

Fishing

January 2020

This handout provides general/broad guidance, and is intended to assist fishermen. It does NOT cover all 'State' and 'Federal' regulations. It is the fisherman's responsibility to know and abide by all applicable regulations. Consult the 'State of California' Fishing Regulations for the most current information. Violation of regulations may result in a Camp Pendleton, State, and/or Federal Citation, and subsequent suspension/revocation of fishing privileges and/or a monetary fine.

These regulations provide guidance for freshwater and saltwater fishing aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. Questions may be directed to the Federal Game Warden @ 760-725-3360.

Authorized Patrons.

- Fishing is limited to active duty military, military retirees, DOD civilians, dependents, and members of the 'Active Reserve'.
- Civilians may fish if sponsored by an 'Authorized Patron'. The sponsor must be physically with the civilian fisherman at the time of Camp Pendleton permit purchase, and at all times while fishing. Violation of these conditions will result in revocation of the Sponsor and the Sponsored.

Fishing Licenses and Permits.

- All fishermen, age 16 and above, must possess a current 'California State Fishing License' and a Camp Pendleton 'Fishing Permit'.
- An 'Ocean Enhancement Stamp' is required to fish in ocean waters.
- California Fishing License and Camp Pendleton Permit must be in your 'immediate possession' while fishing.

Number of Fishing Poles

- Fresh water. Limited to 1 rod, unless the fisherman possesses a '2nd-Rod' stamp.
- Ocean fishing. Any number of hooks and lines may be used (see State Regulations for exceptions).

Authorized Hours.

- Fishing hours.
 - Del Mar: Harbor/Beach: 24 hours a day. Jetty & Boats: Sunrise–Sunset.
 - Lake O'Neill: 1 hour before sunrise through 2200.
 - Pulgas/Case Springs: Sunrise-Sunset.

Boats/Motors.

- Trailer boats. Only authorized at Lake O'Neill and Del Mar Harbor.
- Row Boats (able to be loaded/unloaded by no more than 2 people). Authorized at all Camp Pendleton fishing locations.
- Float Tubes. Authorized at all Camp Pendleton fishing locations. Requires waders or wetsuit at Lake O'Neil.
- Gasoline Motors. Authorized at Lake O'Neill and Del Mar Harbor only.
- Electric Motors. Authorized at all Camp Pendleton fishing locations.
- Fishermen must contact Lake O'Neill personnel prior to launching boats in Lake O'Neill.

'**Spear/Bow & Arrow/Throw Net**' Fishing are not permitted anywhere on Camp Pendleton.

Water Contact.

DIVING, SNORKELING, SWIMMING, ETC IN THE 'PURSUIT/TAKING' OF ANY FISH, CLAM, LOBSTER, CRAB, ETC IS STRICKLY FORBIDDEN AT ALL CAMP PENDLETON LOCATIONS. VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN A MINIMUM ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION.

Freshwater Fishing.

-Available Locations.

- Lake O'Neil: 7 days a week. Bass are 'catch & release' only.
- Lake Pulgas and Case Springs Lakes are open on specified weekends/holidays only. Lake Pulgas is 'catch & release' for all fish.
- No other areas may be utilized.
- Bait. Legally acquired and possessed invertebrates, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians (except salamander), fish eggs, dead ocean fish, and treated and processed foods may be used for bait. Live or dead freshwater finfish will not be used or possessed for use as bait, except dead threadfin shad, live or dead mudsucker, and live or dead golden shiner/ red shiner.
- Freshwater Bag Limits (except Lake O'Neill which is 'catch & release' all bass; and Pulgas Lake which is 'catch & release' all fish).
 - Bass. Minimum 12 inch. Limit 5.
 - Catfish/Bullhead. No minimum size. Limit 5.
 - Sunfish & Crappie. No minimum size. Combined limit of 25.
 - Crayfish. No minimum size. No limits.
 - Bullfrog. No minimum size. No limits.

Ocean Fishing. *This information pertains to 'Shore-Based Fishing'.*

-Available Locations.

