



2012 California Sport Fishing Regulations: Smith River



What You Need to Know

The following sport fishing regulations (effective through 2/28/2013) are *summarized* as a courtesy to anglers in Redwood National & State Parks. All sport fishing must be in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulations and requires a California fishing license for anglers 16 years old and older.

For more information, contact CDFG online at www.dfg.ca.gov, call the Northern Region Eureka Field Office at 707-445-6493, or inquire at any visitor center.

Body of Water	Open Season & Special Regulations	Daily Bag & Possession Limit
Main stem from the mouth to confluence of Middle and South Forks*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Saturday in May–Apr. 30. • Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the 4th Saturday in May–Aug. 31. • Only barbless hooks may be used from Sept. 1–Apr. 30. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 wild trout or steelhead per year, or 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.** • 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. • 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length. • 1 Chinook salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook salmon** per year.
Middle Fork from the mouth to Patrick Creek*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Saturday in May–Mar. 31. • Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the 4th Saturday in May–Aug. 31. • Only barbless hooks may be used from Sept. 1–Mar. 31. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 wild trout or steelhead per year, or 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.** • 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession. • 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length. • 1 Chinook salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook salmon** per year.
Middle Fork above the mouth of Patrick Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Saturday in May–Oct. 31. • Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length. • No other salmonids may be taken.

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Body of Water	Open Seasons & Special Regulations	Daily Bag & Possession Limit
South Fork from the mouth upstream approximately 1,000 feet to the County Road (George Tryon) bridge and Craigs Creek to Jones Creek.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th Saturday in May–Mar. 31.• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the 4th Saturday in May–Aug. 31.• Only barbless hooks may be used from Sept. 1–Mar. 31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 wild trout or steelhead per year, or 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.**• 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.• 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length.• 1 Chinook salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook salmon** per year.
South Fork from George Tryon Bridge upstream of mouth of Craigs Creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closed to fishing all year.	
South Fork above the mouth of Jones Creek.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th Saturday in May–Oct. 31.• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length.• No other salmonids may be taken.
North Fork from mouth to Stony Creek*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th Saturday in May–Mar. 31.• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used from the 4th Saturday in May–Aug. 31.• Only barbless hooks may be used from Sept. 1–Mar. 31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 wild trout or steelhead per year, or 2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead.**• 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead** in possession.• 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length.• 1 Chinook salmon and no more than 5 wild Chinook salmon** per year.
North Fork above the mouth of Stony Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th Saturday in May–Oct. 31.• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks can be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 cutthroat trout: minimum size limit 10 inches total length.• No other salmonids may be taken.
For all other anadromous waters not listed above.*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th Saturday in May–Oct. 31.• Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 (<i>Catch and release only</i>)

* Subject to low flow closure (see “Stream Closures,” below).

** Hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead are those missing an adipose fin with healed scar. Wild fish have an intact adipose fin.

Stream Closures

Special Low Flow Conditions

From Oct. 1 through Jan. 31, the following stream reaches may be closed to angling for the periods Tuesday and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and/or Saturday through Monday when CDFG determines flow conditions are less than 400 cfs as measured at the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park gauging station: The main stem of Smith River from the mouth of Rowdy Creek to its confluence with Patrick Creek; the South Fork Smith

River from the mouth upstream approximately 1,000 feet to the County Road (George Tryon) Bridge and Craigs Creek to its confluence with Jones Creek; and the North Fork Smith River from the mouth to its confluence with Stony Creek.

Call CDFG’s low flow closure hotline at 707-822-3164 to check if Smith River will be open or closed to fishing. The recorded message is updated by 1:00 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Additional Salmon Info.

Silver (Coho) Salmon

Silver salmon are fully protected at the state and federal level as threatened fish. Coho may not be taken from any California waters. Incidentally hooked coho must be immediately released unharmed to the waters where they were hooked.

North Coast Salmon Report Card

A North Coast Salmon Report Card is required to fish for salmon on the Smith River.

Steelhead Report Card

All anglers must have a Steelhead Report Card in their possession while fishing for or taking steelhead on the Smith River.