



## 2024-2025 COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE RENEWAL UPDATE

All State offices will be closed **February 19, April 1, and May 27** in observance of President's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, and Memorial Day, respectively.

### Commercial Fishing License Information

Your California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) issued 2023-2024 Commercial Fishing License, Commercial Boat Registration, and other entitlements expire March 31, 2024. Your 2024-2025 Commercial Fishing License and Boat Registration renewal worksheets were mailed separately. Each of the mailed renewal worksheets include this renewal update, renewal instructions, and Credit Card Authorization Form. Commercial fishing licenses and/or permits can be renewed by mail, at select CDFW license sales offices, online, and at select license agent locations.

### Renewal by Mail

To renew by mail, please review the enclosed Instructions for Completing Commercial Fishing License Renewal (DFW 1309) and/or Instructions for Completing Commercial Boat Registration (DFW 1384c), complete your worksheet(s), and send your documents to the address below. Please allow 15 business days for renewals to be processed.

CDFW  
License and Revenue Branch  
PO Box 944209  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

When using mail carrier services other than USPS (e.g., FedEx, UPS, OnTrac, etc.), request CDFW's physical mailing address by contacting the License and Revenue Branch at (916) 928-5822 or [LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov).

### Renewal at Select CDFW License Sales Offices

Visit the following web page to obtain a list of CDFW license sales office locations and hours:  
[wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/LRB](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/LRB).

### Renewing Online

You may renew online by logging in to your account using CDFW's Online License Sales and Services website at [www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales](http://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales). Step-by-step online renewal instructions are available at [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial) (see the "Fees and Descriptions" section of the web page). Be sure to review and update your contact information when renewing your licenses online. If renewing your boat registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership Requirement" section of this renewal update.

### Renewing at Select License Agent Locations

Only select license agent locations can renew existing commercial fishing licenses. Before visiting a license agent's location, call ahead to make sure they are open and to confirm their hours of operation. Please visit the online License Agent Search web page at [www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/internetsales/OutletSearch/FindOutlet](http://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/internetsales/OutletSearch/FindOutlet) to locate an authorized sales agent location near you. Ensure you check the "Sells Commercial Fishing Items" box before clicking the "Search" button.

Renewing at a license agent requires your 2024-2025 Commercial Fishing License and/or Commercial Boat Registration Worksheet(s), or your previously issued Commercial Fishing License and/or Boat Registration thermal license. Prior to going to an authorized license agent to renew your boat registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership Requirement" section of this renewal update.

### IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT REMINDERS:

- Address Update Requirement  
All commercial fishers are required to notify CDFW of their new address within three months of when they move or acquire a new address pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 7875(m). Ensure your address and other contact information is correct when renewing your licenses by mail, online, at select license agent locations, or select CDFW sales offices.
- Proof of Vessel Ownership Requirement  
Proof of vessel ownership (i.e., United States Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation, California Department of Motor Vehicles Certificate of Number, or out of state vessel registration) must be current and on file with CDFW before you can renew your vessel registration. You may submit proof of vessel ownership to us using the mailing address listed above or by email to [LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov). Please allow 15 business days for mail submittal and 2 business days for email submittal for CDFW staff to update your customer record. License agents cannot accept proof of vessel ownership.

### Commercial Fishing License Reminders

If you would like to receive email reminders for annual license and registration renewals, purchase availability and deadline dates, write your email address on the preprinted renewal worksheet(s) when renewing by mail. You can also provide a new, or update your existing, email address



online after logging into your customer account via CDFW's Online License Sales and Services website at [www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/](http://www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/).

### **Deadline to Renew Limited Entry Permits**

The deadline to renew your Limited Entry and Restricted Access Permits for the 2024-2025 permit year without incurring late fees is April 30, 2024. Renewal applications will be denied if received after March 31, 2025. Once denied, a written appeal may be submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission within 60 days of the date of CDFW's denial.

### **Change of Vessel Ownership and/or Limited Entry and Restricted Access Permit Transfers**

All Limited Entry and Restricted Access Permits have unique change of ownership and/or transferability requirements outlined in California laws and regulations. CDFW strongly encourages permit holders to contact the License and Revenue Branch at (916) 928-5822 or [LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov) before initiating a permitted vessel change of ownership or attempting to transfer a permit to another person. Doing so allows permit holders to obtain the unique requirements for their permit and proposed action before taking steps that could potentially jeopardize future use of the permit. Numerous applications containing instructions and/or requirements for permitted vessel change of ownerships and permit transfers can be found online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial>.

Nontransferable Limited Entry Permits, including Spot Prawn Trap Vessel (Tier 2 and Tier 3) Permits, cannot be transferred to another person upon a change of the permitted vessel's ownership.