- Del Mar Jetty & Beach (7 days a week); Harbor (refer to Game Warden Website for availability).
- Cocklebur Beach restricted to certain weekends/holidays; contact the Game Wardens Office to determine availability.
- Finfish** may only be taken on hook and line. Any number of hooks and lines by be used.

-Mollusks. Must have a measuring device. May only be taken a half-hour before sunrise through a half-hour after sunset. Only hand-operated devices may be used ... eg ... spade, shovel, rake, hoe, etc. Undersize/over-limit clams must be immediately returned to the water.

- Horse, Horseneck, Washington Clams.** Limit: 10 per species, but not more than 25 in total. No minimum size.
- Geoduck Clams.** Limit: 3. No minimum size.
- Littleneck, Soft-Shell, Chiones, Northern Quahogs, and Cockles Clams.** Limit: 50 in combination. Minimum size: 1.5 inches in greatest diameter (except Soft-Shell – no minimum).
- Pismo Clams.** Limit: 10. Minimum size: 5 inches in greatest diameter.
- Razor Clams.** Limit: 20. No minimum size.
- Mussels.** 10 pounds (in the shell).
- Oysters.** Limit: 35.

-Crustaceans. Hoop nets must be inspected at least every 2 hours.

-Dungeness Crabs.

-Season: 2 Nov 2019 – Jun 2020.

-Method of take: Baited hoop-net only (limited to 5 hoop-nets). Limit: 10. Min 5.75 inches.

-Yellow, Rock, Red, and Slender Crabs. Limit: 35. Minimum size: 4 inches (measured same as above).

-Ghost Shrimp. Limit: 50.

-Sand Crab: Limit: 35.

-Spiny Lobster.

-Season: 6 A.M. 28 Sept 2019 – 18 Mar 2020. Requires 'Spiny Lobster Report Card'.

-Method of take: Baited hoop-net only (limited to 5 hoop-nets).

-Limit: 7. Min 3.25 inches. Must be kept in 'whole-measureable-condition' until being prepared for consumption.

-Kelp. 10 pounds (wet weight)

-There are no minimum size limits on 'Finfish' in the Pacific Ocean, **EXCEPT:**

- o Bass (Kelp, Barred Sand, and Spotted) – 14 inches
- o Bocaccio - 10 inches
- o Bonito (pacific) – 24 inches fork length or 5 pounds (exception - only 5 in bag limit may be less than 24 inches fork length and less than 5 pounds) - if less than 24 inches and less than 5 pounds, 5 may be taken)
- o Cabezon - 15 inches
- o Halibut (California) – 22 inches
- o Halibut (Pacific) - none
- o Kelp greenling and Rock greenling – 12 inches
- o Lingcod – 22 inches
- o Scorpionfish (California) – 10 inches
- o Sheephead (california) – 12 inches
- o Redtail surfperch – 10.5 inches. (No size limits on any 'other' surfperch sub-species)
- o Shark (Leopard)- 36 inches
- o White seabass – 28 inches
- o Yellowtail - 24 inches

- **Ocean Bag Limits for Ocean Finfish (shore-based fishing).** 20 finfish in combination, with not more than 10 of any one species, **EXCEPT:**

- o Bass (Kelp, Barred Sand, and Spotted) – 5 in combination
- o Bass (Stripped) – 2
- o Bocaccio - 2
- o Cabezon - 3
- o Kelp/Rock greenling - 4 (but not more than 2 of each species)
- o Lingcod -2
- o Halibut (california) - 5
- o Halibut (pacific) - 1
- o Pacific bonito – 10 (only 5 of which may be less than 24 inches fork length and less than 5 pounds)
- o Rock greenling - 4
- o Salmon - 2
- o Scorpionfish (California) – 5
- o Sheephead (california) - 5
- o Shark (Shortfin Mako, Thresher, Blue) – 2 each species
- o Shark (Sixgill, Sevengill, Soupfin) – 1 each species
- o Shark (Leopard) - 3
- o Shiner surfperch – 20 (in addition to the daily ocean bag limit)
- o Trout - 3
- o Yellowtail - 10 (only 5 of which may be less than 24 inches)
- o White seabass – 3
- o Whitefish – 10