27. KLAMATH RIVER SALMON

Today's Item **Information** ☐ **Action** ☒

Authorize publication of notice of intent to change Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations to conform with federal regualtions.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- WRC vetting — Sep 21, 2016; WRC Sacramento
- **Today's Notice hearing** — **Dec 7-8, 2016; San Diego**
- Discussion hearing — Feb 8-9, 2017; Santa Rosa
- Adoption hearing — Apr 13, 2017; Teleconference

Background

FGC annually adopts Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations to conform State regulations with federal fishing regulations. Specific bag and possession limits for Klamath River Basin adult fall-run Chinook Salmon are scheduled for adoption after the Pacific Fishery Management Council has reviewed the status of West Coast salmon stocks and final fishery allocation recommendations have been adopted. Two tribal entities within the Klamath River System (Hoopa Valley Tribe and Yurok Tribe) maintain in-river fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fishing purposes that are accounted for in allocations and managed consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Subsection 7.50(b)(91.1) is proposed for amendment to:

1. *Change quota, bag limit and possession limit.*
   For notice purposes, DFW recommends an allocation range of 0-67,600 adult Klamath River Basin Fall Chinook Salmon (KRFC) over 22"; a bag limit range between 0-4 fish over 22" until the sub-quota is met, then 0 fish over 22"; and a possession limit between 0-12 fish over 22" when the take of salmon is allowed.
2. *Clean up for clarity and consistency.*

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

FGC staff: Authorize publication of the notice as recommended by DFW.
Committee: The WRC recommended inclusion of the items identified.
DFW: Authorize publication of the notice.

Exhibits

1. DFW Memo, received Nov 2, 2016
2. ISOR
3. DFW presentation

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice to amend subsection 7.50(b)(91.1) re: Klamath River Basin sport fishing.

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Memorandum

Date: ~~October 6~~, Nov. 1, 2016

To: Valerie Termini
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the December 7-8, 2016 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Re: Request for Notice Authorization to Amend Subsection (b)(91.1) of Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations**

Please find attached the ISOR package for the 2017 Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations. As in the past, specific bag and possession limits for Klamath River Basin adult fall-run Chinook Salmon will be adopted after federal (Pacific Fisheries Management Council) review of west coast salmon stocks and fishery allocations have been proposed.

A Notice of Exemption (NOE) is also attached. Since the NOE is not anticipated to change, this early submission gives the Commission notice of the Department's recommendation to rely on a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) categorical exemption for the Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations. The following paragraphs describe staff's analysis of use of a categorical exemption under the CEQA.

Categorical Exemptions to Protect Natural Resources and the Environment

The Commission adoption of these regulations is an action subject to CEQA. The review effort by Department staff pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061 lead staff to conclude that adoption of the regulations would properly fall within the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions (CEQA Guidelines sections 15307, 15308). These two exemptions are related to agency actions to protect natural resources and the environment. The proposed regulations define annual fishing seasons; daily bag and size limits; and specify methods of take for alignment with enacted federal regulations. State conformance with federal regulations is necessary to avoid federal preemption under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (16 USC §1856 (b)(1)). In staff's view, because these regulations are intended to protect the sustainability of the fishery as a natural resource, the Commission's adoption of regulations is an activity that is the proper subject of CEQA's Class 7 and 8 categorical exemptions.

No Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions Apply

As to the exceptions to categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, including the prospect of unusual circumstances and related effects, the Department's review was guided by the California Supreme Court's recent decision in *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v. City of Berkeley*. Staff has reviewed all of the available information possessed by the Department relevant to the issue and does not believe adoption of the regulations poses any unusual circumstances that would constitute an exception to the categorical exemptions set forth above. Compared to the activities that fall within Class 7 and Class 8 generally, which include the given example of wildlife preservation activities such as the current effort; there is nothing unusual about the proposed regulations.

In addition, even if there were unusual circumstances, no potentially significant effects on either a project-specific or cumulative bases are expected. The intent of the proposed regulations is conformance of State regulations with federal regulations to avoid federal preemption under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (16 USC §1856 (b)(1)). The regulations are anticipated to achieve optimum yield in the fishery, but also to prevent overfishing and thereby take into consideration the potential for negative impacts on the fishery.

Therefore, staff does not believe that the Commission's reliance on the Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions is precluded by the exceptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kevin Shaffer, Acting Chief, Fisheries Branch, by telephone at (916) 327-8841 or by e-mail at Kevin.Shaffer@wildlife.ca.gov. The public notice should identify Senior Environmental Scientist, Wade Sinnen, as the Department's point of contact for this rulemaking. Mr. Sinnen can be reached by telephone at (707) 822-5119 or by e-mail at Wade.Sinnen@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Subsection (b)(91.1) of Section 7.50
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: September 7, 2016

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: December 8, 2016
Location: San Diego

(b) Discussion Hearing: Date: February 8, 2017
Location: Santa Rosa

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 13, 2017
Location: Teleconference

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, is managed through a cooperative system of State, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport and tribal fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

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The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Two tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin, the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe, maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations for the river are promulgated by the Hoopa and Yurok tribes.

