



2020-2021 COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE RENEWAL UPDATE

All State offices will be closed **February 17, March 31, and May 25** in observance of President's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, and Memorial Day, respectively.

2020 Commercial Fishing License Information

Your current Commercial Fishing Licenses, Vessel Permits, and other entitlements expire March 31, 2020. Your 2020-2021 Commercial Fishing License Renewal Worksheets and Commercial Boat Registration Renewal Worksheets were mailed separately, and both included renewal instructions and Credit Card Authorization Forms. Commercial fishing license(s) and/or permit(s) can be renewed online, at select license agents, at Department of Fish and Wildlife License Sales Offices, or by mailing the appropriate forms to the address at the bottom of this page.

Proof of Vessel Ownership

Proof of vessel ownership (i.e. United States Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation or State Vessel Registration) must be current and on file with the Department before renewing your vessel registration. You may submit proof of vessel ownership to the Department in person at a License Sales Office, using the mailing address at the bottom of this page, or via email to LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov. Please allow 15 business days for mail submittal and two business days for email submittal for Department staff to update your customer record. **License agents cannot accept proof of vessel ownership.**

Renewing Online

Log in to your customer account via the Department's Online License Sales and Service website: <https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>. For step-by-step online renewal instructions visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial (see the "Fees and Descriptions" section of the web page). **If renewing your boat registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership" section above.**

Renewing at Select License Agent Locations

Only select license agent locations can renew existing or sell new commercial fishing licenses. View the list at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial (see the "Fees and Descriptions" section of the web page).

Renewing at a license agent requires your 2020-2021 Commercial Fishing License and/or Commercial Boat Registration Worksheet(s), or your previously issued

Commercial Fishing License. **If renewing your vessel registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership" section on this page.**

Renewing at Department License Sales Offices

For License Sales Office locations and hours visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/LRB. Due to staff shortages, Department License Sales Offices may close intermittently throughout the year. Customers should call in advance before visiting an office. **If renewing your boat registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership" section.**

Renewal by Mail

Review the preprinted information on your Commercial Fishing License and/or Commercial Boat Registration Worksheet(s). Line through incorrect information and legibly print corrections. **If renewing your boat registration, read the "Proof of Vessel Ownership" section on this page.**

Mail your worksheet(s), proof of vessel ownership (if applicable), and a check, money order, or completed Credit Card Authorization Form (included on page 2 of your renewal instructions) to the address at the bottom of this page. Please allow 15 business days for your renewal(s) to be processed.

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 the Department's Online License Sales and Service web page:

<https://www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales/>.

Deadline to Renew Limited Entry Permits

The deadline to renew your Limited Entry and Restricted Access Permits for the 2020-2021 permit year without incurring late fees is April 30, 2020. Renewal applications received after March 31, 2021, will be denied. Once denied, a written appeal may be submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission within 60 days of the date of the Department's denial.



Change of Vessel Ownership or Transfer of Limited Entry and Restricted Access Permits

Change of vessel ownership or transfer of a Limited Entry or Restricted Access Permit to another vessel or owner requires prior approval from the Department's License and Revenue Branch.

The following permits cannot be transferred to another person when there is a change of vessel ownership:

- Nontransferable Dungeness Crab Vessel
- Nontransferable Market Squid Vessel
- Nontransferable Squid Light Boat
- Nontransferable Northern Pink Shrimp Trawl Vessel
- Spot Prawn Trap Vessel (Tier 2 and Tier 3)

Baseline Length Overall - Dungeness Crab Vessel Permits

No later than March 31, 2020, a holder of Dungeness Crab Vessel Permit may submit a marine vessel survey to the Department to show a greater current vessel length overall than originally documented on the permit. The marine survey must show the length overall, determined by measuring the horizontal distance between the forward-most and after-most points of the hull of a vessel. The length overall of a vessel does not include attachments fixed to the stern and bow (Fish and Game Code Section 8280.3).

Commercial Dungeness Crab Gear Retrieval Program

The Department adopted regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 132.7) to mandate the implementation of the retrieval program for lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab trap gear. Any gear left in the water after the close of the season is subject to retrieval under this program. The Department encourages Dungeness crab vessel permit holders who are contacted by authorized entities to work cooperatively and arrange for the return of their gear. Dungeness crab vessel permit holders are liable to pay a Retriever Trap Fee to the designated retriever for the return of their lost gear. Failure to comply with the regulations will result in additional fees and potential permit restrictions. For more information, contact WhaleSafeFisheries@wildlife.ca.gov or visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries.

Sea Urchin Diving Permit Drawing

Applications for new Sea Urchin Diving Permits are made available each year at Department License Sales Offices, the Department's Online License Sales and Service web page, and at license agents authorized to renew existing and sell new commercial fishing licenses.

Applicants must possess a valid Commercial Fishing License and a valid Sea Urchin Crewmember Permit for the two permit years immediately preceding the permit year in which the draw is performed. Applicants are required to apply by March 31 of each year and pay a nonrefundable processing fee.

Transfer of Southern Rock Crab Trap Permits

Beginning April 1, 2020, applications will be accepted for the five Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit (SRCTP) transfers allowed for the 2020-2021 permit year. To apply, the following must be submitted:

1. A notarized letter from the permit holder requesting to transfer the SRCTP, along with the original 2020-2021 SRCTP.
2. Copy of the proposed permittee's 2020-2021 Commercial Fishing License and General Trap Permit.
3. Nonrefundable transfer fee of \$1,000.00.

Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted to: CDFW License and Revenue Branch, 1740 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834.

Pacific Herring Fishery

The California Fish and Game Commission recently adopted regulations to support the implementation of the California Pacific Herring Fishery Management Plan (Herring FMP). Highlights of the changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The 2020-2021 Commercial Herring season will be the first season managed under the new Herring FMP for all commercial Herring management areas in the state (San Francisco Bay, Tomales Bay, Humboldt Bay, and Crescent City Harbor).
- The Herring FMP overhauls the permit system for gillnet and Herring Eggs on Kelp (HEOK), with new, simplified classes of permits. Prior permits will auto-convert on April 1, 2020, following the



2019-2020 Commercial Herring season.

- The new Herring FMP establishes that the Department's Director will set annual gillnet and HEOK quotas according to the management strategy outlined in Chapter 7 of the Herring FMP. This strategy includes a Harvest Control Rule for setting gillnet quotas in San Francisco Bay based on Department-estimated Spawning Stock Biomass.
- A Herring Buyer's Permit will be required to purchase landings of commercially harvested HEOK, in addition to sac-roe herring from the gillnet sector.

More information regarding the new Herring regulations can be found by visiting www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Commercial.

Commercial Fisheries Landing

For questions regarding Department electronic fish tickets (E-Tix) or dock tickets, please contact the Marine Fisheries Statistical Unit at (562) 342-7130 or email ElectronicFishTicket@wildlife.ca.gov. Additional resources can be found at

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Commercial/Landing-Resources.