

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

Amend sections 1.74, 5.80, 5.81, 5.87, 27.90, 27.91,
27.92, 29.15, 29.90 and 701
Add sections 5.79, 5.88, 29.16 and 29.91
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Sport Fishing Report Card and Tagging Requirements

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: September 24, 2007

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: August 10 , 2007
Location: Santa Barbara, CA

(b) Discussion Hearing: Date: November 2, 2007
Location: Sacramento, CA

(c) Adoption Hearing: Date: December 7, 2007
Location: San Francisco, 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 has identified a need to implement additional regulatory requirements for recreational anglers that fish for or take salmon, steelhead, abalone, sturgeon and lobster. The proposed changes are needed to implement vital fishery management to protect and preserve the unique character of California's salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, abalone and lobster fisheries and provide anti-poaching measures to combat illegal black-market activities.

These proposed changes will revamp and add additional requirements for these five sport fisheries, in order to address inadequate recreational harvest data, the lack of adequate funds for report card programs, and difficulties with enforcement of existing current report card requirements and bag limit regulations.

The Department is proposing to change existing regulations to:

- 1) Require anglers of all ages to obtain and carry a report card for all fishing areas and all dates (i.e. fishing piers and free fishing days) when fishing for a species that requires a report card.
- 2) Standardized formats and procedures for all report cards.
- 3) Incorporate sequentially numbered tags into the Abalone Report Card similar to the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.
- 4) Revise the Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card to collect additional river angler data and eliminate the card requirement for ocean waters.
- 5) Implement a new Spiny Lobster Report Card.
- 6) Ensure all report card fees adequately cover monitoring and analysis costs, where possible.

BACKGROUND

Existing fishing report cards collect angler information that would otherwise be very expensive to survey, help increase sample size of fishery estimates, and provide an important harvest tool for assessment and enforcement purposes. Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), presently contains four sport fishing report cards which are:

- Sport Salmon Punch Card - Section 1.74
- Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card - Section 1.74
- Abalone Permit Report Card – Section 29.15
- Sturgeon Fishing Report Card - sections 5.80 & 27.90

The Sport Salmon Punch Card was the first fishing report card adopted by the Commission in 1986 as a fishery management tool to monitor the recreational salmon fishery catch and effort in the ocean waters above Horse Mountain and the anadromous waters of the Klamath and Trinity river basins.

The next two fishing report cards were established by the Legislature. The Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card was implemented in 1991 pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7380 to track the steelhead fishery catch and effort and provide revenue for steelhead restoration efforts. The Legislature also provided the Commission with the authority to establish additional regulations to implement and make specific this report card requirement as necessary pursuant to Fish and Game Code subsection 7380(c).

The Abalone Permit Report Card was added in 2001 pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7149.8 to track the recreational abalone fishery catch and effort and provide revenue for abalone research and management.

However, the Commission retained general authority to regulate sport fishing (Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 205), and thus can implement and make specific provisions to implement this statutorily-established card program consistent with the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan adopted by the Commission pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5522.

The fourth report card was the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card adopted by the Commission in 2006, under its general authority to regulate the recreational white sturgeon fishery. Its new approach required all anglers regardless of age and fishing area carry the report card and incorporated removable tags to be affixed to any retained white sturgeon. This approach was necessary to enforce the three-fish annual bag limit, collected additional angler data, deter poaching and stop illegal black-market activities. This report card was required for anglers less than 16 years old and other non-licensed anglers to collect important information that would otherwise be underestimated or not counted.

PROPOSAL DISCUSSION AND DETAILS

The Department requests the Commission consider the following proposed revisions or additions to Title 14, CCR, as described herein:

Section 1.74 - Sport Fishing Report Card and Tagging Requirements

The Department is proposing to improve the design of each report card to streamline the completion and submission procedures. All of the report cards will require the same cardholder information be collected and the completion, submission, and replacement card procedures will be contained within this general section. This standardization will reduce license agent and angler confusion when using the five different report cards and help increase regulation compliance.

The Klamath-Trinity salmon, steelhead, abalone, sturgeon, and lobster fisheries are some of California's most valuable recreational fishing resources and provide significant economic benefit to the California's statewide economy. It is crucial that catch and effort information be collected from all anglers in these very important fisheries, as the under-age and non-licensed anglers are otherwise underestimated, misrepresented, or just not counted. These proposed revisions are considerably more cost-effective than having Department staff expand its creel census program to cover 100% of the recreational fishing effort for these fisheries.

Existing regulations in this section contains the Salmon Punch Card and Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card requirements. The ocean

requirement for the salmon report card is proposed to be eliminated, the regulations for the salmon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.87, and the regulations for the steelhead report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.88. The proposed Section 1.74 revisions and additions applicable to all report cards are outlined below:

Purpose

These regulations address potential concerns for overfishing and a lack of recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fishery operates. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

Species and Location Requirements

Anglers fishing for or taking the following species in the specified area are subject to the report card requirements:

- 1) Salmon, in the Klamath-Trinity River System defined as the anadromous waters of the Klamath and Trinity River basins.
 - a) Anadromous waters are defined by Section 1.04 as inland waters that are accessible to fish migrating from the ocean.
- 2) Steelhead trout, in anadromous waters.
- 3) White sturgeon, in all areas of authorized take and retained sturgeon are required to be tagged.
- 4) Red abalone, in all areas of authorized take and retained abalone are required to be tagged.
- 5) California spiny lobster, in all areas of authorized take.

General Report Card Requirements

- 1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the above five species shall possess a non-transferable report card for that particular species. This includes all persons who are:
 - a) under 16 years of age,
 - b) fishing from a public pier,
 - c) fishing on free fishing days, or
 - d) hold a lifetime fishing license.
- 2) Persons exempt from sport fishing license requirements may obtain report cards without purchasing a sport fishing license.
- 3) All entries made on any report card or tag must be legible and in indelible ink.
- 4) The cardholder is responsible for entry of the following information at the time of report card issuance:

- a) Acquisition of Sturgeon Fishing Report Cards and Abalone Report Cards: If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the report card number shall be entered in the designated space provided on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.
 - b) Acquisition of Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Cards, Steelhead Report and Restoration Cards and Spiny Lobster Report Cards: If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered in the blank area on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.
 - c) The date that the report card is issued.
 - d) The cardholder's name.
 - e) The cardholder's street address, city, state, and zip code.
 - f) The cardholder's home phone.
 - g) The cardholder's date of birth.
 - h) If the cardholder has an e-mail address, a driver's license, or DMV identification number, this information shall also be entered in the appropriate spaces.
- 5) If the cardholder wants to purchase another fishing license after their short term sport fishing license has expired, the cardholder does not need to purchase a second report card provided they still possesses the first report card.
 - a) If there is a space provided for the particular card on the sport fishing license, the number shall be entered in the appropriate space at the time of purchase.
 - b) If there is no space provided for the card, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license.
 - 6) A report card shall be valid only during the open fishing season for the calendar year as shown on the report card.
 - 7) Cardholders shall return their card by January 31 of the following year to the Department at the address specified on the card.
 - 8) Cardholders who fail to return their report card to the Department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a following license year, or may be charged additional fees for the issuance of the same card in a following license year.
 - 9) For abalone and sturgeon report cards, only one report card may be issued per person per year.
 - 10) Report cards may not be transferred to another person and no person may possess any report card other than their own.

Replacement Procedures for Lost Abalone or Sturgeon Report Cards

- 1) If the cardholder loses an abalone or sturgeon report cards, a replacement card can be obtained by providing all of the following information to a Department license office:
 - a) A photocopy of the original report card issued in the cardholder's name.
 - b) A signed affidavit containing the following information:
 1. A statement confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.
 2. A statement of the cardholder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost, including the number of tags utilized.
 3. A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card.
 - c) Proof of purchase of the original report card.
 - d) Payment of the replacement card and processing fee.
 1. A replacement report card fee is proposed to recover Department printing costs pursuant to Section 1053(b) of the Fish and Game Code.
 2. A processing fee for the replacement report card is proposed to recover Department processing costs pursuant to Section 1050(e) of the Fish and Game Code.
- 2) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit, the Department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.
- 3) At the time the replacement card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the number of the replacement card shall be entered in the appropriate space on the sport fishing license and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.
- 4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

Replacement Procedures for Salmon, Steelhead, or Lobster Report Cards

- 1) Any cardholder who fills in all available lines on their steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return the card to the Department address specified on the card prior to purchasing a second card.
- 2) Any cardholder who loses their steelhead, salmon or lobster report card may purchase a second card. Before purchasing a new card, they shall provide a written affidavit to the Department address on the card documenting the lost catch and effort data required by the card to the best of the cardholder's recollection.
- 3) At the time the additional card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and

the number shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.