For the purpose of PFMC mixed-stock fishery modeling and salmon stock assessment, salmon greater than 22 inches are defined as adult salmon (ages 3-5) and salmon less than or equal to 22 inches are defined as grilse salmon (age 2).

Klamath River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon

Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals are established by the PFMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

The 2017 KRFC in-river sport fishery allocation recommended by the PFMC is currently unknown. All proposed closures for adult KRFC are designed to ensure sufficient spawning escapement in the Klamath River Basin and equitably distribute harvest while operating within annual allocations.

Klamath River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

The Klamath River Basin also supports Klamath River spring-run Chinook Salmon (KRSC). Naturally produced KRSC are both temporally and spatially separated from KRFC in most cases.

Presently, KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by the PFMC. The in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. KRSC harvest will be monitored on the lower Klamath River in 2017 and ensuing years by creel survey.

KRFC Allocation Management

The PFMC 2016 allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest was 1,110 adult KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2017 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from the PFMC until March 2017. The

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2017 basin allocation will be recommended by the PFMC in April 2017 and presented to the Commission for adoption prior to its April 2017 meeting.

For public notice requirements, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends the Commission consider an allocation range of 0 – 67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows the PFMC and Commission to make adjustments during the 2017 regulatory cycle.

The Commission may modify the KRFC in-river sport salmon harvest allocation which is normally 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

The annual KRFC in-river harvest allocation is split into four geographic areas with subquotas assigned to each. They are as follows:

1. for the main stem Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
2. for the main stem Klamath River from downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth -- 50 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
3. for the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation; and
4. for the Trinity River downstream from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation.

The spit area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) closes to all fishing after 15 percent of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort and ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the upper Klamath River and Trinity River. The subquota system requires the Department to monitor angler harvest of adult KRFC in each geographic

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area. All areas will be monitored on a real time basis except for the following:

Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and the Trinity River: Due to funding and personnel reductions, the Department will be unable to deploy adequate personnel to conduct harvest monitoring in the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and in the Trinity River for the 2017 season. The Department has reviewed salmon harvest and run-timing data for these areas. Based on this review, the Department has developed a Harvest Predictor Model (HPM) which incorporates historic creel survey data from the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean and the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River. The HPM is driven by the positive relationship between KRFC harvested in the lower and upper Klamath River and the Trinity River. The HPM will be used by the Department to implement fishing closures to ensure that anglers do not exceed established subquota targets.

Current Sport Fishery Management

The KRFC in-river sport harvest allocation is divided into geographic areas and harvest is monitored under real time subquota management. KRSC in-river sport harvest is managed by general season, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations.

The Department presently differentiates the two stocks by the following dates:

Klamath River

1. January 1 through August 14 - General Season KRSC.
   For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.

2. August 15 to December 31 - KRFC quota management.

Trinity River

1. January 1 through August 31 – General Season KRSC.
   For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.

2. September 1 through December 31 – KRFC quota management.

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The daily bag and possession limits apply to both stocks within the same sub-area and time period.

Proposed Changes

No changes are proposed for the general (KRSC) opening and closing season dates, and bag, possession and size limits.

No changes are proposed for the Klamath River spit area.

No changes are proposed for the Blue Creek area.

The following changes to current regulations are proposed:

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KRFC QUOTA MANAGEMENT: Seasons, Bag and Possession Limits

For public notice requirements, a range of KRFC bag and possession limits are proposed until the 2017 Klamath River Basin quota is adopted. As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC salmon is proposed for the following areas, once the subquota has been met.

The proposed open seasons and range of bag and possession limits for KRFC salmon stocks are as follows:

1. Klamath River - August 15 to December 31
2. Trinity River - September 1 to December 31
3. Bag Limit - [0-4] Chinook Salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length.
4. Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which [0–12] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 22 inches total length is allowed.

