

Anadromous Fishes



Anadromous fishes begin their lives in fresh water, migrate to the ocean to grow and mature, and eventually swim back to fresh water to spawn. Some migrate from hundreds of miles out at sea to hundreds of miles upriver, while others only move from brackish water a short distance into fresh water to spawn.

The anadromous fish that most people are familiar with is the Chinook salmon. Because they're fun to catch and very tasty to eat, they are highly valued by both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen. Chinook salmon spawning runs are well-known events, and in some places crowds gather just to watch them in their upstream journeys to spawn. In addition to salmon, there are numerous other anadromous game fishes living in California's rivers, streams, deltas, and ocean waters, including sturgeon, striped bass, trout, and shad.

California provides many unique fishing opportunities for anadromous fishes. The extensive Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay estuary system both provide anglers with good access to anadromous fishes at various geographic locations throughout the year.

Anadromous Fishes

**American Shad**

Although American shad are anadromous fish, they are usually caught in fresh water.

_____ Date of catch _____ Yes No Catch-and-release?

place
stamp
here

_____ Location of catch _____

_____ Witness signature _____

**Striped Bass**

_____ Date of freshwater catch _____ Yes No Catch-and-release?

stamp for
Freshwater-caught
here

_____ Location of freshwater catch _____

_____ Witness signature _____

_____ Date of saltwater catch _____

_____ Location of saltwater catch _____

_____ Witness signature _____

Catch-and-release?

Yes No

stamp for
Saltwater-caught
here

Coastal Rainbow Trout (sea-run)

Also known as "steelhead"



_____ Date of catch _____ Yes No Catch-and-release?

place
stamp
here

_____ Location of catch _____

_____ Witness signature _____

NOTE: It is illegal to target or keep sea-run coastal rainbow trout while fishing in the ocean.

Chinook Salmon



_____ *Date of freshwater catch* Yes No *Catch-and-release?*

_____ *Location of freshwater catch*

_____ *Witness signature*

_____ *Date of saltwater catch* Yes No *Catch-and-release?*

_____ *Location of saltwater catch*

_____ *Witness signature*

*NOTE: See Inland Coldwater Fishes section for **landlocked** Chinook salmon.*

stamp for
Freshwater-caught
here
=====
stamp for
Saltwater-caught
here

White Sturgeon



_____ *Date of freshwater catch* Yes No *Catch-and-release?*

_____ *Location of freshwater catch*

_____ *Witness signature*

_____ *Date of saltwater catch* Yes No *Catch-and-release?*

_____ *Location of saltwater catch*

_____ *Witness signature*

stamp for
Freshwater-caught
here
=====
stamp for
Saltwater-caught
here



Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife

I take no more than I need, always observe the limits, and practice catch and release when appropriate.

Yes