- 4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

Specific Report Card and Tagging Requirements

Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. These specific regulations in sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 also apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

Sections 5.79 and 27.92 - White Sturgeon Report Card and Tagging Requirements (for Inland and Ocean Waters)

Section 5.79 is a new inland waters section and Section 27.92 is an updated ocean waters section to contain the sturgeon report card and tagging requirements removed and revised from Section 5.80 for inland waters and Section 27.90 for ocean waters. The proposed revisions are the same for both sections and are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking sturgeon.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the report card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Tagging and Recording Requirements for Retained Fish
 - a) This report card includes detachable sequentially numbered tags that shall be used to tag any white sturgeon taken and retained.
 - b) Any white sturgeon possessed by any person shall be tagged.
 - c) Upon taking and retaining a white sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, fishing location and length of the fish in the appropriate spaces on the tag.
 - d) Tags shall be used in sequential order.
 - e) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the report card which corresponds to the number on the tag.
 - f) Immediately after recording the information as required, the cardholder shall remove and completely detach the tag from the card and affix it to the white sturgeon.
 - g) Cardholders shall not wait until completion of fishing activity to tag any white sturgeon in possession.
 - h) The tag shall be securely fastened to the fish. To affix the tag, a "zip tie", string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through at the location specified on the sturgeon tag and attached to the fish.

- i) Tags shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to a white sturgeon.
 - j) Any tag detached from the report card and not affixed to a white sturgeon shall be considered used and therefore invalid.
 - k) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid tags.
- 4) Records of Prior Activity
- a) All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the report card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession.
 - b) Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the report card.
- 5) Reporting Requirements for Released Fish
- a) Whenever the cardholder catches and releases a sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, location code, and species of sturgeon on the report card.
 - b) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.
- 6) Sturgeon tags must be left affixed to the fish in place, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the fish is processed for immediate consumption.

Sections 5.80 and Section 27.90 - White Sturgeon

Existing regulations in Section 5.80 prescribes the regulations governing recreational white sturgeon fishing in inland waters. The regulations for the sturgeon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.79, and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 5.79.

Existing regulations in Section 27.90 prescribes the regulations governing recreational white sturgeon fishing in ocean waters. The regulations for the sturgeon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 27.92, and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 27.92.

Section 5.81 and Section 27.91 - Green Sturgeon

Existing regulations in Section 5.81 states green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed in inland waters. The reference will be updated to show the catch and release reporting requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 5.79.

Existing regulations in Section 27.91 states green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed in ocean waters. The reference will be updated to show the catch and release reporting requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 27.92.

Section 5.87 - Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card Requirement

Klamath and Trinity river basin salmon stocks have been severely depleted in recent years due to poor escapement and ocean conditions. This has resulted in extensive ocean and river fishery restrictions. There is also a strong concern that many of the basin's sub-stocks have higher than predicted fishery impacts which could lead to their possible extinction. These proposed changes will augment the existing data for salmon stocks from the river sport fishery to ensure effective management of the Klamath-Trinity river basin salmon stocks.

Presently the Sport Salmon Punch Card serves as an enforcement tool for tracking daily and weekly bag limits. The proposed changes will eliminate the report card requirement for ocean waters above Horse Mountain, change the name to the Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card to reflect its reduced geographic area and format change from a punch card, and collect adult and jack Chinook salmon retention and release information, Coho salmon release information, and record salmon fin clip information.

This is a new section to contain the regulations for the salmon report card requirement revised and moved from Section 1.74. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking salmon in waters of the Klamath River system.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder shall record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.
- 4) Whenever the cardholder retains or releases a Chinook salmon, they must immediately record whether the fish was an adult or a jack and whether the fish has an adipose fin present.
- 5) Whenever the cardholder releases a Coho salmon, they must immediately record whether the maxillary is present or absent.
- 6) Whenever the cardholder moves to another fishing location, they must record the month, day, and catch area on the next line on the report card.
- 7) In the Klamath-Trinity River System, a jack Chinook salmon is defined as any Chinook salmon that is less than 22 inches total length.
- 8) In the event an angler completely fills in all lines and returns a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 5.88 - Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters

This is a new section to contain the steelhead report card requirement for inland waters revised and moved from Section 1.74. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead in anadromous waters.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length in anadromous waters.
- 4) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.
- 5) When a steelhead is retained, the cardholder must immediately fill in a circle indicating whether the fish is a wild fish or a hatchery fish.
- 6) When the cardholder moves to another fishing location, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery fish that were released from that location.
- 7) In the event an angler completely fills in all lines and returns the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 29.15 - Abalone

Existing regulations in this section prescribes the regulations governing recreational abalone diving activity in northern California waters where the take of red abalone is authorized. The regulations for the abalone report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 29.16 and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 29.16.

Section 29.16 - Abalone Report Card and Tagging Requirements for Ocean Waters

The Department is proposing the Abalone Report Card be issued with 24 attached numbered tags to match the current annual limit similar to the Sturgeon Report Card and tags.

At the Commission's May meeting, the Department reported that violations of daily and annual bag limit regulations for abalone continue to be widespread, despite concerted enforcement and outreach efforts and the threat of enhanced penalties. As reported, abalone are often taken by one angler and given away as a gift.

Current regulations make it impossible to determine if the abalone in an individual's possession was taken legally without the use of a sequentially numbered tag. An abalone tag affixed to the abalone shell will clearly indicate that the individual was harvested in the recreational fishery. This new tag program will assist enforcement officers in the field to determine if the abalone was legally taken within existing daily and annual bag limits.

This is a new section to contain the abalone report card requirement revised and moved from Section 29.15 and the proposed new tagging requirements. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All individuals including divers must have an Abalone Report Card in their immediate possession while fishing for or taking red abalone.
- 2) Individuals must complete and return the report card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Tagging Requirements
 - a) This report card includes detachable sequentially numbered tags that shall be used to tag any abalone that is taken and retained.
 - b) Any red abalone possessed by any person shall be tagged.
 - c) Cardholders shall tag any red abalone either immediately upon exiting the water or immediately upon boarding a vessel, whichever occurs first.
 1. OPTION 1 – No exception for users of non-motorized vessels.
 2. OPTION 2 – Provides exception to allow cardholders using non-motorized vessels to disembark prior to tagging. Cardholders who dive from a non-motorized vessel such as a kayak that is in the water may wait until immediately after disembarking from the non-motorized vessel to tag and record any abalone in possession, but shall not transfer any abalone from his or her immediate possession unless they are first tagged and recorded on the report card.
 3. For the purposes of this section, a vessel is defined as any watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.
- d) Cardholders shall not wait to return to their vehicle, beach site or other location to tag any abalone in possession.
- e) The cardholder shall fill in the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location on the abalone tag, remove and completely detach the tag from the card, and affix it to the shell of the abalone.
- f) The tag shall be securely fastened to the shell of the abalone. To affix the tag, a "zip tie", string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through a siphon hole on the abalone shell and through the tag at the location specified on the abalone tag.

- g) Tags shall be used in sequential order, and shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to an abalone.
 - h) Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to an abalone shall be considered used and therefore invalid.
 - i) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid abalone tags not attached to an abalone shell.
- 4) Reporting Requirements
- a) Immediately upon tagging all abalone in possession, the cardholder shall record the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location in the appropriate spaces on the numbered line on the report card which corresponds to the number of the tag on the abalone.
- 5) Records of Prior Activity
- a) All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the report card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession.
 - b) Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the report card.
- 6) Abalone tags must be left affixed to the shell, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the abalone is processed for immediate consumption.

Section 29.90 - Spiny Lobsters

Existing regulations in this section prescribes the regulations governing recreational lobster fishing activity using SCUBA, snorkel and hoop net gear. The proposed amendment will add a reference that any person fishing for or taking a spiny lobster shall have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their possession and follow the reporting requirements defined in sections 1.74 and 29.91.

Section 29.91 - Spiny Lobster Report Card Requirements for Ocean Waters

A Spiny Lobster Report Card is proposed to collect needed information on recreational catch, effort, and gear used in the recreational lobster fishery. The Department presently has no effective method to assess recreational take levels or differences in gear efficiency in this fishery, and this new report card will collect vital recreational catch and effort data to enhance assessment of the spiny lobster resources and fishery.

This is a new section to contain the proposed new spiny lobster report card requirement. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All individuals must have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking lobster.

- a) In the case of a person diving from a boat, the report card may be kept in the boat, or in the case of a person diving from the shore, the report card may be kept within 500 yards on the shore.
- 2) Individuals must complete and return the card pursuant to the regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, location and gear code on the first available line on the report card.
- 4) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, he or she must immediately record on the card the number of lobster kept from that location.
- 5) In the event an individual completely fills in all lines and returns a Spiny Lobster Report Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 701 - Sport Fishing Forms and Fees

Existing regulations in this section contains recreational fishing form numbers that are incorporated by reference and their fees which are adjusted annually pursuant to the provisions of Section 699. The proposed amendments to Section 701 will update this information for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon report cards, add this information for the abalone and lobster report cards, and add the replacement card and replacement processing fees for the sturgeon and abalone report cards. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) The Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card fee, \$1.50 in 2007, does not cover any monitoring and analysis costs. Consequently, the Department proposes an increased 2008 fee of \$5.00 for this card to cover projected program monitoring and analysis costs. This fee increase will fund processing of the card data and expand the existing creel survey to cover spring-run Chinook in the Lower Klamath River and fall-run Chinook in Upper Klamath River. The existing creel survey for fall-run Chinook is funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Lower Klamath River.
- 2) The Department proposes a 2008 fee of \$7.50 for the new Spiny Lobster Report Card to cover projected monitoring and analysis costs. Presently there is no funding for monitoring and analysis costs for the lobster recreational fishery. The proposed fee will fund processing of the card data, a new sport lobster creel survey, augment existing telephone surveys to collect lobster sport data, provide enforcement measures on the ocean, public outreach and education, and further lobster resource research with the goal of long term sustainability.

