

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

Repeal subsection (b)(53.8), amend subsections (b)(63), (b)(115), and (b)(187),
and add subsections (b)(195.1) and (b)(205.5)
of Section 7.50, Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: June 24, 2013

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 7, 2013
Location: San Luis Obispo, CA

(b) Discussion Hearing: Date: October 2, 2013
Location: La Quinta, CA

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: November 6, 2013
Location: Palm Desert, CA

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 Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is proposing to amend trout and salmon angling rules for waters with special fishing regulations in three general areas:

1. Re-open waters to trout and salmon fishing that were unintentionally closed during the 2012 sport fishing regulation change cycle
2. Provide winter angling opportunities on two trout waters in California
3. Additional revisions are being proposed to improve regulatory enforcement and correct regulatory issues.

Eel River

During the 2012 sport fishing regulation change cycle, the Department inadvertently deleted the "0" (zero) from the daily bag limit for all anadromous waters in Section 7.50(b) of Title 14, CCR. As a result, the Department unintentionally closed all anadromous waters to catch and release (C & R) fishing for salmon, including the Eel River. This proposed regulation change is to reinstate the historic Chinook salmon C & R sport fishery on the Eel River System.

The Eel River Chinook salmon population is distinct for the North Coast region and regarded today as part of the California Coastal Chinook salmon Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). The California Coastal Chinook salmon ESU was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999. Fall-run Chinook salmon is the only seasonal run of Chinook salmon that exists in the Eel River System. For the last three years, the Eel River System has experienced the largest Chinook salmon spawning runs on record since fish counts began at the Van Arsdale Fisheries Station (VAFS) in 1933. Last year, 2012, was the highest year on record with 3,471 Chinook salmon counted at the VAFS. The VAFS is located at river mile (RM) 158 of 170 miles of the Eel River main stem anadromous habitat available to Chinook salmon. The VAFS counts are only a small portion of the entire Eel River System's spawning run, but they are the most important indicator of status and trends of Chinook salmon in the Eel River system. Other CDFW spawner surveys in the South Fork Eel and Van Duzen river tributaries also support VAFS' indicators of strong Chinook salmon escapement.

Strong public opposition to the regulation change and inadvertent closure of the targeted Eel River Chinook salmon C & R sport fishery was voiced through print and internet media as well as numerous calls received by regional CDFW personnel. The popular Chinook salmon sport fishery has existed on the Eel River for more than 100 years and in the mid 1990's regulations were changed to allow only C & R salmon fishing with zero retention of Chinook salmon. Local and out of area anglers participate in the annual Chinook salmon C & R sport fishery and support local tackle shops, drift boat guides, lodging, and gas, food and lodging businesses.

Eel River fall-run Chinook salmon are now, and have been for many years, protected from early fall on through the first of the year (i.e., January 31) by low flow closures in force upstream of the year-round estuarine fishery demarked by the Fulmor Road intersection with the river at RM 3.5. The main stem Eel River above Fulmor Road is closed to fishing from October 1 through January 31 unless flow at the Scotia gage exceeds 350 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Van Duzen River, tributary at RM 14, is regulated by a low flow of 150 cfs at the Bridgeville gage. The South Fork Eel River, tributary at RM 40, is regulated by a low flow of 340 cfs at the Miranda gage. The low flow closures eliminate fishing during October and usually much of November until autumn rains arrive. High gage heights typically are reached sometime in November and are often accompanied by turbid water that blunts angling opportunity except for brief periods when water clarity and flows greater than 350 cfs on the main stem Eel River and 150 cfs on the Van Duzen River. During the open season and when conditions allow as described above, Chinook salmon fishing pressure is estimated to be 30 to 50 anglers per day in the Lower Eel River Estuary reach below Fulmor Road at RM 3.5, and 135 anglers per day in the reach from Fulmor road to the South Fork Eel River confluence at RM 40.

As mentioned above, the abundance of Chinook salmon has been at very high levels for several years, and their exposure to angling is minimized above the

estuary by low flow closure or high, turbid flow and the requirement of barbless hooks also reduces injury to any fish encountered. The Eel River Chinook salmon population has sustained a C & R sport fishery for the last sixteen years, and CDFW has determined that under current regulations the Eel River system can support reinstatement of the inadvertently terminated C & R zero bag limit Chinook salmon sport fishery.

