



CALIFORNIA SALTWATER ANGLING RECORDS

PROCEDURES:

1. Print the California Saltwater Angling Record Verification form (DFW 736) available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Records. Be sure to record the date and location of your catch.
2. Once you have landed your potential record size catch, you should have it weighed as soon as possible to prevent the loss of weight by drying out. Weigh the fish on a scale certified by a government agency for accuracy in the presence of two witnesses, preferably unknown to the angler. Record the names, phone numbers, and addresses of the witnesses on the application. In addition, ask for a weight receipt.
3. Take several clear pictures of the fish at full length with a measuring device in the background with which the length of the fish can be clearly determined.
4. Contact the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife office by emailing AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov to arrange for an Environmental Scientist to identify your catch. If a Department office is not located nearby, you can take your fish to a museum or university where a biologist can identify it for you. The fish may be examined in a fresh/frozen/preserved condition.
5. Upon verification of the authenticity of your submitted application, you will receive a letter of acknowledgment and certificate signed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Director.

RULES:

1. To qualify for a saltwater angling record you are required to have a current California saltwater fishing license, or be under 16 years of age. In addition, you must adhere to all fishing regulations.
2. The act of persons other than the angler touching any part of the rod, reel, or line either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is landed, or in giving any aid is prohibited.
3. Shooting or harpooning the fish at any stage of the catch is prohibited.
4. Your application must be submitted within one year of the date of catch.
5. An International Game Fish Association application may not be submitted in place of the California Saltwater Angling Record Verification form.
6. Only the species found on the sport angling record list (see Fishing and Diving Records section on CDFW website) can be turned in as a new record. Any species not on the list will not be accepted.
7. In order to defeat a record, the fish must exceed the current record by at least one ounce. A catch that matches the weight of an existing record or exceeds the weight by less than one ounce will be considered a tie.