- 3) The Department proposes leaving the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card as a free card for 2008. Projected monitoring and analysis costs will be augmented by the Bay-Delta Stamp Program.
- 4) The Abalone Report Card and Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card fees are set by statute. The Commission does not have authority to modify this fee. In 2008, the fees will be \$17.75 and \$5.75, respectively.
- 5) Proposed replacement report card fees for the abalone and sturgeon report cards are being established to align it with other Department replacement tag procedures. In 2008, the fees will be \$8.25 and \$0.00, respectively. In 2009, the fees will be \$8.25 and \$1.50, respectively.
- 6) Proposed replacement processing fees for replacement of the abalone and sturgeon report cards are being established to recover Department costs for processing of the replacement report card requests. In 2008, the fee will be \$7.50 for both cards.

Other minor revisions for simplification and clarity purposes are proposed.

(b) Authority and Reference:

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 205, 219, 220, 240, 713, 1050, 1053, 1055, 1055.1, 5521, 7149.8 and 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 210, 220, 240, 713, 1050, 1053, 1055, 1055.1, 5521, 7145, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

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

None.

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

None.

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

No public meetings are being held prior to the notice publication.

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 inconsistent report card regulations, limited fishery monitoring for critical species, and ongoing enforcement issues.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of the information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed, or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

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 regulations are projected to have some minor though unquantifiable positive impact on businesses such as tackle shops, drug stores, box stores, and other vendors who contract with the Department to sell report cards to anglers.

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.

It is likely that on the whole, there will be a positive, rather than adverse impact on businesses, and the proposed regulations are not likely to affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

- (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:

None.

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

The Department expects increased costs for some individuals who now will be required to purchase a card who did not need to before. Fees for each card vary from \$1.50 to \$17.75, depending on the species for which a card is sought.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

The estimated fiscal impacts to the Department are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimated Department Costs for 2008 Report Card Programs					
Report Card	Quantity Produced	Proposed 2008 Card Fee	Estimated Cards Sold in 2008	Estimated 2008 Card Revenue	Projected Department Costs
<i>Commission enacted report card programs</i>					
Salmon Card	70,000	\$5.00	12,500	\$62,400	\$108,000 ¹
Sturgeon Card	180,000	\$0.00	34,400	\$0	\$370,000 ²
Lobster Card	100,000	\$7.50	70,000	\$525,000	\$525,000 ¹
<i>Legislature enacted report card programs</i>					
Abalone Card	77,000	\$17.75	37,500	\$665,000	\$665,000 ³
Steelhead Card	130,000	\$5.75	40,700	\$235,000	\$235,000 ³
Footnotes:					
1) Department costs will depend on the final revenue received.					
2) Department costs for report card printing will be recovered from the Bay-Delta Stamp Program.					
3) Card revenue not utilized for program costs is required by statute to be allotted to restoration/research efforts.					

These estimates result from Department costs associated with increased needs for fisheries monitoring and enforcement, analysis of report cards data, report card printing and issuance, and public outreach and education. Any report card program costs not recovered from the proposed report card fee and/or replacement card fees will result in a

reciprocal reduction in fisheries monitoring or report card data analysis. Estimates of card sales are imprecise, and based on sales in prior years. For the new lobster report card, 2008 sales estimates were derived from crude Department estimates of lobster fishing activity from creel census reports, the only available information.

(e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed to Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None.

(g) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

Informative Digest (Policy Statement Overview)

The Department has identified a need to implement additional regulatory requirements for recreational anglers that fish for or take salmon, steelhead, abalone, sturgeon and lobster. The proposed changes are needed to implement vital fishery management to protect and preserve the unique character of California's salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, abalone and lobster fisheries and provide anti-poaching measures to combat illegal black-market activities.

These proposed changes will revamp and add additional requirements for these five sport fisheries, in order to address inadequate recreational harvest data, the lack of adequate funds for report card programs, and difficulties with enforcement of existing current report card requirements and bag limit regulations.

The Department is proposing to change existing regulations to:

- 1) Require anglers of all ages to obtain and carry a report card for all fishing areas and all dates (i.e. fishing piers and free fishing days) when fishing for a species that requires a report card.
- 2) Standardized formats and procedures for all report cards.
- 3) Incorporate sequentially numbered tags into the Abalone Report Card similar to the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.
- 4) Revise the Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card to collect additional river angler data and eliminate the card requirement for ocean waters.
- 5) Implement a new Spiny Lobster Report Card.
- 6) Ensure all report card fees adequately cover monitoring and analysis costs, where possible.

BACKGROUND

Existing fishing report cards collect angler information that would otherwise be very expensive to survey, help increase sample size of fishery estimates, and provide an important harvest tool for assessment and enforcement purposes. Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), presently contains four sport fishing report cards which are:

- Sport Salmon Punch Card - Section 1.74
- Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card - Section 1.74
- Abalone Permit Report Card – Section 29.15
- Sturgeon Fishing Report Card - sections 5.80 & 27.90

The Sport Salmon Punch Card was the first fishing report card adopted by the Commission in 1986 as a fishery management tool to monitor the recreational salmon fishery catch and effort in the ocean waters above Horse Mountain and the anadromous waters of the Klamath and Trinity river basins.

The next two fishing report cards were established by the Legislature. The Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card was implemented in 1991 pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7380 to track the steelhead fishery catch and effort and provide revenue for steelhead restoration efforts. The Legislature also provided the Commission with the authority to establish additional regulations to implement and make specific this report card requirement as necessary pursuant to Fish and Game Code subsection 7380(c).

The Abalone Permit Report Card was added in 2001 pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 7149.8 to track the recreational abalone fishery catch and effort and provide revenue for abalone research and management. However, the Commission retained general authority to regulate sport fishing (Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 205), and thus can implement and make specific provisions to implement this statutorily-established card program consistent with the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan adopted by the Commission pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 5522.

The fourth report card was the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card adopted by the Commission in 2006, under its general authority to regulate the recreational white sturgeon fishery. Its new approach required all anglers regardless of age and fishing area carry the report card and incorporated removable tags to be affixed to any retained white sturgeon. This approach was necessary to enforce the three-fish annual bag limit, collected additional angler data, deter poaching and stop illegal black-market activities. This report card was required for anglers less than 16 years old and other non-licensed anglers to collect important information that would otherwise be underestimated or not counted.

PROPOSAL DISCUSSION AND DETAILS

The Department requests the Commission consider the following proposed revisions or additions to Title 14, CCR, as described herein:

Section 1.74 - Sport Fishing Report Card and Tagging Requirements

The Department is proposing to improve the design of each report card to streamline the completion and submission procedures. All of the report cards will require the same cardholder information be collected and the completion, submission, and replacement card procedures will be contained within this general section. This standardization will reduce license agent and angler confusion when using the five different report cards and help increase regulation compliance.

The Klamath-Trinity salmon, steelhead, abalone, sturgeon, and lobster fisheries are some of California's most valuable recreational fishing resources and provide significant economic benefit to the California's statewide economy. It is crucial that catch and effort information be collected from all anglers in these very

important fisheries, as the under-age and non-licensed anglers are otherwise underestimated, misrepresented, or just not counted. These proposed revisions are considerably more cost-effective than having Department staff expand its creel census program to cover 100% of the recreational fishing effort for these fisheries.

Existing regulations in this section contains the Salmon Punch Card and Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card requirements. The ocean requirement for the salmon report card is proposed to be eliminated, the regulations for the salmon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.87, and the regulations for the steelhead report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.88. The proposed Section 1.74 revisions and additions applicable to all report cards are outlined below:

Purpose

These regulations address potential concerns for overfishing and a lack of recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fishery operates. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

Species and Location Requirements

Anglers fishing for or taking the following species in the specified area are subject to the report card requirements:

- 1) Salmon, in the Klamath-Trinity River System defined as the anadromous waters of the Klamath and Trinity River basins.
 - a) Anadromous waters are defined by Section 1.04 as inland waters that are accessible to fish migrating from the ocean.
- 2) Steelhead trout, in anadromous waters.
- 3) White sturgeon, in all areas of authorized take and retained sturgeon are required to be tagged.
- 4) Red abalone, in all areas of authorized take and retained abalone are required to be tagged.
- 5) California spiny lobster, in all areas of authorized take.

General Report Card Requirements

- 1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the above five species shall possess a non-transferable report card for that particular species. This includes all persons who are:
 - a) under 16 years of age,
 - b) fishing from a public pier,
 - c) fishing on free fishing days, or
 - d) hold a lifetime fishing license.