Proposal: Amend Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(63), Eel River
- Revise subsections (A)1, (A)2, (A)3, (B)2, and (C) to allow resumption of catch and release fishing of Chinook salmon

Edson Creek

During the 2012 sport fishing regulation change cycle, the Department submitted a fishing regulation change proposal on Edson Creek, Siskiyou County. The proposed regulation included closing Edson Creek and all tributaries to fishing all year. The proposed regulation was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission and implemented on January 1, 2013. A misidentification on the stream order has unintentionally closed Dry Creek (a tributary to Edson Creek) to fishing. The original intent of the regulation change was to close Edson Creek upstream from the confluence with Dry Creek.

The regulation in its current state will impact the recreational use at a USDA Forest Service Campground on Trout Creek (tributary to Dry Creek), a popular area for anglers to target McCloud redband trout, which is also a qualifying fish for the California Heritage Trout Challenge.

Dry Creek and Trout Creek do not contain genetically distinct McCloud redband trout, but a slightly introgressed version between coastal rainbow trout and McCloud redband trout. While these introgressed fish still qualify for the Heritage and Wild Trout Challenge and have potential restoration value, they are not “genetically distinct” McCloud redband trout. McCloud redband trout are currently isolated in four small streams - Edson, Moosehead, Sheepheaven, and Swamp creeks.

The Department expects no change to the fish population due to the reopening of this important fishery. The Dry and Trout creek fisheries have remained in a self-sustaining state since 1977 when restocked by the Department.

Proposal: Amend Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(115)(C), Edson Creek

- This section will be amended to specify that Edson Creek and tributaries, excluding Dry Creek, are closed to fishing which will exclude the Dry Creek watershed from the fishing closure

Davis Lake

Davis Lake is currently listed as a special regulation under Section 7.50 due to past efforts to remove the pike from Davis Lake. However, Davis Lake no longer requires special fishing regulations and is covered under the Sierra District General Regulations, Section 7.00(b). Therefore, Lake Davis should be removed

from Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations.

Proposal: Remove Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(53.8), Davis Lake
- Remove Lake Davis from the Special Fishing Regulations

Beardsley Afterbay

There is an enforcement issue with the way subsection (b)(187)(A) for the Middle Fork Stanislaus River is currently worded. The intent of the regulation is to include Beardsley Afterbay as part of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River. However, as currently written which does not include the word Afterbay, one can easily say the river begins downstream of the Afterbay dam and use the general rules for lakes/reservoirs in the Afterbay. The courts may dismiss a citation if a person claims they thought the Beardsley Afterbay was a reservoir. The proposed amendment will make it clear that the Afterbay is considered part of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River.

Proposal: Amend Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(187)(A), Stanislaus River, Middle Fork

- Add language to clarify that the Beardsley Afterbay is included as part of the Middle Fork Stanislaus River

Upper Trinity River

In response to requests from both anglers and businesses in northern Trinity County, Cal-Trout with the support of the Trinity County Fish and Game Commission, and the Trinity County Board of Supervisors, is seeking opening a winter fishery season on the Upper Trinity River (UTR). Opening the UTR to fishing through the winter would open approximately 13.8 miles of fishing opportunities during the winter season. CalTrout is seeking to have this regulation change effective for the 2013-2014 winter season.

To assess the effects of year-around angling on the UTR, Department Heritage and Wild Trout staff conducted surveys that encompassed the proposed winter fishery season during the months of November 2010 through March 2011 and November 2011 through April of 2012. In 2012, a survey was added during the open fishing season (last Saturday in April – November 15) to compare with off-season results. Sampling included direct observation (snorkel survey), hook and line, and flow to fish-ability observations.

In comparison with other northern California trout fisheries, the UTR fish observed (trout per mile) was relatively low. Although the sampling techniques were strategically chosen to best sample the river with available resources, it is uncertain whether the frequency of sampling (limited due to environmental conditions and staffing) was able to detect the adfluvial component of this fishery or migratory movement of resident fish.

The mainstem Trinity River is known for its runs of salmon and steelhead, but the UTR is located above two major reservoirs (Lewiston and Trinity Dams). Both reservoirs are stocked annually with trout and provide a successful recreational trout fishery. The UTR flows into Trinity Lake and is currently stocked (including

the study area) with catchable rainbow trout throughout the general fishing season. The impacts of stocking rainbow trout on wild populations appears to be minimal, as a majority of our surveys did not observe stocked trout indicating a short resident time in the river (study area).

The number of anglers that may take advantage of recreational angling opportunities in the UTR during an open winter season is unknown, but because of its relative remoteness, distance from major living areas, seasonality of adfluvial fish, inclement weather, and low densities of fish altogether, angling pressure would most likely be minimal and sporadic. The Department finds no biological reason to not open the UTR for winter angling opportunities. In addition, opening up a winter fishery to provide recreational angling where there would be no conflicts with native species, falls under the principal mission of the Department's Strategic Plan for Trout Management, especially where the waters have not been historically fishless.

