Anadromous Fishes

California Fishing Passport

Anadromous fishes begin their lives in fresh water, migrate to the ocean to grow and mature, and eventually swim back to fresh water to spawn. Some migrate from hundreds of miles out at sea to hundreds of miles upriver, while others only move from brackish water a short distance into fresh water to spawn.

The anadromous fish that most people are familiar with is the Chinook salmon. Because they're fun to catch and very tasty to eat, they are highly valued by both recreational anglers and commercial fishermen. Chinook salmon spawning runs are well-known events, and in some places crowds gather just to watch them in their upstream journeys to spawn. In addition to salmon, there are numerous other anadromous game fishes living in California's rivers, streams, deltas, and ocean waters, including sturgeon, striped bass, trout, and shad.

California provides many unique fishing opportunities for anadromous fishes. The extensive Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay estuary system both provide anglers with good access to anadromous fishes at various geographic locations throughout the year.

Anadromous Fishes

American Shad

Although American shad are anadromous fish, they are usually caught in fresh water.

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

_____

Striped Bass

Catch-and-release?

Date of freshwater catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

stamp for Freshwater-caught here

Location of freshwater catch _____

Witness signature _____

Catch-and-release?

Date of saltwater catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

stamp for Saltwater-caught here

Location of saltwater catch _____

Witness signature _____

Coastal Rainbow Trout *(sea-run)*

Also known as "steelhead"

Catch-and-release?

Date of catch _____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐

place stamp here

Location of catch _____

Witness signature _____

_____

NOTE: It is illegal to target or keep sea-run coastal rainbow trout while fishing in the ocean.

Chinook Salmon

Catch-and-release?

_____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐
Date of freshwater catch

_____
Location of freshwater catch

_____
Witness signature

Catch-and-release?

_____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐
Date of saltwater catch

_____
Location of saltwater catch

_____
Witness signature

stamp for Freshwater-caught here

stamp for Saltwater-caught here

NOTE: See Inland Coldwater Fishes section for ***landlocked*** *Chinook salmon.*

White Sturgeon

Catch-and-release?

_____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐
Date of freshwater catch

_____
Location of freshwater catch

_____
Witness signature

Catch-and-release?

_____ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐
Date of saltwater catch

_____
Location of saltwater catch

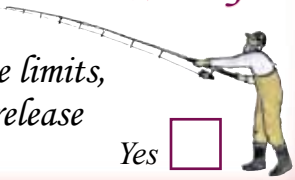
_____
Witness signature

stamp for Freshwater-caught here

stamp for Saltwater-caught here

Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife

I take no more than I need, always observe the limits, and practice catch and release when appropriate.



Yes ☐