Necessity: The recommended ranges allow the Commission to make the final adjustments for alignment with the federal 2017 regulatory process. The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

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Other changes are proposed for clarity and consistency. The capitalization of common species names is being done for consistency with American Fisheries Society standards. Since the proposed regulations apply to all anadromous waters within the Klamath River Basin located in California, the term “Lower” in reference to the Klamath River

Basin is proposed to be deleted from the regulations. The Upper Klamath River Basin contains no anadromous waters and is located in Oregon.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

It is the objective of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the objective of this State to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this practice include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are conformance with federal law, sustainable management of Klamath River Basin fish resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 205, 215, 220, 240, 315 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 215 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

In-River Sport Fishing Economics Technical Report, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, September 2011.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

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No public meetings are being held prior to the notice publication. The 45-day comment period provides adequate time for review of the proposed amendments.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

The use of more liberal regulations for bag limits, possession limits and fishing methods. For KRFC salmon, more liberal regulations would be less desirable than those proposed because they could create risk of an intense fishery reaching or exceeding the quota in a very short time. Reaching the quota in a very short time could be damaging to the local economy. Exceeding the allowable harvest could be damaging to the KRFC salmon stocks.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The No Change Alternative would leave the current 2016 daily bag and possession limit regulations in place and would not conform to the PFMC Klamath River Basin quota for 2017. The change is necessary to continue appropriate harvest rates and an equitable distribution of the harvestable surplus.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered 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 preferred practice of conformance to the PFMC Klamath River Basin quota for 2017.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

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:

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(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. The proposed regulations are projected to have minor impact on the net revenues to local businesses servicing sport fishermen. If the 2017 KRFC quota is reduced, visitor spending may correspondingly be reduced and in the absence of the emergence of alternative visitor activities, the drop in spending could induce business contraction. However, this will not likely affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The preservation of Klamath River salmon stocks is necessary for the success of lower Klamath River Basin businesses which provide goods and services related to fishing. The proposed changes are necessary for the continued preservation of the resource and therefore the prevention of adverse economic impacts.

(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 proposed regulations range from no fishing of KRFC adult salmon to a Klamath River Basin salmon season similar to 2016. The Commission anticipates some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in California. The potential employment impacts range from 0 to 45 jobs which are not expected to create, eliminate or expand businesses in California. The Commission anticipates impacts on the creation, elimination or expansion of businesses in California ranging from no impact to reduced revenues to approximately 30 businesses that serve sport fishing activities. However, the possibility of growth of businesses to serve substitute activities exists. Adverse impacts to jobs and/or businesses would be less if fishing of steelhead and grilse KRFC salmon is permitted than under a complete closure to all fishing. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently promoting the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

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The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a salmon sport fishery encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of a nutritious food.

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

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety because the proposed action does not affect working conditions.

(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.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment:

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

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The regulatory amendments of subsections of Section 7.50 under consideration will set the 2017 Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations to conform to the PFMC Fall-run Chinook Salmon allocation guidelines. The Klamath River Basin is anticipated to be open for sport salmon fishing at levels similar to the 2016 quotas; however the possibility of marine fishery area closures still exists. Ocean closures may in turn result in PFMC recommendations for Klamath River Basin sport salmon fishery closures for the take of adult salmon. Adverse or positive impacts to jobs and businesses will depend on the 2017 KRFC allocation ultimately adopted by the PFMC and the specific regulations promulgated by the Commission.

The proposed regulations present a range from 100 percent of last year's Klamath River Basin salmon season to 0 percent or no salmon fishing on adult Chinook Salmon (greater than 22 inches) in 2017. Under all scenarios sport fishing will be allowed for steelhead and grilse fall-run Chinook Salmon (2 year-old salmon 22 inches or less) regardless of PFMC regulations, thus any adverse impacts to businesses would be less severe than under a complete closure of fishing.

Based on a 2011 NMFS report on In-River Sport Fishing Economics of the Klamath River, under a normal season non-resident Klamath River Basin sport salmon and steelhead anglers contribute about $3,432,424 in direct expenditures, resulting in about $4,151,127 (2016$) in total economic output to California businesses. This revenue supports about 70 jobs in the State.

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Table 1. Klamath Salmon and Steelhead Total Economic Output

Klamath Sport Fishing	Salmon	Steelhead	Total
Total Output	$ 2,659,983	$ 1,448,993	$ 4,108,977
Labor Income	$ 1,230,739	$ 670,430	$ 1,901,168
Jobs	45.3	24.7	69.9

Three adult salmon catch projections evaluated here are as follows: 100 percent of the 2016 Klamath River Basin adult salmon catch limit; 50 percent of the 2016 basin adult salmon catch limit; and 0 percent of the 2016 basin adult salmon catch limit.

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State:

Projection 1. 100 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any adverse impacts on the creation or

elimination of jobs, as the quotas would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

An assumption of the NMFS report is that increases in expenditures by resident anglers associated with expanded fishing opportunities would be accommodated by reduced expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. For non-resident anglers, however, increases in local expenditures associated with increases in local fishing opportunities would be accomplished by diverting money that they would otherwise spend outside the local area. Thus the economic impact analysis focuses on non-resident angler expenditures, which represent 'new money' whose injection serves to stimulate the local economy.