Proposal: Add Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(195.1), Trinity River
- Open the upper Trinity River to catch and release angling during winter to increase fishing opportunities in Trinity County

West Walker River

In response to demands from both anglers and businesses in northern Mono County, the Mono County Fisheries Commission (MCFC) is seeking an addition of catch and release angling on two contiguous sections of the West Walker River. The MCFC, local businesses and interested anglers are seeking to increase the fishing opportunities in Mono County and specifically winter angling opportunities. Currently there are four small sections of two streams and two rivers that are open to year-round and specifically winter fishing in Mono County. Often the Upper Owens River and Lower Deadman Creek are inaccessible to anglers even though they are open to fishing. The East Walker River and Hot Creek are much more accessible and see the majority of angling pressure. Opening the West Walker River to catch and release fishing through the winter would provide a fifth open water, add one that is more accessible than the Upper Owens or Deadman Creek and potentially relieve some of the angling pressure on Hot Creek and the East Walker River.

The proposed opening of the West Walker River for a winter angling season is supported by the Antelope Valley Regional Planning Committee, Northern Mono Chamber of Commerce, High Sierra Flycasters, Antelope Valley Lions Club, and the Mono County Board of Supervisors.

A 2007 Heritage and Wild Trout winter season survey on the recently opened East Walker River detailing use, catch rates, and angler satisfaction in March and April showed moderate levels of use, comparable or better catch rates than the traditional season and high angler satisfaction. Angler satisfaction was overwhelmingly supportive of the opportunity to fish the East Walker River in the winter months. Satisfaction ratings for 1) the opportunity to fish the East Walker River in winter, 2) catch and release regulations, and 3) utilization for future trips,

all ranked above 90%. A zero bag limit would be consistent with winter regulations on all other waters open to trout fishing in Mono County.

Proposal: Add Special Fishing Regulations subsection (b)(205.5), West Walker River

- Open the West Walker River to catch and release fishing during winter to increase fishing opportunities in Mono County

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

It is the policy 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 policy 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 policy 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 trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

(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, 206, 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:

Aguilar, B., M. Dege, and S. Plemons (California Department of Fish and Game). 2012. A Study on the Upper Trinity River Proposal to Open as a

Winter Fishery 2010-2012.

Economic Impact Analysis

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

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

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

No alternatives were identified.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would leave existing regulations in place with reduced fishing opportunities.

(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 the 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.

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:

(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 fishing areas that will be affected are few and remote, and the number of

anglers that will be affected is relatively small. In addition, the proposed changes will offer more fishing opportunities with potential increases in economic activity related to spending by recreational anglers.

- (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 would provide additional recreational angling opportunities, primarily during the winter months. However, the increase in fishing activity is anticipated to be limited relative to recreational angling effort statewide. Therefore the Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing business or the expansion of businesses in California.

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

The Commission does not anticipate any non-monetary benefits to 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.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

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In comparison with other northern California trout fisheries, the UTR fish observed (trout per mile) was relatively low. Although the sampling techniques were strategically chosen to best sample the river with available resources, it is uncertain whether the frequency of sampling (limited due to environmental conditions and staffing) was able to detect the adfluvial component of this fishery or migratory movement of resident fish.

The number of anglers that may take advantage of recreational angling opportunities in the UTR during an open winter season is unknown, but because of its relative remoteness, distance from major living areas, seasonality of adfluvial fish, inclement weather, and low densities of fish altogether, angling pressure would most likely be minimal and sporadic. The Department finds no biological reason to not open the UTR for winter angling opportunities. In addition, opening up a winter fishery to provide recreational angling where there would be no conflicts with native species, falls under the principal mission of the Department's Strategic Plan for Trout Management, especially where the waters have not been historically fishless.

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Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

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their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with Federal law, sustainable management of California's trout and salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational sport fishing in California.

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

Compatibility with State Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. Section 20, Article IV, of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Fish and Game Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to regulate recreational fishing in waters of the state (sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code). The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the California Code of Regulations and finds no other state agency regulations pertaining to recreational fishing seasons, bag and possession limits. Further, the Commission has determined that the proposed regulations are neither incompatible nor inconsistent with existing federal regulations.