- 2) Persons exempt from sport fishing license requirements may obtain report cards without purchasing a sport fishing license.
- 3) All entries made on any report card or tag must be legible and in indelible ink.
- 4) The cardholder is responsible for entry of the following information at the time of report card issuance:
 - a) Acquisition of Sturgeon Fishing Report Cards and Abalone Report Cards: If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the report card number shall be entered in the designated space provided on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.
 - b) Acquisition of Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Cards, Steelhead Report and Restoration Cards and Spiny Lobster Report Cards: If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered in the blank area on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.
 - c) The date that the report card is issued.
 - d) The cardholder's name.
 - e) The cardholder's street address, city, state, and zip code.
 - f) The cardholder's home phone.
 - g) The cardholder's date of birth.
 - h) If the cardholder has an e-mail address, a driver's license, or DMV identification number, this information shall also be entered in the appropriate spaces.
- 5) If the cardholder wants to purchase another fishing license after their short term sport fishing license has expired, the cardholder does not need to purchase a second report card provided they still possesses the first report card.
 - a) If there is a space provided for the particular card on the sport fishing license, the number shall be entered in the appropriate space at the time of purchase.
 - b) If there is no space provided for the card, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license.
- 6) A report card shall be valid only during the open fishing season for the calendar year as shown on the report card.
- 7) Cardholders shall return their card by January 31 of the following year to the Department at the address specified on the card.
- 8) Cardholders who fail to return their report card to the Department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a following license year, or may be charged additional fees for the issuance of the same card in a following license year.
- 9) For abalone and sturgeon report cards, only one report card may be issued per person per year.

- 10) Report cards may not be transferred to another person and no person may possess any report card other than their own.

Replacement Procedures for Lost Abalone or Sturgeon Report Cards

- 1) If the cardholder loses an abalone or sturgeon report cards, a replacement card can be obtained by providing all of the following information to a Department license office:
 - a) A photocopy of the original report card issued in the cardholder's name.
 - b) A signed affidavit containing the following information:
 1. A statement confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.
 2. A statement of the cardholder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost, including the number of tags utilized.
 3. A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card.
 - c) Proof of purchase of the original report card.
 - d) Payment of the replacement card and processing fee.
 1. A replacement report card fee is proposed to recover Department printing costs pursuant to Section 1053(b) of the Fish and Game Code.
 2. A processing fee for the replacement report card is proposed to recover Department processing costs pursuant to Section 1050(e) of the Fish and Game Code.
- 2) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit, the Department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.
- 3) At the time the replacement card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the number of the replacement card shall be entered in the appropriate space on the sport fishing license and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.
- 4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

Replacement Procedures for Salmon, Steelhead, or Lobster Report Cards

- 1) Any cardholder who fills in all available lines on their steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return the card to the Department address specified on the card prior to purchasing a second card.
- 2) Any cardholder who loses their steelhead, salmon or lobster report card may purchase a second card. Before purchasing a new card, they shall provide a written affidavit to the Department address on the card documenting the lost catch and effort data required by the card to the best of the cardholder's recollection.
- 3) At the time the additional card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and the number

shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.

- 4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

Specific Report Card and Tagging Requirements

Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. These specific regulations in sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 also apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

Sections 5.79 and 27.92 - White Sturgeon Report Card and Tagging Requirements (for Inland and Ocean Waters)

Section 5.79 is a new inland waters section and Section 27.92 is an updated ocean waters section to contain the sturgeon report card and tagging requirements removed and revised from Section 5.80 for inland waters and Section 27.90 for ocean waters. The proposed revisions are the same for both sections and are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking sturgeon.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the report card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Tagging and Recording Requirements for Retained Fish
 - a) This report card includes detachable sequentially numbered tags that shall be used to tag any white sturgeon taken and retained.
 - b) Any white sturgeon possessed by any person shall be tagged.
 - c) Upon taking and retaining a white sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, fishing location and length of the fish in the appropriate spaces on the tag.
 - d) Tags shall be used in sequential order.
 - e) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the report card which corresponds to the number on the tag.
 - f) Immediately after recording the information as required, the cardholder shall remove and completely detach the tag from the card and affix it to the white sturgeon.
 - g) Cardholders shall not wait until completion of fishing activity to tag any white sturgeon in possession.
 - h) The tag shall be securely fastened to the fish. To affix the tag, a "zip tie", string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through at the location specified on the sturgeon tag and attached to the fish.
 - i) Tags shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to a white sturgeon.

- j) Any tag detached from the report card and not affixed to a white sturgeon shall be considered used and therefore invalid.
- k) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid tags.
- 4) Records of Prior Activity
 - a) All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the report card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession.
 - b) Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the report card.
- 5) Reporting Requirements for Released Fish
 - a) Whenever the cardholder catches and releases a sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, location code, and species of sturgeon on the report card.
 - b) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.
- 6) Sturgeon tags must be left affixed to the fish in place, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the fish is processed for immediate consumption.

Sections 5.80 and Section 27.90 - White Sturgeon

Existing regulations in Section 5.80 prescribes the regulations governing recreational white sturgeon fishing in inland waters. The regulations for the sturgeon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 5.79, and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 5.79.

Existing regulations in Section 27.90 prescribes the regulations governing recreational white sturgeon fishing in ocean waters. The regulations for the sturgeon report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 27.92, and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 27.92.

Section 5.81 and Section 27.91 - Green Sturgeon

Existing regulations in Section 5.81 states green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed in inland waters. The reference will be updated to show the catch and release reporting requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 5.79.

Existing regulations in Section 27.91 states green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed in ocean waters. The reference will be updated to show the catch and release reporting requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 27.92.

Section 5.87 - Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card Requirement

Klamath and Trinity river basin salmon stocks have been severely depleted in recent years due to poor escapement and ocean conditions. This has resulted in

extensive ocean and river fishery restrictions. There is also a strong concern that many of the basin's sub-stocks have higher than predicted fishery impacts which could lead to their possible extinction. These proposed changes will augment the existing data for salmon stocks from the river sport fishery to ensure effective management of the Klamath-Trinity river basin salmon stocks.

Presently the Sport Salmon Punch Card serves as an enforcement tool for tracking daily and weekly bag limits. The proposed changes will eliminate the report card requirement for ocean waters above Horse Mountain, change the name to the Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card to reflect its reduced geographic area and format change from a punch card, and collect adult and jack Chinook salmon retention and release information, Coho salmon release information, and record salmon fin clip information.

This is a new section to contain the regulations for the salmon report card requirement revised and moved from Section 1.74. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking salmon in waters of the Klamath River system.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder shall record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.
- 4) Whenever the cardholder retains or releases a Chinook salmon, they must immediately record whether the fish was an adult or a jack and whether the fish has an adipose fin present.
- 5) Whenever the cardholder releases a Coho salmon, they must immediately record whether the maxillary is present or absent.
- 6) Whenever the cardholder moves to another fishing location, they must record the month, day, and catch area on the next line on the report card.
- 7) In the Klamath-Trinity River System, a jack Chinook salmon is defined as any Chinook salmon that is less than 22 inches total length.
- 8) In the event an angler completely fills in all lines and returns a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 5.88 - Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters

This is a new section to contain the steelhead report card requirement for inland waters revised and moved from Section 1.74. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All anglers must have a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead in anadromous waters.
- 2) Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length in anadromous waters.
- 4) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.
- 5) When a steelhead is retained, the cardholder must immediately fill in a circle indicating whether the fish is a wild fish or a hatchery fish.
- 6) When the cardholder moves to another fishing location, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery fish that were released from that location.
- 7) In the event an angler completely fills in all lines and returns the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 29.15 - Abalone

Existing regulations in this section prescribes the regulations governing recreational abalone diving activity in northern California waters where the take of red abalone is authorized. The regulations for the abalone report card requirement will be revised and moved to Section 29.16 and the reference updated to show the reporting and tagging requirements are defined in sections 1.74 and 29.16.

Section 29.16 - Abalone Report Card and Tagging Requirements for Ocean Waters

The Department is proposing the Abalone Report Card be issued with 24 attached numbered tags to match the current annual limit similar to the Sturgeon Report Card and tags.

At the Commission's May meeting, the Department reported that violations of daily and annual bag limit regulations for abalone continue to be widespread, despite concerted enforcement and outreach efforts and the threat of enhanced penalties. As reported, abalone are often taken by one angler and given away as a gift.

Current regulations make it impossible to determine if the abalone in an individual's possession was taken legally without the use of a sequentially numbered tag. An abalone tag affixed to the abalone shell will clearly indicate that the individual was harvested in the recreational fishery. This new tag program will assist enforcement officers in the field to determine if the abalone was legally taken within existing daily and annual bag limits.

This is a new section to contain the abalone report card requirement revised and moved from Section 29.15 and the proposed new tagging requirements. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All individuals including divers must have an Abalone Report Card in their immediate possession while fishing for or taking red abalone.
- 2) Individuals must complete and return the report card pursuant to regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Tagging Requirements
 - a) This report card includes detachable sequentially numbered tags that shall be used to tag any abalone that is taken and retained.
 - b) Any red abalone possessed by any person shall be tagged.
 - c) Cardholders shall tag any red abalone either immediately upon exiting the water or immediately upon boarding a vessel, whichever occurs first.
 1. OPTION 1 – No exception for users of non-motorized vessels.
 2. OPTION 2 – Provides exception to allow cardholders using non-motorized vessels to disembark prior to tagging. Cardholders who dive from a non-motorized vessel such as a kayak that is in the water may wait until immediately after disembarking from the non-motorized vessel to tag and record any abalone in possession, but shall not transfer any abalone from his or her immediate possession unless they are first tagged and recorded on the report card.
 3. For the purposes of this section, a vessel is defined as any watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.
 - d) Cardholders shall not wait to return to their vehicle, beach site or other location to tag any abalone in possession.
 - e) The cardholder shall fill in the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location on the abalone tag, remove and completely detach the tag from the card, and affix it to the shell of the abalone.
 - f) The tag shall be securely fastened to the shell of the abalone. To affix the tag, a “zip tie”, string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through a siphon hole on the abalone shell and through the tag at the location specified on the abalone tag.
 - g) Tags shall be used in sequential order, and shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to an abalone.
 - h) Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to an abalone shall be considered used and therefore invalid.
 - i) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid abalone tags not attached to an abalone shell.
- 4) Reporting Requirements
 - a) Immediately upon tagging all abalone in possession, the cardholder shall record the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location in the appropriate spaces on the numbered line on the report card which corresponds to the number of the tag on the abalone.

