



COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE UPDATE



January 2018

All State offices will be closed on **February 19, 2018**, in observance of Presidents' Day, and **May 28, 2018**, in observance of Memorial Day

2018-2019 Commercial Fishing License Information

2017-2018 Commercial Fishing Licenses, Vessel Permits, and other entitlements expire March 31, 2018. Your 2018-2019 Commercial Fishing Licenses and Vessel Registration renewal information was mailed in separate envelopes. Commercial fishing items can be purchased online, at the Department of Fish and Wildlife License Sales Office, select license agents, or by mailing forms to the address below.

Resumption of Non-Resident Fees

Effective February 1, 2018, the Department will resume charging differential non-resident fees for commercial fishing licenses, commercial vessel registrations, Dungeness crab vessel permits, and herring gill net permits. In November 2013, the Department discontinued charging these differential non-resident fees following a judgment in a lawsuit brought against the State (*Marilley, et al. v. Bonham*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 149198). The State appealed this decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and ultimately prevailed following a hearing in June 2016. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review the case in October 2017; as a result, the Department now must resume charging the differential fees under California law. In doing so, CDFW has brought the fees current by applying the Implicit Price Deflator as required by Fish and Game Code section 713.

No Cash Accepted at Department Offices

Starting January 1, 2017, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will no longer accept cash at the License and Revenue Branch and regional license counters. Checks, money orders, or any debit or credit card with the Visa or MasterCard logo are accepted.

Napa Sales Office Address Change

The Napa Sales office will be moving to 2825 Cordelia Rd, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534. Please call (707) 944-5500 before mailing your renewal or going to the office.

Purchasing Online or at Select License Agents

Purchasing Commercial fishing items online or at select license agents require:

- ✓ All vessel documentation (i.e., United States Coast Guard or State Registration) to be up to date and on file with the Department. You may email a scanned copy to LRBCOMM@wildlife.ca.gov and allow 24-48 hours to update. License agents cannot update or accept vessel documentation.
- ✓ Item fees include a 5% nonrefundable license agent handling fee.
- ✓ Purchasing online requires a Visa or MasterCard.

Renewing Your Commercial License Online

For detailed instructions see "Steps to Renew Your License Online" at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial.

Renewing Your Commercial License at License Agents

To renew Commercial Fishing License(s) at select license agents, you need to bring one of the following with you:

- Your 2018-2019 Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Boat Registration Worksheets; or

- Your previously issued Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Boat Registration.

To find a license agent with commercial fishing sales in your area visit: wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial

NEW IMPORTANT PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SEA URCHIN DIVING PERMIT DRAWING

New Proposed Formula For Determining Number Of New Sea Urchin Diving Permits Available: Proposed regulation, pending approval from Office of Administrative Law (OAL) states, Section 120.7, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations would provide for the issuance of new Sea Urchin Diving Permits if the number of diving permits issued to prior permittees is less than 150. The number of new sea urchin diving permits to be issued shall only be the difference between the number of diving permits issued to prior permittees in the immediately preceding permit year (ending March 31) and 150. If the number of diving permits issued to prior permittees is greater than 150, only one new sea urchin diving permit shall be available for every 11 permits that are retired pursuant to Fish and Game Code subsection 7852.2(c). A drawing shall be held annually for any new sea urchin diving permits that become available for issuance.

New Proposed Information On How To Enter The Drawing:

Applications for new sea urchin diving permits shall be made available each year through the Department's License and Revenue Branch's Automated License Data System (Department), at Department license sales offices, the Department's Internet Sales site, and at Department's license agents authorized to sell commercial fishing licenses. Applicants shall possess a valid Commercial Fishing License and a valid Sea Urchin Crewmember Permit for each of the two permit years immediately preceding the permit year when drawing is done.

Important New Proposed Deadline To Apply: Applicants shall apply by March 31 of each year. Applicants will also be required to pay the nonrefundable processing fee to be determined with approval from OAL.

Transfer of Southern Rock Crab Trap Permits

Beginning April 2, 2018, applications will be accepted for the five Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit (SRCTP) transfers allowed for the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 SRCTP.
2. Copy of the proposed permittee's 2018-2019 Commercial Fishing License and General Trap Permit.
3. Nonrefundable transfer fee of \$1,000.00.

Applications and all documents must be submitted to the Department's License and Revenue Branch, 1740 N. Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95834.



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LIMITED ENTRY AND RESTRICTED ACCESS COMMERCIAL FISHING RENEWAL DEADLINES

Permit	Deadline for Receipt or Postmark of Application Without Penalty	Late Fee Assessed	Late Fee
California Halibut Bottom Trawl Vessel Deeper Nearshore Fishery Drift Gill Net Dungeness Crab Vessel General Gill/Trammel Net Lobster Operator Market Squid Vessel Market Squid Brail Market Squid Light Boat Nearshore Fishery Nearshore Fishery Trap Endorsement Nearshore Fishery Bycatch Northern Pink Shrimp Trawl Salmon Vessel Sea Cucumber (Dive or Trawl) Sea Urchin Diving Spot Prawn Trap (Tier 1,2, & 3) Southern Rock Crab Trap	April 30, 2018	May 1,2018 to May 30, 2018 May 31,2018 to June 29, 2018 June 30, 2018 to March 31,2019*	\$152.25 \$303.50 \$607.75
Pacific Herring	October 5, 2018	October 6, 2018 to November 4, 2018 November 5, 2018 to December 4, 2018 December 5, 2018 to March 31, 2019*	\$152.25 \$303.50 \$607.75

* The Department shall deny renewal applications for the above permits (last renewed in the 2017-2018 licensing year) received or postmarked after March 31, 2019. Applicants applying after the March 31, 2019 deadline may appeal in writing to the Department's License and Revenue Branch. (FGC Section 7852.2(c)).

Deadline to Renew Limited Entry and Restricted Access Commercial Fishing Permits

The deadline to renew your 2016-2017 Limited Entry and Restricted Access permits for the 2017-2018 permit year is March 31, 2018. Applications for renewal of permits must be received at a Department License Sales Office or postmarked on or before March 31, 2018. **Commercial Fishing Permits last renewed in 2016-2017 cannot be renewed online or at license agents.** Applications for renewal after the March 31, 2018 deadline may appeal in writing to the Department's License and Revenue Branch.

Reporting Sold, Lost, or Destroyed Vessels

Vessel owners must immediately notify the Department when a commercial fishing vessel is lost, destroyed, or changes ownership. (FGC, Section 7881)

A report filed with the United States Coast Guard or other law enforcement agency investigating the loss of a commercial fishing vessel must be submitted to the Department's License and Revenue Branch. Commercial Fishing Vessel, Sold, Lost, or Destroyed form is posted at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial

Renewing Salmon Vessel Permits

To renew a Salmon Vessel Permit, vessel owners or their agents are required to purchase a 2018-2019 Commercial Fishing License and a Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp, even if the salmon vessel owner does not intend to commercially fish for any species during the 2018-2019 license year. In addition, a 2018-2019 Commercial Boat Registration must be purchased for the qualified vessel.

Only vessel owners 70 years of age or older as of April 1, 2018, are exempt from obtaining a Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp. A salmon vessel owner, who designates an agent 70 years of age or older, must still purchase a Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Fishing Salmon Stamp before a Salmon Vessel Permit can be renewed, unless the salmon vessel owner is also 70 years of age or older.

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

Change of ownership or transfer of a Limited Entry or Restricted Access Permit to another boat 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)

For more information, call (916) 928-5822 or go to: wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial