



COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE UPDATE



January 2017

All State offices will be closed on **February 20, 2017**, in observance of Presidents' Day, and **March 31, 2017**, in observance of Cesar Chavez Day

2017-2018 Commercial Fishing License Information

2016-2017 Commercial Fishing Licenses, Vessel Permits, and other entitlements expire March 31, 2017. Your 2017-2018 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.

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.

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.

To Renew Your Commercial License Online

Go to: wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales

1. Login to your customer profile with your Date of Birth, Last Name, and GO ID (on *your renewal forms or previously issued commercial items*) or State ID.
2. Select your individual commercial fishing licenses and permits.
3. Add your vessel's profile to the transaction by selecting "Add Customer" and search for Customer Type "Vessel".
4. Enter your vessel's *GO ID and FG # (on your renewal forms or previously issued commercial items)*. Once retrieved, select your vessel permits.

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 2017-2018 Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Boat Registration Worksheets; or
- Your previously issued Commercial Fishing License and Commercial Boat Registration.

Note: License agents cannot retrieve vessel information without a vessel renewal form or previously issued license.

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

New Fishermen or Boat Registration

First time applicants for a Commercial Fishing License or owners registering a boat with the Department for the first time, must fill out a Commercial Fishing License or Commercial Boat Registration worksheet. Submit the worksheet, with the required documentation, by mail or in person at a Department License Sales Office. Worksheets are posted at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial

California Lobster Trap Limit and Trap Tag Program

As part of the California Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan regulations adopted by the Fish and Game Commission last June, the Department will implement a lobster trap limit and trap tag program for the commercial lobster fishery. Beginning with the 2017-2018 commercial lobster fishing season, Lobster Operator Permit (LOP) holders will be issued 300 trap tags prior to each season for each permit they hold. Every deployed lobster trap and traps possessed by a LOP holder aboard a vessel must have a valid Department-issued trap tag attached. Commercial fishermen will be allowed to hold up to two LOPs allowing them to fish up to 600 traps. In addition, the annual LOP renewal fee includes the cost for the 300 trap tags. More information on the trap limit and other new commercial lobster regulations will be mailed to each LOP holder in advance of the season and will also be available in the Commercial Fishing Digest.

wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial

Transfer of Southern Rock Crab Trap Permits

Beginning April 1, 2017, applications will be accepted for the five Southern Rock Crab Trap Permit (SRCTP) transfers allowed for the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 SRCTP.
2. Copy of the proposed permittee's 2017-2018 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.

Deadline to Renew 2016-2017 Limited Entry and Restricted Access Commercial Fishing Permits

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

2017-2018 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, 2017	May 1,2017 to May 30, 2017 May 31,2017 to June 29, 2017 June 30, 2017 to March 31,2018*	\$148.00 \$295.00 \$590.50
Pacific Herring	October 6, 2017	October 7, 2017 to November 5, 2017 November 6, 2017 to December 5, 2017 December 6, 2017 to March 31,2018*	\$148.00 \$295.00 \$590.50

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

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. Change of ownership or vessel loss form is posted at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial.

Renewing Salmon Vessel Permits

Vessel owners or their agents less than 70 years of age as of April 1, 2017, are required to purchase a 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 license year. In addition, a 2017-2018 Commercial Boat Registration and Salmon Vessel Permit must be purchased for the qualified vessel.

Only vessel owners 70 years of age or older as of April 1, 2017, 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 for the owner or the agent before a Salmon Vessel Permit can be issued unless the vessel owner is also 70 years of age or older as of April 1, 2017.

Change of Vessel Ownership or Transfer of Restricted Access Permits

Change of ownership or transfer of a Restricted Access Permit to another boat or owner, requires prior approval from the Department's License and Revenue Branch. There may be conditions that need to be met and an applicable fee, before the change of ownership or transfer becomes effective.

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

Web Index

CDFW: wildlife.ca.gov

CDFW MARINE REGION: wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/Marine

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION: fgc.ca.gov

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL: pcouncil.org

LOST FISHING GEAR: seadocsociety.org

FEDERAL GROUND FISH PERMITS:

westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE: nmfs.noaa.gov

COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS DIGEST:

wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/commercial