- 5) Records of Prior Activity
 - a) All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the report card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession.
 - b) Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the report card.
- 6) Abalone tags must be left affixed to the shell, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the abalone is processed for immediate consumption.

Section 29.90 - Spiny Lobsters

Existing regulations in this section prescribes the regulations governing recreational lobster fishing activity using SCUBA, snorkel and hoop net gear. The proposed amendment will add a reference that any person fishing for or taking a spiny lobster shall have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their possession and follow the reporting requirements defined in sections 1.74 and 29.91.

Section 29.91 - Spiny Lobster Report Card Requirements for Ocean Waters

A Spiny Lobster Report Card is proposed to collect needed information on recreational catch, effort, and gear used in the recreational lobster fishery. The Department presently has no effective method to assess recreational take levels or differences in gear efficiency in this fishery, and this new report card will collect vital recreational catch and effort data to enhance assessment of the spiny lobster resources and fishery.

This is a new section to contain the proposed new spiny lobster report card requirement. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) All individuals must have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking lobster.
 - a) In the case of a person diving from a boat, the report card may be kept in the boat, or in the case of a person diving from the shore, the report card may be kept within 500 yards on the shore.
- 2) Individuals must complete and return the card pursuant to the regulations in this Section and Section 1.74.
- 3) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, location and gear code on the first available line on the report card.
- 4) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, he or she must immediately record on the card the number of lobster kept from that location.
- 5) In the event an individual completely fills in all lines and returns a Spiny Lobster Report Card, an additional card may be purchased.

Section 701 - Sport Fishing Forms and Fees

Existing regulations in this section contains recreational fishing form numbers

that are incorporated by reference and their fees which are adjusted annually pursuant to the provisions of Section 699. The proposed amendments to Section 701 will update this information for salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon report cards, add this information for the abalone and lobster report cards, and add the replacement card and replacement processing fees for the sturgeon and abalone report cards. The proposed revisions are outlined below:

- 1) The Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card fee, \$1.50 in 2007, does not cover any monitoring and analysis costs. Consequently, the Department proposes an increased 2008 fee of \$5.00 for this card to cover projected program monitoring and analysis costs. This fee increase will fund processing of the card data and expand the existing creel survey to cover spring-run Chinook in the Lower Klamath River and fall-run Chinook in Upper Klamath River. The existing creel survey for fall-run Chinook is funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Lower Klamath River.
- 2) The Department proposes a 2008 fee of \$7.50 for the new Spiny Lobster Report Card to cover projected monitoring and analysis costs. Presently there is no funding for monitoring and analysis costs for the lobster recreational fishery. The proposed fee will fund processing of the card data, a new sport lobster creel survey, augment existing telephone surveys to collect lobster sport data, provide enforcement measures on the ocean, public outreach and education, and further lobster resource research with the goal of long term sustainability.
- 3) The Department proposes leaving the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card as a free card for 2008. Projected monitoring and analysis costs will be augmented by the Bay-Delta Stamp Program.
- 4) The Abalone Report Card and Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card fees are set by statute. The Commission does not have authority to modify this fee. In 2008, the fees will be \$17.75 and \$5.75, respectively.
- 5) Proposed replacement report card fees for the abalone and sturgeon report cards are being established to align it with other Department replacement tag procedures. In 2008, the fees will be \$8.25 and \$0.00, respectively. In 2009, the fees will be \$8.25 and \$1.50, respectively.
- 6) Proposed replacement processing fees for replacement of the abalone and sturgeon report cards are being established to recover Department costs for processing of the replacement report card requests. In 2008, the fee will be \$7.50 for both cards.

Other minor revisions for simplification and clarity purposes are proposed.

Regulatory Language

Section 1.74, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§1.74. Salmon Punch Card and Steelhead Sport Fishing Report Card and Tagging Requirements.

~~(a) In addition to a valid sport fishing license, any person fishing for salmon in ocean waters north of Horse Mountain or in waters of the Klamath River system shall have in their possession a nontransferable Salmon Punch Card issued by the department. Anglers must immediately upon taking and retaining an adult salmon as defined in Section 27.80(d) in ocean waters, and over 22 inches total length in the river system, make a hole in the punch card in one of the designated locations and record the month, day, area of catch and species of salmon in the spaces provided.~~

~~—————The fee for a Salmon Punch Card is specified in Section 701. A Salmon Punch Card shall be valid for the calendar year. No person may purchase or possess more than one Salmon Punch Card or any Salmon Punch Card other than his own. Unless both the salmon punch card and the sport fishing license are issued through the Automated License Data System (see Section 700.4), any person who issues a Salmon Punch Card shall enter the card number on the appropriate space provided on the angler's valid sport fishing license. The sport fishing license number shall be entered on the punch card in the appropriate space provided.~~

~~Anglers must return punch cards to the department within 30 days of the close of the calendar year.~~

~~(b) In addition to a valid sport fishing license, any person fishing for steelhead trout in anadromous waters (see Section 1.04 for definition of anadromous waters) shall have in their possession a nontransferable Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card issued by the department. For purposes of this regulation, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length found in anadromous waters. Anglers must immediately record, with a ball-point pen, the month, day, catch area, number of steelhead caught and kept, and number of steelhead caught and released whenever the cardholder finishes fishing for the day, moves to another river or stream, or retains a steelhead trout.~~

~~A Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card shall be valid for the calendar year. When the card becomes completely filled in, any person may purchase another card. Anglers must return their card by January 31 of the following year to the address specified on the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card.~~

~~Revenue received from the sale of the cards may only be expended to monitor, restore, or enhance steelhead trout resources and to administer the report-restoration card program. The card shall contain a statement explaining potential uses of the funds received.~~

(a) Purpose. These regulations address potential concern for overfishing and a lack of recreational fishing effort and catch information in some or all areas where the fishery operates. Many of these species are of high commercial value, and therefore, additional

enforcement mechanisms are needed to improve compliance with existing bag limits and other regulations, and to reduce the potential for poaching.

(b) Species and Location Requirements. Individuals fishing for or taking the following species are subject to report card requirements in the following locations described below:

(1) Salmon, in the Klamath-Trinity River System only. The Klamath-Trinity River System is defined as the anadromous waters of the Klamath River and Trinity River basins.

Anadromous waters are defined in Section 1.04.

(2) Steelhead trout, in all anadromous waters where take is authorized.

(3) White sturgeon, in all areas where take is authorized. Tagging of retained individual sturgeon is also required.

(4) Red abalone, in all areas where take is authorized. Tagging of retained individual abalone is also required

(5) California spiny lobster, in all areas where take is authorized.

(c) General Report Card Requirements.

(1) Any person fishing for or taking any of the species identified in this Section shall have in their possession a non-transferable report card issued by the department for the particular species. See special exemption regarding possession of report cards for lobster divers in Section 29.91.

(2) Notwithstanding other statutes and regulations that may exempt sport fishing license requirements, non-transferable report cards are required for any person fishing for or taking the species identified above. All cardholders shall adhere to all reporting and tagging requirements defined in this Section and Sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 regardless of whether a sport fishing license requirement applies. This provision applies to all of the following persons:

(A) Any person who is under 16 years of age

(B) Any person who is fishing from a public pier

(C) Any person who is fishing on free fishing days

(D) Any person who holds a lifetime fishing license

(3) Persons described in subsections 1.74(c)(2) may purchase report cards without purchasing a license.

(4) All entries made on any report card or tag must be legible and in indelible ink.

(5) Entries Required at the Time of Report Card Issuance. At the time of issuance of the report card, the cardholder is responsible for entry of the following information, unless both the report card and the sport fishing license are issued through the Automated License Data System:

(A) Acquisition of Sturgeon Fishing Report Cards and Abalone Report Cards - If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the report card number shall be entered in the designated space provided on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.

(B) Acquisition of Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Cards, Steelhead Report and Restoration Cards and Spiny Lobster Report Cards - If the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and the number shall be

entered in the blank area on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered on the report card in the appropriate space.

(C) The date the report card is issued, the individual's name, street address, city, state, zip code, home phone, and date of birth shall be entered in the appropriate spaces on the report card. If the cardholder has a driver's license, or DMV identification number, this information shall also be entered in the appropriate spaces. If the cardholder has an e-mail address, it may be entered in the space provided.

(D) If the cardholder wishes to purchase another fishing license after their one, two, or ten-day sport fishing license has expired the cardholder need not purchase a second report card for any species, so long as the cardholder still possesses the report card valid for the calendar year. At the time of purchase of the subsequent license, the additional sport fishing license number shall be entered in the appropriate space on the report card. If there is a space provided for the particular card on the sport fishing license, the number shall be entered in the appropriate space at the time of purchase. If there is no space provided for the card, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license.

(6) A report card shall be valid only during the open fishing season for the calendar year shown on the report card.