The NMFS study excluded the Trinity River, the largest tributary to the Klamath. The Trinity River is allocated 33 percent of the Klamath River Basin fall-run Chinook Salmon total allocation. Using the Trinity allocation as a measure of salmon angler effort, and thus impacts on associated businesses that support anglers, the total non-resident angler contribution to the entire Klamath River Basin (including the Trinity River) is estimated to be $4,151,127 (2016$) in total economic output. This revenue, again using a 33 percent increase to account for the Trinity River, provides an estimated total of 70 jobs in the State (assuming that personnel costs also rise with inflation). This is a conservative estimate of total economic impact as it counts only non-resident angler expenditures. Non-resident salmon or steelhead angler average expenditures are estimated to be $108.52 (2016$) per angler day (for lodging, food, gasoline, fishing gear, boat fuel, and guide fees) based on a NMFS sponsored survey. Resident average expenditures per angler day are estimated to be 60 percent less (markedly reduced lodging, gasoline and food expenditures) which yields an estimate of $43.40 per angler day. Resident anglers comprise about 36 percent of Klamath River Basin anglers.

Projection 2. 50 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission anticipates some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs which is offset due the continued sport fishing allowed for steelhead and grilse fall-run Chinook salmon (2 year-old salmon 22 inches or less). A 50 percent salmon catch reduction will likely reduce visitor spending by slightly less than 50 percent, given price elasticities of demand for salmon fishing activity of less than one. As the "price" of fishing per unit catch increases the demand for fishing trips declines by a lesser extent, particularly in the short-run. While difficult to predict, job losses associated with a 50 percent reduction in the salmon catch limit are

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expected to be less than half of the estimated total jobs supported by salmon angler visits (i.e. fewer than 23 jobs).

Projection 3. 0 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: In the event of fisheries closures in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission anticipates less than 50 percent reduction in fishery-related jobs. As mentioned earlier, sport fishing for steelhead and grilse fall-run Chinook Salmon (2–year-old salmon less than 22 inches) will still be allowed, thus lessening any job losses. A closure on the take of adult Chinook Salmon was instituted in 2006 and only steelhead and grilse salmon could be legally harvested that year. The effect of the 2006 closure, as measured by angler days on the Klamath River, resulted in an approximate 50 percent drop in angler days, compared to the 2000-2005 average (12,000 angler days vs. 23,300 angler days). Job creation or elimination tends to lag in adjustment to changes in consumer demand. Thus, the potential impacts of a closure on the take of adult Chinook Salmon are estimated to result in the loss of less than 45 jobs due to the continued sport fishing allowed for steelhead and grilse fall-run Chinook Salmon (2 year-old salmon 22 inches or less).

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State:

Projection 1: 100 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses, as the quotas would not decrease effort nor curtail the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

Projection 2. 50 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission anticipates a decline in visits to the fishery areas of less than 50 percent due the continued sport fishing allowed for steelhead and grilse fall-run Chinook Salmon (2 year-old salmon 22 inches or less). This may result in some decline in business activity, but the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses directly related to fishing activities. However, with less effort being expended on salmon fishing, the possibility of substitute activities and the growth of businesses to serve those activities exists.

Projection 3. 0 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: In the event of salmon fisheries closures in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission anticipates a decline in regional spending and thus reduced revenues to the approximately 30 businesses that serve sport fishing activities with unknown impacts on the creation of new business or the

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elimination of existing businesses. However adverse impacts will be mitigated by the continued opportunity to harvest steelhead and grilse salmon. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State:

Projection 1. 100 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California as the quotas would not increase effort nor increase the number of visitors and thus probable visitor expenditures in the fisheries areas.

Projection 2. 50 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California. Decreases in expenditures by resident anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services – with no net change in local economic activity. For non-resident anglers, however, decreases in local expenditures associated with decreases in local fishing opportunities may result in increases in other expenditures outside the Klamath River Basin area.

