐ Hunting

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

14. The proposal is to: *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

☒ Amend Title 14 Section(s):29.80.

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

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

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

☒ Not applicable.

16. Effective date: If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.
If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: 11/1/2026.

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

18. Economic or Fiscal Impacts: Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs,



other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: Potential impact of lowering cost of enforcement and lost gear retrieval

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

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 5/27/2026

FGC staff action:

- ☒ Accept - complete
- ☐ Reject - incomplete
- ☐ Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: _____

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____

FGC action:

- ☐ Denied by FGC
- ☐ Denied - same as petition _____
- ☐ Granted for consideration of regulation change

Tracking Number

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 4, 2026

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

*Signed original on file,
Received September 4, 2026*

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Subject: Sport-Caught Processing Permit Exemption (Tracking Number 2026-08)

At its August 12-13, 2026 meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) referred a petition for regulation change (Petition #2026-08) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) for review and recommendation. The petition submitted by Mr. Michael Rescino (Applicant), requests to amend Section 231 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR). The proposed change would exempt Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs) departing north of Point Arguello from the requirement to hold a Sport-Caught Processing Permit when filleting fish for passengers that have departed the vessel.

Section 231 presently requires a Sport-Caught Fish Processing Permit (permit) for any person who, for a fee, processes fish taken under the authority of a sport fishing license. The section exempts operators or crew of CPFVs from possessing the permit when filleting fish while on board a CPFV, if the fish are filleted on board the vessel prior to passenger departure. This exemption does not address fish that are prohibited to be filleted onboard (e.g., salmon and striped bass) which are commonly filleted by CPFV operators or crew at the dock, immediately upon passenger departure.

The Department recommends this petition be granted for a future rulemaking, with a modification that would allow the activity for any species prohibited to be filleted onboard statewide, not just north of Point Arguello.

If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager at (805) 568-1246 or by email at r7regionalmgr@wildlife.ca.gov.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
September 2, 2026
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ec: **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Craig Shuman, D. Env., Regional Manager
Marine Region

Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division

John Ugoretz, Environmental Program Manager
Pelagic Fisheries and Ecosystem Program

California Fish and Game Commission

Gabe Lopez, Program Manager

Susan Ashcraft, Marine Advisor