(7) Cardholders shall return their card by January 31 of the following year to the department at the address specified on the card.

(8) Any person who fails to return his or her report card to the Department by the deadline may be restricted from obtaining the same card in a subsequent license year or may be subject to an additional fee for the issuance of the same card in a subsequent license year.

(9) For abalone and sturgeon report cards, only one report card may be issued per person per license year.

(10) Report cards may not be transferred to another person and no person may possess any report card other than their own.

(d) Replacement Procedures for Lost Abalone or Sturgeon Report Cards. For species for which an individual may purchase only one report card per year (i.e., abalone and sturgeon), if the cardholder loses the card, a replacement card shall be acquired only by following the procedures below:

(1) The individual shall provide all of the following to a Department license office location:

(A) A photocopy of the original report card issued in the cardholder's name, unless the report card was issued through the Automated License Data System.

(B) An affidavit, signed under penalty of perjury, containing the following information:

1. A statement confirming that the originally issued report card cannot be recovered.

2. A statement of the cardholder's best recollection of the prior catch records that were entered on the report card that was lost, including the number of tags utilized.

3. A statement describing the factual circumstances surrounding the loss of the card.

(C) Proof of purchase of the original report card, in the form of an itemized receipt, credit card billing statement, invoice, or other written business record expressly

documenting that a report card for the particular species was purchased and the corresponding fee was paid. The cardholder is exempt from this requirement if the report card was issued through the Automated License Data System.

(D) Payment of the Replacement Card Fee specified in Section 701(f), 701(g) or 701(h) Title 14, CCR, established pursuant to subdivision 1053(b) of the Fish and Game Code, and as adjusted pursuant to Sections 713 and 1055 of the Fish and Game Code.

(E) Payment of the Replacement Processing Fee specified in Section 701(i) or 701(j), Title 14, CCR, established pursuant to subdivision 1050(e) of the Fish and Game Code.

(2) Based on the information provided in the written affidavit, the department shall issue only the number of tags that were reported unused on the previously issued report card.

(3) At the time the replacement card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, the number of the replacement card shall be entered in the appropriate space on the sport fishing license and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.

(4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

(e) Replacement Procedures for Salmon, Steelhead, or Lobster Report Cards.

(1) Any cardholder who fills in all available lines on his or her steelhead, salmon or lobster report card shall return the card to the department at the address specified on the card prior to purchasing a second card.

(2) Any cardholder who loses his or her steelhead, salmon or lobster report card may purchase a second card, but at or before the time of purchase shall provide a written affidavit to the department at the address on the report card documenting the lost catch and effort data required by the card to the best of the cardholder's recollection.

(3) At the time the additional card is acquired, if the cardholder is required to have a sport fishing license, both the name of the report card and the number shall be entered on the back of the individual's sport fishing license, and the fishing license number shall be entered in the space provided on the report card.

(4) All regulations applicable to the initial card also apply to additional cards issued pursuant to this subsection.

(f) Specific Report Card and Tagging Requirements. Data recording and tagging procedures vary between report cards and species. See specific regulations in Sections 5.79, 5.87, 5.88, 27.92, 29.16, and 29.91 that apply in addition to the regulations of this Section.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 240, 1050, 1053, 1055, 1055.1 and 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 240, 713, 1050, 1053, 1055, 1055.1, 7149.8, 7380, 7381 and 7382, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.79, Title 14, CCR, is added to read:

§5.79. White Sturgeon Report Card and Tagging Requirements for Inland Waters (FG 683, See Section 701).

(a) Sturgeon Fishing Report Card Required. All anglers must have a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking sturgeon. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Tagging and Recording Requirements for Retained Fish. A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card includes detachable tags that shall be used to tag any white sturgeon that is taken and retained in the sport fishery. Any white sturgeon possessed by any person shall be tagged.

(1) Upon taking and retaining a white sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the following information:

(A) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the tag. Tags shall be used in sequential order.

(B) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card which corresponds to the number on the tag.

(2) Immediately after recording the information above, the cardholder shall remove and completely detach the tag from the card and affix it to the white sturgeon. Cardholders shall not wait until completion of fishing activity to tag any white sturgeon in possession.

(3) The tag shall be securely fastened to the fish. To affix the tag, a "zip tie", string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through the tag at the location specified on the sturgeon tag and attached to the fish.

(4) Tags shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to a white sturgeon. Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to a white sturgeon shall be considered used and therefore invalid. No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid sturgeon tags.

(5) Records of Prior Activity. All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession. Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.

(c) Reporting Requirements for Released Fish.

(1) Whenever the cardholder catches and releases a sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, location code, and species of sturgeon.

(2) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.

(d) Sturgeon tags must be left affixed to the fish in place, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the fish is processed for immediate consumption.

(e) The annual fee for the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card is specified in Section 701, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.80, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§5.80. White Sturgeon.

- (a) Open season: All year, except for closures listed under special regulations.
- (b) Daily and annual bag limit: One fish per day. Three fish per year statewide.
- (c) Size limit: No fish less than 46 inches total length or greater than 66 inches total length may be taken or possessed.
- (d) Methods of take: The sturgeon must voluntarily take the bait or lure in its mouth. No sturgeon may be taken by trolling, snagging or by the use of firearms. Sturgeon may not be gaffed, nor shall any person use any type of firearm to assist in landing or killing any sturgeon.
- (e) Report card required: Any person fishing for or taking sturgeon shall have in their possession a nontransferable Sturgeon Fishing Report Card issued by the department and shall adhere to all reporting and tagging requirements for sturgeon defined in Sections 1.74 and 5.79, Title 14, CCR.
 - (1) Report card requirements.
 - (A) ~~Notwithstanding other statutes and regulations that exempt sport fishing license requirements, a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card is required for any person fishing for sturgeon. This includes anglers who are under 16 years of age, anglers who are fishing from a public pier, and anglers who hold a lifetime fishing license. Anglers who are under 16 years of age may obtain a sturgeon fishing report card without purchasing a sport fishing license.~~
 - (B) ~~A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card shall be valid for the calendar year as shown on the report card.~~
 - (C) ~~Notwithstanding other statutes and regulations, no person may obtain more than one Sturgeon Fishing Report Card per year or possess any Sturgeon Fishing Report Card other than their own.~~
 - (D) ~~The form number and fee for a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card are specified in Section 701.~~
 - (E) ~~Anglers must return their card by January 31 of the following year shown on the report card to the address specified on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.~~
 - (2) Completion procedures.
 - (A) ~~Upon obtainment of the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card, if the angler is required to hold a sport fishing license, the report card number shall be entered in ink on the angler's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered in ink on the report card on the appropriate line.~~
 - (B) ~~Whenever the cardholder catches a sturgeon, whether the fish is retained or released, the cardholder shall use a ball point pen to immediately record on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card all of the following information: month and day, catch location, and species of sturgeon. If a white sturgeon is retained, the total length of the fish must also be recorded immediately on the report card.~~

(C) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.

~~(f) Tagging Requirements: A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card includes three tags that are to be used to tag any white sturgeon that is retained.~~

~~(1) After retaining a white sturgeon the date the fish is taken shall be immediately recorded on the tag with a ball point pen.~~

~~(2) The angler shall immediately attach the tag to the body of the white sturgeon, and leave the tag in place until the fish is processed, steaked, or filleted for consumption and stored at a residence or non-transient location.~~

~~(g)(f) Special North Coast District Sturgeon Closure (Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Siskiyou cos.). It is unlawful to take any sturgeon in the North Coast District at any time.~~

~~(h)(g) For regulations on take and possession of sturgeon in ocean waters as defined in Section 27.00, see Sections 27.90, 27.91, and 27.95.~~

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, and 220, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 206, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.81, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§5.81. Green Sturgeon.

(a) Green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed.

(b) Green sturgeon taken and released incidentally to white sturgeon fishing shall be reported on a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card issued by the department, in accordance with procedures defined in ~~Subsection 5.80(e), Title 14, CCR. The form number and fee for a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card are specified in Section 701~~ Sections 1.74 and 5.79, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205 and 220, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 206, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.87, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

~~§5.87. Marking Requirements for Salmon Taken by Other Than Commercial Means. Repealer filed 2-9-96; operative 2-9-96 pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 202 and 205 (Register 96, No. 6).~~

Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card Requirement (FG 684, See Section 701).

(a) Report Card Required in Waters of the Klamath-Trinity River System. All anglers must have a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking salmon in waters of the Klamath-Trinity River System, and must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder shall record the month, day, and fishing location on the first available line on the report card.

(c) Whenever the cardholder lands (either retains or releases) a Chinook salmon, the angler shall immediately record whether the fish was an adult or a jack, and whether the fish has an adipose fin present. Whenever the cardholder releases a Coho salmon, the angler shall immediately record whether the maxillary is present or absent.

(d) Whenever the cardholder moves to another fishing location, the angler shall record the month, day, and location on the next line on the report card.

(e) In the Klamath-Trinity River System, a jack Chinook salmon is defined as any Chinook salmon that is less than 22 inches total length.

(f) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card, an additional card may be purchased. See Section 1.74.

(g) The annual fee for the Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card is specified in Section 701, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: ~~Section 7708~~, Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: ~~Sections 7700, 7702, 7703, 7706 and 7708~~, 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

Section 5.88, Title 14, CCR, is added to read:

§5.88. Steelhead Report and Restoration Card Requirements for Inland Waters (FG 682, See Section 701).

