California Inland Water Angling Records

To qualify, an angler is required to have a current California freshwater sport fishing license or be under 16 years of age. Fish must be taken by hook and line angling and caught from state waters open to the public for fishing. Anglers must abide by all California freshwater sport fishing regulations.

The facts regarding the catch must be recorded on the California Inland Water Angling Record Verification Form (FG 737A). Forms are available on the CDFW website at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Records. Record forms must be submitted within 30 days of catch.

To break a current record, the fish must exceed the current record weight by a minimum of ONE ounce.

SUBMISSION RULES

1. Photographs are REQUIRED to be submitted with all record applications. Fish must be clearly identifiable based on the photos submitted. Provide at least one clear photograph showing the full length of the fish (side-view); one photo must show the angler with the fish; and one photograph of the fish on the scale, with weight clearly visible.

   - CDFW biologists will use photos to identify the fish. If biologists are unable to make a definite identification from the submitted photographs, the angler will be required to provide fish for examination.
   - If no positive identification of the species can be made from the photographs provided and the fish cannot be presented for identification then the application will be denied.
   - All photos submitted will become property of the state and may be used in CDFW publications and will not be returned to the angler.

2. Fish must be weighed on scale certified for legal trade. The scale must have been certified within twelve months of the record catch. Proof of scale certification from County Office of Weights and Measure or scale receipt from a commercial vendor must be submitted with the application. One or more witnesses must observe the weighing and signature(s) must appear on the application form.

   - Fish weight must be rounded down to the nearest ounce.
   - If a non-certified scale is used at time of weighing, applicant must show proof of scale certification within 30 days from date of fish weighing.

3. Fish total length and girth will be used to validate fish weight. Measurements should be to the nearest 1/8 inch. Total length is measured with mouth closed in a straight line from tip of the head to the end of the longest lobe of tail. Girth is the measurement around the widest part of the fish body.

   A - Total length measurement

   B - Girth measurement

4 All record applications will be reviewed and final approval granted by the by Fisheries Branch. The dispute of any application for any reason shall be resolved by the Chief, Fisheries Branch.