Projection 3. 0 percent of the 2016 adult salmon catch limit: In the event of salmon fisheries closures in some or all Klamath River Basin areas, the Commission does not anticipate any expansion of businesses in California. Decreases in expenditures by anglers associated with reduced fishing opportunities may be partially offset by increased expenditures on other locally purchased goods and services as visitors fish for steelhead, grilse salmon, or substitute salmon fishing with other recreational pursuits.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents:

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a Klamath River Basin sport salmon and steelhead fisheries encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of a nutritious food. Salmon and steelhead sport fishing also contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Salmon and steelhead sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-

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generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of California's natural resources.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:
Under all projections, the Commission does not anticipate benefits to worker safety because the proposed regulations will not impact working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

Under all projections, the Commission anticipates benefits to the environment in the sustainable management of Klamath River Basin salmonid resources. It is the objective of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the objective of this State to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this approach include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based Klamath River Basin seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon and steelhead to ensure their continued existence.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation:

Concurrence with Federal Law: California's salmon sport fishing regulations need to conform to the new Federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California. The PFMC annually reviews the status of west coast salmon populations. As part of that process, it recommends west coast adult salmon fisheries regulations aimed at meeting biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan. These recommendations coordinate west coast management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California and California inland sport salmon fisheries. These recommendations are subsequently implemented as ocean fishing regulations by the NMFS and as sport salmon regulations for State marine and inland waters by the Commission.

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Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, is managed through a cooperative system of State, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport and tribal fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Two tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin, the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe, maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations for the river are promulgated by the Hoopa and Yurok tribes.

For the purpose of PFMC mixed-stock fishery modeling and salmon stock assessment, salmon greater than 22 inches are defined as adult salmon (ages 3-5) and salmon less than or equal to 22 inches are defined as grilse salmon (age 2).

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Klamath River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon

Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals are established by the PFMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

The 2017 KRFC in-river sport fishery allocation recommended by the PFMC is currently unknown. All proposed closures for adult KRFC are designed to ensure sufficient spawning escapement in the Klamath River Basin and equitably distribute harvest while operating within annual allocations.

Klamath River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

The Klamath River System also supports Klamath River spring-run Chinook Salmon (KRSC). Naturally produced KRSC are both temporally and spatially separated from KRFC in most cases.

Presently, KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by the PFMC. The in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. KRSC harvest will be monitored on the Lower Klamath River in 2017 and ensuing years by creel survey.

KRFC Allocation Management

The PFMC 2016 allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest was 1,110 adult KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2017 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from the PFMC until March 2017. The 2017 basin allocation will be recommended by the PFMC in April 2017 and presented to the Commission for adoption prior to its April 2017 meeting.

For public notice requirements, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends the Commission consider an allocation range of 0 – 67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows the PFMC and Commission to make adjustments during the 2017 regulatory cycle.

The Commission may modify the KRFC in-river sport salmon harvest allocation which is normally 15 percent of the non-tribal PFMC harvest allocation. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

The annual KRFC in-river harvest allocation is split into four geographic areas with subquotas assigned to each. They are as follows:

1. for the main stem Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
2. for the main stem Klamath River from downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth -- 50 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
3. for the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation; and

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4. for the Trinity River downstream from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation.

The spit area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) closes to all fishing after 15 percent of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort and ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the upper Klamath River and Trinity River. The subquota system requires the Department to monitor angler harvest of adult KRFC in each geographic area. All areas will be monitored on a real time basis except for the following:

Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and the Trinity River: Due to funding and personnel reductions, the Department will be unable to deploy adequate personnel to conduct harvest monitoring in the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and in the Trinity River for the 2017 season. The Department has reviewed salmon harvest and run-timing data for these areas. Based on this review, the Department has developed a Harvest Predictor Model (HPM) which incorporates historic creel survey data from the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean and the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River. The HPM is driven by the positive relationship between KRFC harvested in the lower and upper Klamath River and the Trinity River. The HPM will be used by the Department to implement fishing closures to ensure that anglers do not exceed established subquota targets.

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Current Sport Fishery Management

The KRFC in-river sport harvest allocation is divided into geographic areas and harvest is monitored under real time subquota management. KRSC in-river sport harvest is managed by general season, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations.

The Department presently differentiates the two stocks by the following dates:

Klamath River

1. January 1 through August 14 - General Season KRSC. For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.

2. August 15 to December 31 - KRFC quota management.

Trinity River

1. January 1 through August 31 – General Season KRSC.
   For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.

2. September 1 through December 31 – KRFC quota management.

The daily bag and possession limits apply to both stocks within the same sub-area and time period.

Proposed Changes

No changes are proposed for the general (KRSC) opening and closing season dates, and bag, possession and size limits.

No changes are proposed for the Klamath River spit area.

No changes are proposed for the Blue Creek area.

The following changes to current regulations are proposed:

KRFC QUOTA MANAGEMENT: Seasons, Bag and Possession Limits

For public notice requirements, a range of KRFC bag and possession limits are proposed until the 2017 Klamath River Basin quota is adopted. As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC salmon is proposed for the following areas, once the subquota has been met.

The proposed open seasons and range of bag and possession limits for KRFC salmon stocks are as follows:

1. Klamath River - August 15 to December 31
2. Trinity River - September 1 to December 31
3. Bag Limit - [0-4] Chinook Salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length.
4. Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which [0–12] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 22 inches total length is allowed.