(a) Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card Required. All anglers must have a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead in anadromous waters, as defined in Section 1.04. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74. For purposes of these regulations, a steelhead trout is defined as any rainbow trout greater than 16 inches in length found in anadromous waters.

(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, and location code on the first available line on the report card.

(c) When a steelhead is retained, the cardholder must immediately fill in a circle indicating whether the fish is a wild fish or a hatchery fish.

(d) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, the angler must immediately record on the card the number of wild and hatchery fish that were released from that location.

(e) In the event an angler fills in all lines and returns a Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card, an additional card may be purchased. See Section 1.74.

(f) The annual fee for the Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card is specified in Section 7380 of the Fish and Game Code.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Section 7380, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 7380 and 7381, Fish and Game Code.

Section 27.90, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§27.90. White Sturgeon.

(a) Open season: All year.

(b) Daily and annual bag limit: One fish per day. Three fish per year statewide.

(c) Size limit: No fish less than 46 inches total length or greater than 66 inches total length may be taken or possessed.

(d) Methods of take: The sturgeon must voluntarily take the bait or lure in its mouth. No sturgeon may be taken by trolling, snagging or by the use of firearms. Sturgeon may not be gaffed, nor shall any person use any type of firearm to assist in landing or killing any sturgeon.

(e) Report card required: Any person fishing for or taking sturgeon shall have in their possession a nontransferable Sturgeon Fishing Report Card issued by the department and shall adhere to all reporting and tagging requirements for sturgeon defined in Sections 1.74 and 27.92, Title 14, CCR.

~~(1) Report card requirements.~~

~~(A) Notwithstanding other statutes and regulations that exempt sport fishing license requirements, a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card is required for any person fishing for sturgeon. This includes anglers who are under 16 years of age, anglers who are fishing from a public pier, and anglers who hold a lifetime fishing license. Anglers who are under 16 years of age may obtain a sturgeon fishing report card without purchasing a sport fishing license.~~

~~(B) A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card shall be valid for the calendar year as shown on the report card.~~

~~(C) Notwithstanding other statutes and regulations, no person may obtain more than one Sturgeon Fishing Report Card per year or possess any Sturgeon Fishing Report Card other than their own.~~

~~(D) The form number and fee for a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card are specified in Section 701.~~

~~(E) Anglers must return their card by January 31 of the following year shown on the report card to the address specified on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.~~

~~(2) Completion procedures.~~

~~(A) Upon obtainment of the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card, if the angler is required to hold a sport fishing license, the report card number shall be entered in ink on the angler's sport fishing license, and the sport fishing license number shall be entered in ink on the report card on the appropriate line.~~

~~(B) Whenever the cardholder catches a sturgeon, whether the fish is retained or released, the cardholder shall use a ball point pen to immediately record on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card all of the following information: month and day, catch location, and species of sturgeon. If a white sturgeon is retained, the total length of the fish must also be recorded immediately on the report card.~~

~~(C) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.~~

(f) ~~Tagging Requirements: A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card includes three tags that are to be used to tag any white sturgeon that is retained.~~

~~(1) After retaining a white sturgeon the date the fish is taken shall be immediately recorded on the tag with a ball point pen.~~

~~(2) The angler shall immediately attach the tag to the body of the white sturgeon, and leave the tag in place until the fish is processed, steaked, or filleted for consumption and stored at a residence or non-transient location.~~

~~(g)(f)~~ For regulations on take and possession of sturgeon in inland waters as defined in Section 1.53, see Section 5.80 and Section 5.81.

~~(h)(g)~~ Boat limits, as defined in Subsection 27.60(e) and Section 195, are not authorized for sturgeon fishing and shall not apply to the take, possession or retention of white sturgeon.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205 and 220, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 206, Fish and Game Code.

Section 27.91, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§27.91. Green Sturgeon.

(a) Green sturgeon may not be taken or possessed.

(b) Green sturgeon taken and released incidentally to white sturgeon fishing shall be reported on a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card issued by the department, in accordance with procedures defined in ~~Subsection 27.90(e), Title 14, CCR. The form number and fee for a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card are specified in Section 701~~ Sections 1.74 and 27.92, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205 and 220, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 205 and 206, Fish and Game Code.

Section 27.92, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§27.92. – Repealed by operation of Government Code section 11346.1(g) (Register 2006, No. 33). Green Sturgeon. White Sturgeon Report Card and Tagging Requirements for Ocean Waters (FG 683, See Section 701).

(a) Sturgeon Fishing Report Card Required. All anglers must have a Sturgeon Fishing Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking sturgeon. Anglers must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Tagging and Recording Requirements for Retained Fish. A Sturgeon Fishing Report Card includes detachable tags that shall be used to tag any white sturgeon that is taken and retained in the sport fishery. Any white sturgeon possessed by any person shall be tagged.

(1) Upon taking and retaining a white sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the following information:

(A) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the tag. Tags shall be used in sequential order.

(B) The month, day, fishing location and length of the fish shall be recorded in the appropriate spaces on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card which corresponds to the number on the tag.

(2) Immediately after recording the information above, the cardholder shall remove and completely detach the tag from the card and affix it to the white sturgeon. Cardholders shall not wait until completion of fishing activity to tag any white sturgeon in possession.

(3) The tag shall be securely fastened to the fish. To affix the tag, a "zip tie", string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through the tag at the location specified on the sturgeon tag and attached to the fish.

(4) Tags shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to a white sturgeon. Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to a white sturgeon shall be considered used and therefore invalid. No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid sturgeon tags.

(5) Records of Prior Activity. All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession. Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card.

(c) Reporting Requirements for Released Fish.

(1) Whenever the cardholder catches and releases a sturgeon, the cardholder shall immediately record the month, day, location code, and species of sturgeon.

(2) If all lines in the "sturgeon released" field of the report card are filled, any additional sturgeon caught and released need not be recorded on the card.

(d) Sturgeon tags must be left affixed to the fish in place, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the fish is processed for immediate consumption.

(e) The annual fee for the Sturgeon Fishing Report Card is specified in Section 701, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

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

Section 29.15, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§29.15. Abalone.

(a) Geographic Area: Abalone may only be taken north of a line drawn due west magnetic from the center of the mouth of San Francisco Bay. No abalone may be taken, landed, or possessed if taken south of this line.

(b) Open Season and Hours: Abalone may be taken only during the months of April, May, June, August, September, October and November from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

(c) Bag Limit and Yearly Trip Limit: Three red abalone, *Haliotis rufescens*, may be taken per day. No more than three abalone may be possessed at any time. No other species of abalone may be taken or possessed. Each person taking abalone shall stop detaching abalone when the limit of three is reached. No person shall take more than 24 abalone during a calendar year.

(d) Minimum Abalone Size: All red abalone must be seven inches or greater measured along the longest shell diameter. All legal size abalone detached must be retained. No undersized abalone may be brought ashore or aboard any boat, placed in any type of receiver, kept on the person, or retained in any person's possession or under his control. Undersize abalone must be replaced immediately to the same surface of the rock from which detached. Abalones brought ashore shall be in such a condition that the size can be determined.

(e) Special Gear Provisions: The use of SCUBA gear or surface supplied air to take abalone is prohibited. Abalone may not be taken or possessed aboard any boat, vessel, or floating device in the water containing SCUBA or surface supplied air. Abalone may be taken only by hand or by devices commonly known as abalone irons. Abalone irons must be less than 36 inches long, straight or with a curve having a radius of not less than 18 inches, and must not be less than 3/4 inch wide nor less than 1/16 inch thick. All edges must be rounded and free of sharp edges. Knives, screwdrivers and sharp instruments are prohibited.

(f) Measuring Device. Every person while taking abalone shall carry a fixed caliper measuring gauge capable of accurately measuring seven inches. The measuring device shall have fixed opposing arms of sufficient length to measure the abalone by placing the gauge over the shell.

(g) Abalone Possession and Transportation: Abalones ~~must~~ shall not be removed from their shell, except when being prepared for immediate consumption.

~~(h) Abalone Permit Report Card. All persons, required to possess a sport fishing license, must have a nontransferable Abalone Permit Report Card (FG 2915 (New 12/03)) issued by the department while taking abalone. The Abalone Permit Report Card shall be kept with the fishing license while taking or attempting to take abalone. Persons diving from a boat shall keep the license and Abalone Permit Report Card in the boat. The Abalone Permit Report Card shall be completed as required immediately upon returning and boarding the boat with abalone. Persons diving from the shore shall keep the license and Abalone Permit Report Card within 500 yards on the shore. Persons shall, immediately upon bringing ashore an abalone, make a hole in one of the designated locations for each abalone taken, and record with indelible ink, the date, time, and location code in the spaces provided adjacent to the hole. For the purposes of this section a boat is defined as any watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water (reference Section 9840(a), Vehicle Code and Section 6552(q), Title 14, California Code of Regulations).~~

~~An Abalone Permit Report Card shall be valid during the open season for taking abalone in the calendar year for which it was issued. No person may be issued or possess more than one Abalone Permit Report Card or any Abalone Permit Report Card other than their own. The Abalone Permit Report Card must be returned to the department at the address specified on the card within 30 days of the close of the calendar abalone season.~~

~~(i) Upon purchase of the Abalone Permit Report Card, the card number shall be entered by the license agent in ink in the space provided on the angler's sport fishing license. The sport fishing license number shall be entered by the license agent on in the space provided on the Abalone Permit Report Card. This subsection does not apply if both the Abalone Permit Report Card and sport fishing license are issued through the Automated License Data System (see Section 700.4).~~

(h) Report Card Required: Any person fishing for or taking abalone shall have in their possession a nontransferable Abalone Report Card issued by the department and shall adhere to all reporting and tagging requirements for abalone defined in Sections 1.74 and 29.16, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 210, 220, 240, 5521 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 220, 5521, 7145 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.

