

Fishing

April 2022

This handout provides general/broad guidance, and is intended to assist anglers. It does NOT cover all State and Federal regulations. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all applicable regulations. Consult the California Sport Fishing Regulations for the most current information. Violation of laws and regulations may result in a Federal Citation and subsequent suspension/revocation of fishing privileges aboard the installation.

These regulations provide guidance for freshwater and saltwater fishing aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. Questions may be directed to the Conservation Law Enforcement Office at 760-725-3360.

Authorized Patrons

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

iSportsman Account Requirement

<https://pendleton.isportsman.net/>

- All anglers who intend to fish at Pulgas Lake, Case Springs, or White Beach **must** create a Camp Pendleton iSportsman account. These water features are within active training areas and require the use of electronic "Check-in and "Check-out" procedures via the iSportsman website. **Failure to utilize and maintain an iSportsman account while fishing in these areas will result in revocation of fishing privileges aboard the installation.**
- Anglers fishing at other authorized locations (Del Mar Beach, San Onofre Beach, and Lake O'Neill) are encouraged, but not required to create an iSportsman account to report harvest information.

Fishing Licenses and Permits

- All anglers age **16 and above** must have a current California State Fishing License and a Camp Pendleton Fishing Permit. They must be in the **immediate possession** of the angler while fishing.
- An Ocean Enhancement Stamp is required to fish in ocean waters.

Number of Fishing Poles

- Fresh water: Limited to one rod, unless the angler possesses a Second Rod Stamp.
- Ocean fishing: Any number of hooks and lines may be used (see State Regulations for exceptions).

Authorized Fishing Hours

- Del Mar: Harbor/Beach: One hour before sunrise - 2200 | Jetty & Boats: Sunrise - Sunset.
- Lake O'Neill: One hour before sunrise - 2200.
- Pulgas Lake/Case Springs/White Beach: Sunrise - Sunset. ***When authorized access via iSportsman.*

Boats/Motors

- Trailered 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'Neill.
- Gasoline Motors. Authorized at Lake O'Neill and Del Mar Harbor only.
- Electric Motors. Authorized at all Camp Pendleton fishing locations.
- Anglers 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.

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

Freshwater Fishing

- Lake O'Neill is open 7 days a week.
- Pulgas Lake and Case Springs are open on specified weekends/holidays only (check iSportsman for availability).
- 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 and release* all bass; and Pulgas Lake which is *catch and release* all fish.

Species	Minimum Size	Limit
Bass	12 inches	5
Catfish/Bullhead	None	5
Sunfish & Crappie	None	25
Crayfish	None	None
Bullfrog	None	None

Ocean Fishing and Bag Limits

*This information pertains to **Shore-Based Fishing** only.*

Authorized Locations:

- Del Mar Jetty & Beach (7 days a week)
- Cockleburrr (White) Beach restricted to certain weekends/holidays. Check iSportsman for availability.

Mollusks

Species	Minimum Size	Limit
Horse, Horseneck, Washington Clams	None	10 per species
Geoduck Clams	None	3
Littleneck, Soft-Shell, Chiones, Northern Quahogs, and Cockles Clams	1.5 inches at greatest diameter, except Soft-Shell – No minimum	50 in combination
Pismo Clams	5 inches at greatest diameter	10
Razor Clams	None	20
Mussels	None	10 lbs. (in the shell)
Oysters	None	35

* **Must have a measuring device. May only be taken 30 minutes before sunrise – 30 minutes after sunset.**

* **Only hand-operated devices may be used (spade, shovel, rake, hoe, etc.).**

Crustaceans

Species	Minimum Size	Limit
Dungeness Crab	5.75 inches	10
Yellow, Rock, Red, and Slender Crabs	4 inches	35
Ghost Shrimp	None	50
Sand Crab	None	50
Spiny Lobster *Report Card Required*	3.25 inches	7

* **All crabs measured by the shortest distance through the body from edge of shell to edge of shell directly in front of and excluding the points (Dungeness) or widest part.**

* **Dungeness crab and Spiny Lobster Method of Take: Baited hoop-net only (limited to 5 hoop-nets).**

* **Hoop nets must be checked every 2 hours.**

* **Lobster must be kept in 'whole-measureable-condition' until being prepared for consumption.**

Kelp – 10 lbs. (wet weight)

Finfish

Bag Limits for ocean finfish are not to exceed 20 finfish in combination, with not more than 10 of any one species EXCEPT:

Species	Minimum Size	Limit
Bass (Kelp, Barred Sand, and Spotted)	14 inches	5 in combination
Bass (Striped)	18 inches	2
Bocaccio	10 inches	2
Pacific Bonito	24 inches *Read CA Regs for exceptions	10
Cabezón	15 inches	3
California Halibut	22 inches	5
Pacific Halibut	None	1
Kelp and Rock Greenling	12 inches	4
Lingcod	22 inches	2
California Scorpionfish	10 inches	5
California Sheephead	12 inches	5
Redtail Surfperch	10.5 inches	10
Leopard Shark	36 inches	3
White seabass	28 inches	3
Yellowtail	24 inches	10
Whitefish	None	10

* **This is not an all-inclusive list. Refer to <https://wildlife.ca.gov/regulations> for additional information.**

* **Finfish may only be taken on hook and line. Any number of hooks and lines may be used.**