Necessity: The recommended ranges allow the Commission to make the final adjustments for alignment with the federal 2017 regulatory process. The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the

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PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

OTHER
Other changes are proposed for clarity and consistency.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations
It is the objective of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the objective of this State to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this practice include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are conformance with federal law, sustainable management of Klamath River Basin fish resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on sport salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

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 promulgate sport fishing regulations (Sections 200, 202, 205, 315, and 316.5, Fish and Game Code). Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other State regulations related to sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

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Regulatory Language

Subsection (b)(91.1) of Section 7.50. Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

(b)

Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*
(91.1) Anadromous Waters of the Klamath River ~~basin~~Basin Downstream of Iron Gate ~~Dam~~ and Lewiston dams~~(Lower Klamath River Basin)~~. The regulations in this subsection apply only to waters of the Klamath River ~~system~~Basin which are accessible to anadromous salmonids. They do not apply to waters of the Klamath River Basin which are inaccessible to anadromous salmon and trout, ~~for example,~~ portions of the Klamath River system upstream of Iron Gate Dam, portions of the Trinity River system upstream of Lewiston Dam, and the Shasta River and tributaries upstream of Dwinnel Dam. Fishing in these waters is governed by the General Regulations for non-anadromous waters of the North Coast District (see Section 7.00(a)(4)). (A) Hook and Weight Restrictions. 1. Only barbless hooks may be used. (For definitions regarding legal hook types, hook gaps and rigging see Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 2.10.) 2. During closures to the take of adult salmon, it shall be unlawful to remove any adult Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon from the water by any means. (B) General Area Closures. 1. No fishing is allowed within 750 feet of any Department of Fish and Wildlife fish-counting weir. 2. No fishing is allowed from the Ishi Pishi Road bridge upstream to and including Ishi Pishi Falls from August 15 through December 31. EXCEPTION: members of the Karuk Indian Tribe listed on the current Karuk Tribal Roll may fish at Ishi Pishi Falls using hand-held dip nets. 3. No fishing is allowed from September 15 through December 31 in the Klamath River within 500 feet of the mouths of the Salmon, the Shasta and the Scott rivers and Blue Creek. 4. No fishing is allowed from June 15 through September 14 in the Klamath River from 500 feet above the mouth of Blue Creek to 500 feet downstream of the mouth of Blue Creek. (C) Klamath River Basin Possession Limits. 1. Trout Possession Limits. a. The ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout possession limit is 10 ~~brown trout~~. b. The hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead possession limits are as follows:		

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Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*

(i) Klamath River - 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.
(ii) Trinity River - 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.
2. Chinook Salmon Possession Limits.
a. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec from January 1 to August 14 and the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence of the South Fork Trinity River from January 1 to August 31: 2 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon.
b. Klamath River from August 15 to December 31 and Trinity River from September 1 to December 31: ~~6~~[0-12] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon. No more than ~~3~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 22 inches total length is allowed.
(D) Klamath River Basin Chinook Salmon Quotas.
The Klamath River fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon take is regulated using quotas. Accounting of the tribal and non-tribal harvest is closely monitored from August 15 through December 31 each year. These quota areas are noted in subsection (b)(91.1)(E) with "Fall Run Quota" in the *Open Season and Special Regulations* column.
1. Quota for Entire Basin.
The ~~2016~~2017 Klamath River Basin quota is ~~1,110~~[0-67,600] Klamath River fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon over 22 inches total length. The department shall inform the commission, and the public via the news media, prior to any implementation of restrictions triggered by the quotas. (NOTE: A department status report on progress toward the quotas for the various river sections is updated weekly, and available at 1-800-564-6479.)
2. Subquota Percentages.
a. The subquota for the Klamath River upstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec and the Trinity River is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
(i) The subquota for the Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec is 17% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
(ii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
(iii) The subquota for the Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River is 16.5% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
b. The subquota for the ~~Lower~~lower Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec is 50% of the total Klamath River Basin quota.
(i) The Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the

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Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*
Klamath River mouth) will close when 15% of the total Klamath River Basin quota is taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge. (E) Klamath River Basin Open Seasons and Bag Limits. All anadromous waters of the Klamath River Basin are closed to all fishing for all year except those areas listed in the following table. Bag limits are for trout and Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon in combination unless otherwise specified.		
1. Bogus Creek and tributaries.	Fourth Saturday in May through August 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
2. Klamath River main stem from 3,500 feet downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the mouth.		
a. Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.	January 1 to August 14	0 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota ~~189~~[0-11,492] Chinook Salmon August 15 to December 31, ~~2016~~2017.	~~2~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon - no more than ~~1~~[0-4] fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained from 3,500 feet downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the Interstate 5 bridge when the department determines that the adult fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon spawning escapement at Iron Gate Hatchery exceeds 8,000 fish. Daily bag and possession limits specified for fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon apply	