Section 29.16, Title 14, CCR, is added to read:

OPTION ONE NO EXCEPTION FOR USERS OF NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS

§29.16. Abalone Report Card and Tagging Requirements (FG 2915, See Section 701).

(a) Abalone Report Card Required. All individuals including divers must have an Abalone Report Card in their immediate possession while fishing for or taking red abalone. Individuals must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Tagging Requirements. An Abalone Report Card includes detachable tags that shall be used to tag any abalone that is taken and retained in the sport fishery. Any red abalone possessed by any person shall be tagged.

(1) Cardholders shall tag any red abalone either immediately upon exiting the water or immediately upon boarding a vessel, whichever occurs first. For the purposes of this section a vessel is defined as any watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water (reference Section 9840(a) CVC). Cardholders shall not wait to return to their vehicle, beach site or other location to tag any abalone in possession.

(2) The cardholder shall fill in the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location on the abalone tag, remove and completely detach the tag from the card, and affix it to the shell of the abalone.

(3) The tag shall be securely fastened to the shell of the abalone. To affix the tag, a “zip tie”, string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through a siphon hole on the abalone shell and through the tag at the location specified on the abalone tag.

(4) Tags shall be used in sequential order, and shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to an abalone. Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to an abalone shall be considered used and therefore invalid.

(5) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid abalone tags not attached to an abalone shell.

(c) Reporting Requirements. Immediately upon tagging all abalone in possession, the cardholder shall record the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location in the appropriate spaces on the numbered line on the Abalone Report Card which corresponds to the number on the tag attached to the abalone.

(d) Records of Prior Activity. All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the Abalone Report Card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession. Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the Abalone Report Card.

(e) Abalone tags must be left affixed to the shell, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the abalone is processed for immediate consumption.

(f) The annual fee for the Abalone Report Card is specified in Section 7149.8 of the Fish and Game Code.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

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

OPTION TWO EXCEPTION TO ALLOW CARDHOLDERS USING NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS TO DISEMBARK PRIOR TO TAGGING

§29.16. Abalone Report Card and Tagging Requirements (FG 2915, See Section 701).

(a) Abalone Report Card Required. All individuals including divers must have an Abalone Report Card in their immediate possession while fishing for or taking red abalone. Individuals must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Tagging Requirements. An Abalone Report Card includes detachable tags that shall be used to tag any abalone that is taken and retained in the sport fishery. Any red abalone possessed by any person shall be tagged.

(1) Cardholders shall tag any red abalone either immediately upon exiting the water or immediately upon boarding a vessel, whichever occurs first. For the purposes of this section a vessel is defined as any watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water (reference Section 9840(a) CVC). Cardholders shall not wait to return to their vehicle, beach site or other location to tag any abalone in possession. EXCEPTION: Cardholders who dive from a non-motorized vessel such as a kayak that

is in the water may wait until immediately after disembarking from the non-motorized vessel to tag and record any abalone in possession, but shall not transfer any abalone from his or her immediate possession unless they are first tagged and recorded on the report card.

(2) The cardholder shall fill in the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location on the abalone tag, remove and completely detach the tag from the card, and affix it to the shell of the abalone.

(3) The tag shall be securely fastened to the shell of the abalone. To affix the tag, a “zip tie”, string, line or other suitable material shall be passed through a siphon hole on the abalone shell and through the tag at the location specified on the abalone tag.

(4) Tags shall be used in sequential order, and shall not be removed from the report card until immediately prior to affixing to an abalone. Any tags detached from the report card and not affixed to an abalone shall be considered used and therefore invalid.

(5) No person shall possess any used or otherwise invalid abalone tags not attached to an abalone shell.

(c) Reporting Requirements. Immediately upon tagging all abalone in possession, the cardholder shall record the month, day, time of catch, and fishing location in the appropriate spaces on the numbered line on the Abalone Report Card which corresponds to the number on the tag attached to the abalone.

(d) Records of Prior Activity. All tags must be accounted for at all times by entry of a record on the Abalone Report Card corresponding to all tags that are not in possession. Any tag that was lost or destroyed shall be recorded as such on the corresponding line on the Abalone Report Card.

(e) Abalone tags must be left affixed to the shell, including while stored at a residence or non-transient location, until the abalone is processed for immediate consumption.

(f) The annual fee for the Abalone Report Card is specified in Section 7149.8 of the Fish and Game Code.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

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

Section 29.90, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§29.90. Spiny Lobsters.

(a) Open season: From the Saturday preceding the first Wednesday in October through the first Wednesday after the 15th of March.

(b) Limit: Seven.

(c) Minimum size: Three and one-fourth inches measured in a straight line on the mid-line of the back from the rear edge of the eye socket to the rear edge of the body shell. Any lobster may be brought to the surface of the water for the purpose of measuring, but no undersize lobster may be brought aboard any boat, placed in any type of receiver, kept on the person or retained in any person's possession or under his direct

control; all lobsters shall be measured immediately upon being brought to the surface of the water, and any undersize lobster shall be released immediately into the water.

(d) Report Card Required: Any person fishing for or taking spiny lobster shall have in their possession a nontransferable Spiny Lobster Report Card issued by the department and shall adhere to all reporting requirements for lobster defined in Sections 1.74 and 29.91, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 219 and 220, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 210 and 220, Fish and Game Code.

Section 29.91, Title 14, CCR, is added to read:

§29.91. Spiny Lobster Report Card Requirements for Ocean Waters (FG 685, See Section 701).

(a) Spiny Lobster Report Card Required. All individuals must have a Spiny Lobster Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking lobster. In the case of a person diving from a boat, the report card may be kept in the boat, or in the case of a person diving from the shore, the report card may be kept within 500 yards on the shore. Individuals must complete and return the card pursuant to regulations in this Section and in Section 1.74.

(b) Prior to beginning fishing activity, the cardholder must record the month, day, location, and gear code on the first available line on the report card.

(c) When the cardholder moves to another location code, or finishes fishing for the day, he or she must immediately record on the card the number of lobster kept from that location.

(d) In the event an individual fills in all lines and returns a Spiny Lobster Report Card, an additional card may be purchased. See Section 1.74.

(e) The annual fee for the Spiny Lobster Report Card is specified in Section 701, Title 14, CCR.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, and 205, Fish and Game Code.

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

Section 701, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§701. Sport Fishing Forms and Fees.

(a) Declaration for Multi-Day Fishing Trip (FG 935 (rev. 06/05 Rev. 9/07)), incorporated by reference herein ~~\$ 4.75~~ \$5.00

(b) Permit Authorizing Transit of a Recreational Fishing Vessel Through Areas Closed to Fishing (Annual) (FG 672 (rev. 07/05), incorporated by reference herein) ~~\$34.00~~

(b) 2008 Klamath-Trinity Salmon Report Card (FG 684 (Rev. 9/07)), incorporated by reference herein \$5.00

~~(c) Permit Authorizing Transit of a Recreational Fishing Vessel Through Areas Closed to Fishing (30 Days or less) (FG 672 (rev. 07/05), incorporated by reference herein) \$ 8.50~~

~~(d) 2007 Salmon Punch Card (FG 684 (rev 7/06), incorporated by reference herein) \$1.50~~

~~(e) 2007 Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (FG 682 (rev. 7/06), incorporated by reference herein) \$ 5.50~~

~~(f) 2007 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card (FG 683 (7/06), incorporated by reference herein) \$ 0.00~~

~~(g) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 699, Title 14, the department shall annually adjust the fees of all licenses, stamps, permits, tags, or other entitlement required by regulations set forth in this section.~~

(c) 2007~~2008~~ Sturgeon Fishing Report Card (FG 683 (7/06 Rev. 9/07)), incorporated by reference herein \$ 0.00

(d) 2008 Spiny Lobster Report Card (FG 685 (New 9/07)), incorporated by reference herein \$ 7.50

(e) 2008 Replacement Card Fee for a 2008 Abalone Report Card (FG 2915 (Rev. 09/07)), incorporated by reference herein \$8.25

(f) 2008 Replacement Card Fee for a 2008 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card \$0.00

(g) 2008 Replacement Processing Fee for a 2008 Abalone Report Card \$7.50

(h) 2008 Replacement Processing Fee for a 2008 Sturgeon Fishing Report Card \$7.50

(i) 2008 Steelhead Fishing Report and Restoration Card (FG 682 (Rev. 09/07)), incorporated by reference herein

~~(e)(j) Pursuant to the provisions of Section 699, Title 14, the department shall annually adjust the fees of all licenses, stamps, permits, tags, or other entitlement required by regulations set forth in this section.~~

NOTE:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 220, 713, 1050, 1053, 7149.8 and 7380, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 206, 220, 713, 1050, 1053, 1055, 7149.8, and 7380, Fish and Game Code.