

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 200, 202, 205, 215, 220, and 240 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 215, 220, 240 and 8585.5 of said Code, proposes to Amend Sections 1.53 and 27.00; and subsection (a) of Section 28.65, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to definitions for tidal waters and finfish gear restrictions in San Francisco and San Pablo bays.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current laws provide for definitions of inland waters for the San Francisco Bay and San Pablo bays, as well as the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District. Current laws also define restrictions for the use of hooks and lines in certain waters. There are three sections dealing with the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District which describe regulations in different manners causing confusion for anglers and making enforcement of the regulations more difficult.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

The Commission proposes to amend Title 14 sections 1.53, 27.00, and 28.65 (a) to clarify the meaning of “inland waters” and the “Ocean and San Francisco Bay District” in order to facilitate compliance and enforcement of the gear restrictions and seasons that apply in those waters. In Section 27.00, the proposed changes would include addition of physical landmarks on the Napa River, Sonoma Creek, and the Petaluma River to delineate between “inland waters” and “San Francisco Bay” on those waterways. For Section 28.65 (a), there would be an added reference to the San Francisco Bay definition under Section 27.00. These changes will provide greater consistency among the sections, reduce the potential for confusion, and improve clarity.

By reverting back to language similar to pre-December 2015, for sections 1.53 and 27.00, adding boundaries for specific waterways to Section 27.00, adding a needed clarification to Section 28.65 (a), and making other minor language corrections to all sections, the proposed amendments effectively alleviate the concerns outlined in the original regulation change proposal while avoiding the unintended enforcement challenges from the current regulation.

Benefits of the Regulations

The proposed regulations clarify the boundaries between inland waters and the waters of San Francisco Bay, making it easier for anglers to understand which regulations apply to the waters being fished. The proposed amendments will also make it easier for wildlife officers to enforce angling regulations in and adjacent to San Francisco Bay.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to adopt sport fishing regulations (Fish and Game Code, sections 200, 202 and 205). The Commission has conducted a search of Title 14, CCR and determined that the proposed regulations are consistent with general sport fishing regulations in Chapters 1 and 4 of Subdivision 1 of Division 1, Title 14, CCR.

Consistency with State and Federal Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State and Federal regulations. The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to adopt sport fishing regulations (Fish and Game Code, sections 200, 202 and 205). The Commission has conducted a search of Title 14, CCR and determined that the proposed regulations are consistent with general sport fishing regulations in Chapters 1 and 4 of Subdivision 1 of Division 1, Title 14, CCR.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at Bakersfield Elks Lodge #266, 1616 30th St., Bakersfield, CA 93301, on Thursday, June 23, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the Lake Natoma Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, CA 95405, California, on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. Written comments may be submitted at the address given below or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on August 11, 2016. All comments must be received no later than August 25, 2016, at the hearing location listed above. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in ~~strikeout~~underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Mike Yaun, Acting Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Mike Yaun or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Captain Patrick Foy, Law Enforcement Division, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 651-6692, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, the regulatory language, the notice and other rulemaking documents may be obtained either from the address above or from our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

There are no businesses that are expected to be impacted by the proposed regulatory changes to clarify definition of boundaries of "Inland Waters" in relation to San Francisco and San Pablo bays.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The Commission does not anticipate any significant impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California because the proposed definition changes will not affect angling effort.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California

residents. Participation in sport fishing opportunities fosters conservation through education and appreciation of California's wildlife.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety because the proposed changes do not address worker safety.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's sport fishing resources.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulation is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: May 10, 2016

Mike Yaun
Acting Executive Director