Regulatory Language

§7.50. Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

Repeal subsection (b)(53.8) of Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(53.8) Davis Lake (Plumas Co.)	All Year	5 per day, 10 in possession

Subsection (b)(63) of Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(63) Eel River (Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Trinity cos.). Also see Section 8.00(a).		
ALL WATERS OF THE EEL RIVER DRAINAGE EXCEPT THOSE LISTED BELOW ARE CLOSED TO ALL FISHING.		
(A) Main stem.		
1. From mouth to Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River.	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from April 1 through the Friday preceding the fourth Saturday in May. Only barbless hooks may be used from fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31.	<u>Catch and Release of Chinook salmon</u> 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
2. From Fulmor Road, at its paved junction with the south bank of the Eel River, to South Fork Eel River.	All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from Apr. 1 through Sept. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	<u>Catch and Release of Chinook salmon</u> 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead**

		4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
3. From South Fork Eel River to Cape Horn Dam. (See also Pillsbury Lake tributaries (7.50(b)(138)).	Jan. 1 through Mar. 31 and Fourth Saturday in May through Sept. 30. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	<u>Catch and Release of Chinook salmon</u> 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	Apr. 1 through the Fourth Friday in May and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.	Closed to all fishing
(B) Van Duzen River.		
1. Main stem and tributaries above Eaton Falls, located about 1/2 mile upstream of the mouth of the South Fork (Little Van Duzen) and 2 1/2 miles west of Dinsmore.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15.	5
2. Main stem from its junction with the Eel River to the end of Golden Gate Drive near Bridgeville (approximately 4,000 feet upstream from the Little Golden Gate Bridge).	Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Saturday in May through Sept. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct. 1 through Mar. 31.	<u>Catch and Release of Chinook salmon</u> 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	Apr.1 to Fourth Friday in May.	Closed to all fishing
(C) South Fork Eel River from mouth to Rattlesnake Creek.	Fourth Saturday in May through Mar. 31. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the fourth Saturday in May through Sept. 30. Only barbless hooks may be used from Oct.	<u>Catch and Release of Chinook salmon</u> 2 hatchery

	1 through Mar. 31.	trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	Apr.1 to Fourth Friday in May.	Closed to all fishing
(D) Middle Fork Eel River.		
1. Middle Fork main stem from mouth to Bar Creek.	Jan. 1 through May 31 and July 16 through Sept. 30. At all times, only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession
	Jun. 1 through July 15 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31.	Closed to all fishing
2. Middle Fork tributaries above Indian Dick/Eel River Ranger Station Road	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov.15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length.	5
3. Middle Fork and tributaries above mouth of Uhl Creek.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2
4. Balm of Gilead Creek and tributaries above falls 1 1/4 miles from mouth.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2
5. North Fork of Middle Fork and tributaries above mouth of Willow Creek.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Maximum size limit: 14 inches total length. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2

Subsection (b)(115) of Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(115) McCloud River and tributaries (Shasta and Siskiyou)		

cos.).		
(A) Moosehead Creek and all tributaries.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(B) McKay Creek and all tributaries including Sheepheaven Spring.	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(C) Edson Creek and all tributaries, <u>excluding Dry Creek.</u>	Closed to all fishing all year.	
(D) Swamp Creek and all tributaries.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0
(E) McCloud River from McCloud Dam downstream to confluence of Ladybug Creek.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2
(F) McCloud River from confluence of Ladybug Creek downstream to lower boundary of the U.S. Forest Service loop (southern boundary of section 36, T38N, R3W).	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0
(G) McCloud River from the lower boundary of the U.S. Forest Service loop (southern boundary of section 36, T38N, R3W) downstream to the upper boundary of the McCloud River Club (southern boundary of section 14, T37N, R3W).	Closed to all fishing all year.	

Subsection (b)(187) of Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, is amended as follows:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
(187) Stanislaus River, Middle Fork (Tuolumne Co.).		
(A) From Beardsley Dam downstream to the U. S. Forest Service footbridge at Spring Gap (<u>including the Beardsley Afterbay</u>).	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2
(B) From the U.S. Forest Service footbridge at Spring Gap to New Melones Reservoir.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15	2

Subsection (b)(195.1) is added to Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, as follows:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
<u>(195.1) Trinity River, above Trinity Dam (Trinity County) from the confluence with Tangle Blue Creek, (Hwy. 3) downstream (south) to the mouth of Trinity Lake, approximately 13.8 miles.</u>	<u>Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>0</u>

Subsection (b)(205.5) is added to Section 7.50, Title 14, CCR, as follows:

<i>Body of Water</i>	<i>Open Season and Special Regulations</i>	<i>Daily Bag and Possession Limit</i>
<u>(205.5) West Walker River (Mono County) from the confluence with the Little Walker River (Hwy. 395 bridge at mile marker 96) downstream (north) to the inlet of Topaz Lake.</u>	<u>Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.</u>	<u>0</u>

* Wild Chinook 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, 206, 215 and 316.5, Fish and Game Code.