



License Agent News

LICENSE AND REVENUE BRANCH

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VISIT OUR AGENT WEBSITE
✓ **Materials, Forms, Manuals**
✓ **Newsletters**
✓ **FAQs**

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Agents



365-Day Sport Fishing Licenses

All sport fishing licenses are now valid 365 days from the date of purchase (except for short-term sport fishing licenses). 2024 365-Day sport fishing license fees will start January 1, 2024.

2024 Free Fishing Days – July 6 and August 31

CDFW offers two Free Fishing Days a year when anglers can fish without purchasing a license. All fishing regulations remain in effect, such as bag and size limits, gear restrictions, fishing hours, and stream closures. Also, every angler (**youth and adult**) must have the appropriate report card in possession.

Emergency White Sturgeon Regulation Changes

Under the recently adopted regulations, White Sturgeon fishing will still be allowed with a valid sturgeon report card with the following restrictions:

- Existing closures (as outlined in CCR 14 §§ 5.80 and 27.95).
- White Sturgeon fishing will be closed seasonally upstream of the Hwy 50 bridge on Sacramento River and I-5 bridge on the San Joaquin River from January 1 through May 31, 2024. Catch and release will be allowed in this area from June 1 through December 31, 2024.
- Annual harvest limit will be reduced to one White Sturgeon. **For customers with an existing 2023 Sturgeon Report Card, only one sturgeon harvest tag will be valid. Any remaining tags beyond the first tag will be invalid once the new regulations take effect.**
- Catch and release fishing is authorized after take of one sturgeon in areas where fishing is open.
- Legal take requirements will change from the current 40-60 inch slot to 42-48 inch slot.
- Each vessel will be limited to the take of two sturgeon regardless of how many anglers aboard the vessel possess sturgeon report cards/tags.

Canceled Documents * Incorrectly Sold Items *

License Agents have **four hours** after a transaction to cancel incorrectly sold items that could not be reprinted. Follow these tips to prevent issuance and violation errors:

- ✓ Never cancel a document or a reprint of a document that was given to the customer.
- ✓ Never cancel non-reporting fees without also canceling the corresponding report card or tag.
- ✓ After canceling, mark the canceled document with a “C” and the “Return By” date that appears on the screen.
- ✓ Always cancel documents right away. Do not wait to cancel a document if a customer cannot pay, the wrong item was sold, or an item cannot be reprinted.

To prevent charges on your account, return canceled documents with the Document Return Form to CDFW within 30 days. Canceled documents not returned are billed to your account. Return canceled documents to:

- **Mailing Address (USPS):** PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
- **Shipping Address (FedEx, UPS, etc.):** 715 P ST, 16th FL, Sacramento, CA 95814

License Sales Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can a customer buy a license as a gift or for another person?

A: Yes, licenses may be purchased in advance and are often purchased as holiday gifts. Gifts can be in the form of a **sport fishing license** if the customer can provide enough information to retrieve or create the recipient's customer record **or for California residents a gift voucher. There is no gift voucher for nonresidents.**

Q: What is a Second Rod Validation?

A: A second-rod validation allows the fisherman to fish with two poles in any inland waters; except, where barbless hooks are required. **This validation does not authorize another person to use the second pole. Only the licensee may use the second pole.**

Q: When is an Ocean Enhancement Validation required?

A: The Ocean Enhancement Validation is **only** required for anglers fishing in ocean waters **south of Point Arguello (Santa Barbara County). The one-day and two-day sport fishing licenses are exempt from this requirement.**

Q: When is a Recreational Crab Trap Validation required?

A: The Recreational Crab Trap Validation is required for any individual who fishes for crabs using crab traps as defined pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, subsection 29.80(c), **even when a valid sport fishing license is not required. The Recreational Crab Trap Validation is not required for anglers using hoop nets or crab loop traps.** The Recreational Crab Trap Flyer is available to download on the CDFW Agent website.

Q: Do youth customers (Under 18) need a customer record?

A: Yes. Customers under 18 years of age must have their own CDFW Get Outdoors (GO ID) customer record created. If a youth does not have their own form of identification, then a Guardian ID (parent or guardian's ID number) may be used. When adding a Guardian ID to a youth customer record, select the corresponding **Guardian ID** identity type from the dropdown menu (Example: Guardian State ID). **If the youth customer is engaging in the activity, the license and/or report cards must be sold under the youth's customer record.**

Q: When are Report Cards required?

A: A report card is only required if the angler is targeting a specific species that requires a report card (e.g., Sturgeon, Steelhead, North Coast Salmon Report Card). If a customer has a question regarding regulations, they may contact the CDFW directly or refer to the sport fishing regulations found at wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.

Harvest Reporting & Non-Reporting Fees

Customers that obtain report cards and/or tags are required to report harvest data to CDFW each year by established reporting deadlines. Customers that fail to report deer tags or spiny lobster report cards **must pay a non-reporting fee** to purchase the next year's report card/tag. Please remember the following to prevent issuance errors and violations:

- ❖ **License Agents are not authorized** to collect or turn in harvest reports for customers.
- ❖ **License Agents cannot waive non-reporting fees.** If a customer does not want to pay the fee, they cannot purchase the associated report card or tag.
- ❖ **License Agents should not cancel** any non-reporting fees **without also** canceling and returning the associated report card or tag to the CDFW.

License Payment Collections

To avoid unnecessary charges, agents should ensure that payment is collected and processed through your internal point of sale register system prior to issuing licenses to the customer.

Customer Contact Information

Prior to completing transactions, verify the customer's contact information (e.g., telephone number, addresses, email) and physical description are correct on their customer record. The updated contact information helps us to resolve licensing issues with the customer.

CDFW Item Fees – What Can You Charge?

License Agents are prohibited from charging more than authorized by statute for CDFW Items and cannot refuse to issue Free or Reduced Fee items. The total amount authorized to charge prints on each CDFW document and includes the 5% handling fee earned by License Agents.

CDFW items are not taxable. Overcharging customers is a violation that could result in account termination. To prevent overcharging, post our fee posters next to your CDFW sales terminals as a reminder to your staff and as a courtesy to your customers.

For assistance with your CDFW sales equipment, contact our **Agent Technical Support (4 AM – 12 AM) at (800) 964-7812.**

Important Account Information

License Agent Terminal & Support (LATS) Fees

In January 2024, the CDFW will review 2023 sales to determine if outlets met our annual minimum sales threshold of \$6,000 or more. Outlets not meeting the threshold are subject to a \$15 weekly LATS fee for 2024 (License Agent Contract, Section 4).