All permit transfers must be approved by CDFW. Permit holders are responsible for complying with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

### **Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval**

Any commercial Dungeness crab gear left in the water after the close of the season is subject to retrieval under CDFW's Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 132.7). CDFW encourages Dungeness crab vessel permit holders who are contacted by authorized entities to work cooperatively and arrange for the return of their lost gear in exchange for a freely negotiated retriever trap fee. Failure to comply with the regulations will result in additional fees and potential permit restrictions.

Retrieval of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab gear is also allowed under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 132.2. Fully accounting for all gear retrieval

is an important component of CDFW's efforts to reduce marine life entanglements and obtain an Incidental Take Permit under the federal Endangered Species Act. If you retrieve gear under this section, please notify the Whale Safe Fisheries team using the online contact form at [wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries](http://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries) or via email at [WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov).

### **Salmon Fishery Season**

The 2024 California ocean salmon sport and commercial fishing seasons have not yet been determined. Season openings that would take effect between April 1 and May 15, 2024, will be decided at the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting in March. Season openings and regulations that would take effect on or after May 16, 2024, will be decided by the PFMC at its meeting in April. For the latest updates, please visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon>

### **Sea Urchin Permit Optional Supplemental Fee Increase**

Fish and Game Code section 9055 was amended to allow the California Sea Urchin Commission to vote on approval of an optional supplemental fee. If approved in 2024, this fee would go into effect April 1, 2025. Upon notification from the California Sea Urchin Commission, CDFW shall charge an additional two hundred dollars (\$200) for a sea urchin permit to be distributed to the California Sea Urchin Commission by CDFW, less CDFW's distribution expenses, to be used for the purposes of funding the California Sea Urchin Commission (California Food and Agriculture Code section 79056). The California Sea Urchin Commission shall notify CDFW of the intent to charge the additional two-hundred-dollar (\$200) fee by December 1 of the preceding license year.

### **Sea Urchin Diving Permit Drawing**

Applications for the Sea Urchin Diving Permit Drawing are made available each year through CDFW's Online License Sales and Services website at [www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/](http://www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/InternetSales/) and at license agent locations authorized to renew existing commercial fishing licenses. To find an authorized local sales agent, please visit the License Agent Search page at [www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/internetsales/OutletSearch/FindOutlet](http://www.ca.wildlifelicenses.com/internetsales/OutletSearch/FindOutlet). Ensure you check the "Sells Commercial Fishing Items" box before clicking the "Search" button.

To qualify for the drawing, applicants must possess a valid 2024-2025 Commercial Fishing License and a valid Sea Urchin Crewmember Permit for the prior two permit years (i.e., 2023-2024, 2022-2023). Applicants are required to apply by March 31, 2024, and pay a nonrefundable processing fee.



## **Transfer of Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit Drawing**

Beginning April 1, 2024, applications will be accepted for the five (5) Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit (SRCTP) transfers allowed for the 2024-2025 permit year. To apply, the following must be submitted:

- A notarized letter from the permit holder requesting to transfer the SRCTP, along with the original 2024-2025 SRCTP.
- Copy of the proposed permittee's 2024-2025 Commercial Fishing License and General Trap Permit.
- Nonrefundable transfer fee of \$1,000.00.

Applications and all supporting documents must be received by CDFW's License and Revenue Branch on or after April 1, 2024. CDFW cannot accept SRCTP transfer applications received prior to the first date of the permit year. The applications must be mailed to: CDFW, Attn: License and Revenue Branch, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090.

## **Important Information for Commercial Herring Permits and Herring Eggs On Kelp (HEOK) Permits**

Existing herring permittees will find their herring renewal listed on their 2024-2025 Commercial Fishing License Renewal Worksheet and will receive a separate notice with details on deadlines and mandatory vessel registration requirements, fees, availability of applications for new permits, and other information. The notice can also be found online at [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial) under Pacific Herring.

More information on the Pacific Herring Fishery can be found by selecting the "Commercial Fishing Digest (PDF)" link at [wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial](https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial) (locate the "Herring" section in the Table of Contents).

## **Drift Gill Net Shark and Swordfish Permit Revocation**

Fish and Game Code section 8561 requires that, on January 31, 2024, CDFW revoke all Commercial Drift Gill Net Shark and Swordfish Permits.

Therefore, effective January 31, 2024, all Commercial Drift Gill Net Shark and Swordfish Permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 8561 are revoked. The impact of this revocation is to render all current Commercial Drift Gill Net Shark and Swordfish Permits inactive. Using drift gill nets as a method of take in all areas of state waters, including the area that is 1-3 nm from the shoreline around the Channel Islands, is a violation of the Fish and Game Code and regulations promulgated therefrom. The Department will also not renew or reissue state Drift Gill Net Permits after January 31, 2024.