



PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 Pandemic Will Lead to Selective Sportfishing Restrictions

Anglers Respond to California Fish and Game Commission Policy

April 15, 2020 (Sacramento, CA) – In response to the California Fish and Game Commission’s today to grant the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to selectively restrict sportfishing in some regions of the state, a leading recreational fishing organization released the following statement.

“While California anglers have practiced social distancing long before required by the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that these are extraordinary times and there may be limited circumstances when temporary local restrictions may be warranted,” said Marko Mlikotin, executive director of the California Sportfishing League (CSL). “We are pleased that the state will employ a very measured approach to balancing the mental health benefits of being outdoors with the need to protect the health and safety of communities dependent on outdoor tourism for jobs.”

Unlike the State of Washington, the California Fish and Game Commission did not authorize a statewide sportfishing ban, but rather, local and temporary restrictions if requested by local authorities seeking to safeguard their communities. [Several counties](#) in California’s High Sierra have asked the state to postpone trout season. CSL was one of large number of statewide and regional sportfishing organizations supporting the commission’s actions today.

The **California Sportfishing League** (CSL) is a nonprofit coalition of recreational anglers, and small business owners devoted to protecting access to recreational fishing. California’s 2.6 million recreational anglers contribute over \$4.6 billion annually to California’s economy, a major contributor to outdoor tourism and jobs.

To learn more, visit www.savefishing.com or Twitter [@CASportfishing](https://twitter.com/CASportfishing)

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