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Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*
	during this exception.	
b. Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec.	January 1 to August 14.	2 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota ~~555~~[0-33,800] Chinook Salmon August 15 to December 31, ~~2016~~2017.	~~2~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon - no more than ~~1~~[0-4] fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Spit Area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth). This area will be closed to all fishing after 15% of the Total Klamath River Basin Quota has been taken. All legally caught Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon must be retained. Once the adult (greater than 22 inches) component of the total daily bag limit has been retained anglers must cease fishing in the spit area.	
3. Salmon River main stem, main stem of North Fork downstream of Sawyer's Bar bridge, and main stem of South Fork downstream of the confluence of the East Fork of the South Fork.	November 1 through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
4. Scott River main stem down–stream of the Fort Jones-Greenview bridge to	Fourth Saturday in May through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

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Body of Water	***Open Season and Special Regulations***	***Daily Bag and Possession Limit***
the confluence with the Klamath River.		
5. Shasta River main stem downstream of the Interstate 5 bridge north of Yreka to the confluence with the Klamath River.	Fourth Saturday in May through August 31 and November 16 through February 28.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
6. Trinity River and tributaries.		
a. Trinity River main stem from 250 feet downstream of Lewiston Dam to the Old Lewiston Bridge.	April 1 through September 15. Only artificial flies with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
b. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat.	January 1 to August 31.	2 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota ~~183~~[0-11,154] Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, ~~2016~~2017.	~~2~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon - no more than ~~1~~[0-4] fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota Exception: Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon over 22 inches total length may be retained downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the mouth of Indian Creek when the department determines that the adult fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon spawning escapement at Trinity River Hatchery	

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Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*
	exceeds 4,800 fish. Daily bag and possession limits specified for fall-run Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon apply during this exception.	
c. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat to the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar.	January 1 through August 31.	2 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	September 1 through December 31.	Closed to all fishing.
d. New River main stem downstream of the confluence of the East Fork to the confluence with the Trinity River.	September 15 through November 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
e. Trinity River main stem downstream of the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River.	January 1 to August 31.	2 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota ~~183~~[0-11,154] Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, ~~2016~~2017. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this ~~table~~table.	~~2~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon - no more than ~~1~~[0-4] fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
f. Trinity River main stem downstream of the mouth of the South Fork Trinity River to the confluence with the	January 1 to August 31.	0 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or

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Body of Water	*Open Season and Special Regulations*	*Daily Bag and Possession Limit*
Klamath River.		hatchery steelhead**
	Fall Run Quota ~~183~~[0-11,154] Chinook Salmon September 1 through December 31, ~~2016~~2017. This is the cumulative quota for subsections 6.e. and 6.f. of this table.	~~2~~[0-4] Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon - no more than ~~1~~[0-4] fish over 22 inches total length until subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length. 5 ~~brown trout~~Brown Trout 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
g. Hayfork Creek main stem downstream of the Highway 3 bridge in Hayfork to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.	November 1 through March 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
h. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the confluence with the East Fork of the South Fork Trinity River to the South Fork Trinity River bridge at Hyampom.	November 1 through March 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**
i. South Fork Trinity River downstream of the South Fork Trinity River bridge at Hyampom to the confluence with the Trinity River.	November 1 through March 31.	0 Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

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* Wild Chinook ~~salmon~~Salmon are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip and not showing a healed left ventral fin clip.
**Hatchery trout or steelhead in anadromous waters are those showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is absent). Unless otherwise provided, all other trout and steelhead must be immediately released. Wild trout or steelhead are those not showing a healed adipose fin clip (adipose fin is present).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 215, 220, 240, 315 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 215 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.

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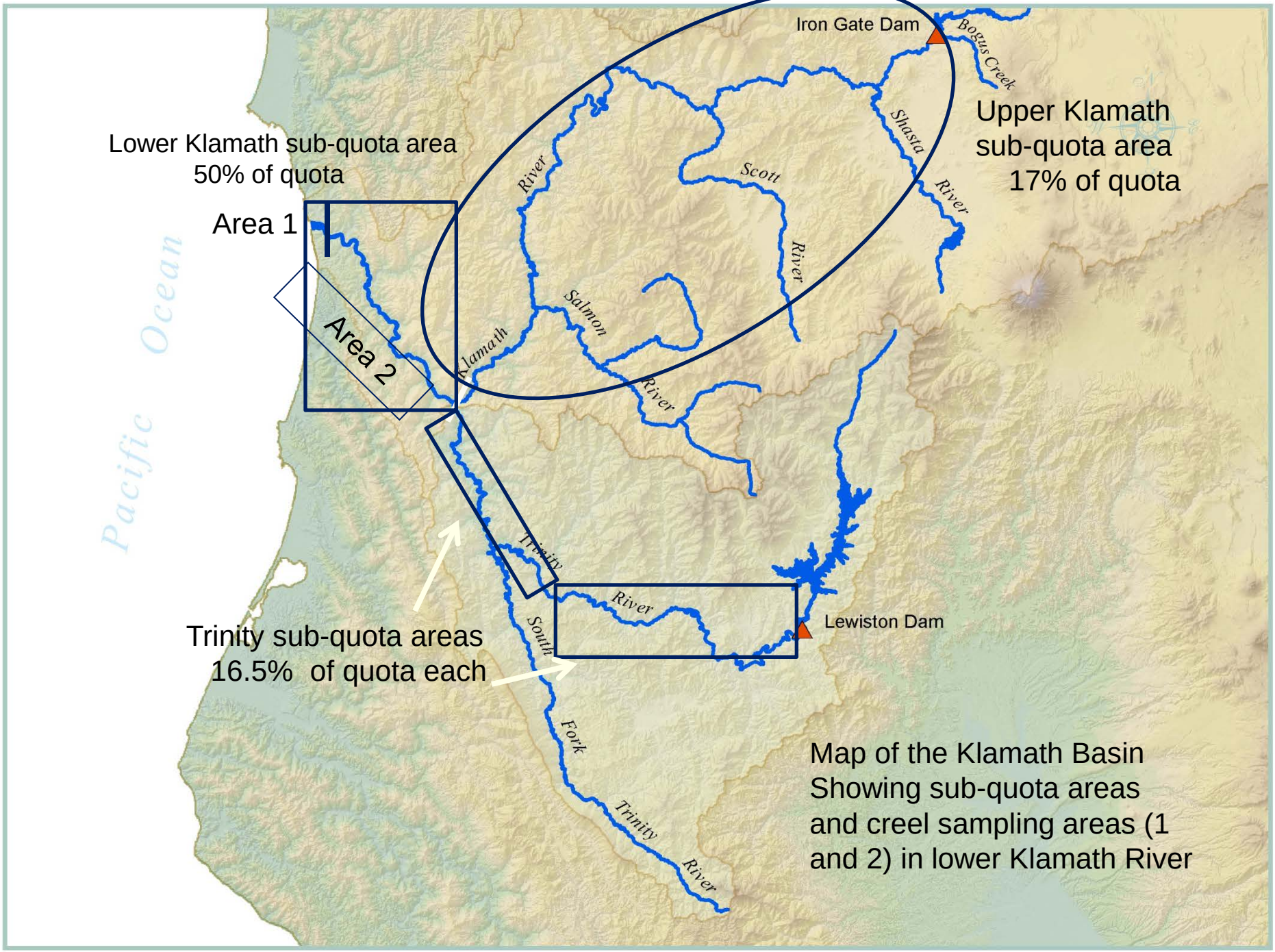
2017 Klamath Basin Sport Fishing Regulatory Options

Fish and Game Commission Meeting
December 8, 2016
Kevin Shaffer, Chief
Fisheries Branch


Iron Gate Dam
Bogus Creek
Upper Klamath
sub-quota area
17% of quota
Lower Klamath sub-quota area
50% of quota
Area 1
Area 2
Shasta River
Scott River
Salmon River
Klamath River
Trinity River
South Fork Trinity River
Lewiston Dam
Pacific Ocean
Trinity sub-quota areas
16.5% of quota each
Map of the Klamath Basin
Showing sub-quota areas
and creel sampling areas (1
and 2) in lower Klamath River

Pacific Fisheries Management Council

- The PFMC establishes harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals for Klamath fall-run Chinook salmon
- The PFMC will recommend the 2017 Klamath River recreational fishery allocation in April 2017
- Klamath Basin quota allocation typically conforms to PFMC recommendations
- DFW determines bag and possession limits based on quota

2016 Klamath Basin Angling Regulations

- Klamath Basin quota: 1,110 fish > 22 inches
- Bag limit: 2 fish, no more than 1 adult > 22 inches
- Possession limit: 6 fish, no more than 3 adults > 22 inches
- Season: Aug. 15 – Dec. 31 (Klamath River)
- Season: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 (Trinity River)

2017 Klamath Basin Angling Regulatory Options

- Klamath Basin quota range: 0-67,000 fish > 22 inches
- Bag limit range: 0-4 fish > 22 inches
- Possession limit range: 0-12 fish > 22 inches
- Season: Aug. 15 – Dec. 31 (Klamath River)
- Season: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 (Trinity River)