



THIS JUST IN!!!! GREAT NEWS FOR GOLDEN STATE SLINGBOW SHOOTERS!!!

We at A+ Slingshots and the American Slingbow Association worked together with Chief AJ to get a much needed clarification and confirmation direct from the California Fish and Game Department that **SLINGBOWS ARE INDEED LEGAL TO HUNT ALL GAME WITH IN CALIFORNIA** during the "General Hunting Season" ONLY! Below you will find the actual email!!

Yes the rules are a little less than the full "Archery Tackle" status that we still want to work toward, but it's exciting none-the-less!!!

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND MAKE SOME HARVESTS!!! :D

"Macintyre, Kirsten@Wildlife" <Kirsten.Macintyre@wildlife.ca.gov>

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Ok, I've got some feedback from legal, and it's better news.

Bows are defined only as longbow, recurve or compound bow (under CCR Title 14, section 354(a)). The slingbow does not meet the criteria for any of those, so it doesn't qualify as archery equipment,.. **(BUT IT DOES FALL UNDER THE DEFINITION OF A CROSSBOW) (CCR Title 14, section 354(b)) "or cured latex band."**

Therefore, it can be used for hunting under crossbow regulations in a general season, but not with an archery tag or in an archery-only hunt.

Kirsten Macintyre

> Communications Manager

> Office of Communications, Education and Outreach California Department

> of Fish and Wildlife

> (916) 322-8988"

§353. Methods Authorized for Taking Big Game.

- (a) Except for the provisions of subsections 353(b) through (h), Title 14, CCR, big game (as defined by Section 350, Title 14, CCR) may only be taken by rifles using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles; **bow and arrow (see Section 354, Title 14, CCR, for archery equipment regulations);** or wheellock, matchlock, flintlock or percussion type, including "in-line" muzzleloading rifles using black powder or equivalent black powder substitute, including pellets, with a single projectile loaded from "projectile" is defined as any bullet, ball, sabot, slug, buckshot or other device which is expelled from a firearm through a barrel by force.
- (b) Shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing single slugs may be used for the taking of deer, bear and wild pigs. In areas where the discharge of rifles or shotguns with slugs is prohibited by county ordinance, shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing size 0 or 00 buckshot may be used for the taking of deer only.
- (c) Pistols and revolvers using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles may be used to take deer, bear, and wild pigs.
- (d) Pistols and revolvers with minimum barrel lengths of 4 inches, using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding projectiles may be used to take elk and bighorn sheep.
- (e) Except as provided in **subsection 354(j)**, crossbows may be used to take deer and wild pigs only during the regular seasons.
- (f) Under the provisions of a muzzleloading rifle only tag, hunters may only possess muzzleloading rifles as described in **subsection 353(a)** equipped with open or "peep" type sights only except as described in **subsection 353(k)**.

- (g) Under the provisions of a muzzleloading rifle/archery tag, hunters may only possess muzzleloading rifles with sights as described in subsection 353(f); archery equipment as described in Section 354; or both. For purposes of this subsection, archery equipment does not include crossbows, except as provided in subsection 354(j).
- (h) Methods of take within the California condor range. Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to use or possess projectiles containing more than one percent lead by weight while taking or attempting to take any big game (as defined in Section 350, Title 14, CCR) in those areas described in Section 3004.5, Fish and Game Code.
- (1) Except as otherwise provided, it is unlawful to possess any projectile containing lead in excess of the amount permitted in subsection 353(h) and a firearm capable of firing the projectile while taking or attempting to take any big game within the area described in subsection 353(h). The possession of a projectile containing lead in excess of the amount allowed in subsection 353(h) without possessing a firearm capable of firing the projectile is not a violation of this section.
- (i) Except as otherwise provided, while taking or attempting to take big game under the provisions of Section 353 or Section 354, Title 14, CCR, it is unlawful to use any device or devices which: 1) throw, cast or project an artificial light or electronically alter or intensify a light source for the purpose of visibly enhancing an animal; or 2) throw, cast or project an artificial light or electronically alter or intensify a light source for the purpose of providing a visible point of aim directly on an animal. Devices commonly referred to as "sniperscopes", night vision scopes or binoculars, or those utilizing infra-red, heat sensing or other non-visible spectrum light technology used for the purpose of visibly enhancing an animal or providing a visible point of aim directly on an animal are prohibited and may not be possessed while taking or attempting to take big game. Devices commonly referred to as laser rangefinders, "red-dot" scopes with self-illuminating reticles, and fiberoptic sights with self-illuminating sight or pins which do not throw, cast or project a visible light onto an animal are permitted.
- (j) Unless provided in these regulations or any other law, it is unlawful to possess a loaded muzzleloading firearm in any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments which is standing on or along or is being driven on or along any public road or highway or other way open to the public. For the purposes of this section, a muzzleloading firearm shall be deemed to be loaded when it is capped or primed or has an electronic or other ignition device attached and has a powder charge and projectile or shot in the barrel or cylinder.
- (k) Upon application to the department, the department may issue a Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit, free of any charge or fee, to any person with a physical disability, as defined in 353(l), which prevents him/her from being able to focus on the target utilizing muzzleloading rifles equipped with open or "peep" sights. The Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit authorizes the disabled hunter to use a 1X scope on a muzzleloading rifle, as described in subsection 353(f), with a muzzleloading rifle only tag.
- (1) Applications for a Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit, as specified in Section 702 shall be submitted to the department at the address specified on the application and shall include:
 - (A) Applicant's name
 - (B) Applicant's physical address
 - (C) Applicant's date of birth
 - (D) Applicant's Driver's License or DMV Number
 - (E) Applicant's telephone number
 - (F) Applicant's signature
 - (G) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's name
 - (H) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's business address
 - (I) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's business telephone number
 - (J) Medical Physician's State medical license number or Optometrist's State license number
 - (K) A description of the visual disability requiring this permit
 - (L) Medical Physician's or Optometrist's signature
 - (M) Signature of the authorizing department employee and date issued
- (2) The applicant must have a valid hunting license for the year for which he/she is applying.
- (3) Proof of meeting eligibility requirements may be met by providing a previously issued Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit.
- (4) The valid Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit shall be in the hunter's immediate possession while hunting and shall be shown on demand to any person authorized to enforce this regulation.
- (5) The Disabled Muzzleloader Scope Permit is valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year or if issued after July 1 of the license year, it is valid beginning on the date issued through to the following June 30.
- (l) For the purposes of this section a visual disability means a permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs the vision of a hunter, preventing the hunter from viewing and aligning the sights of a muzzleloading rifle with the target in order to hunt deer.

Amendment filed 7/8/11; effective 7/8/11.

§354. Archery Equipment and Crossbow Regulations.

- (a) Bow, as used in these regulations, means any device consisting of a flexible material having a string connecting its two ends and used to propel an arrow held in a firing position by hand only. Bow, includes long bow, recurve or compound bow.

- (b) Crossbow, as used in these regulations means any device consisting of a bow or cured latex band or other flexible material (commonly referred to as a linear bow) affixed to a stock, or any bow that utilizes any device attached directly or indirectly to the bow for the purpose of keeping a crossbow bolt, an arrow or the string in a firing position. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), a crossbow is not archery equipment and cannot be used during the archery deer season.
- (c) For the taking of big game, hunting arrows and crossbow bolts with a broad head type blade which will not pass through a hole seven-eighths inch in diameter shall be used. Mechanical/retractable broad heads shall be measured in the open position. For the taking of migratory game birds, resident small game, furbearers and nongame mammals and birds any arrow or crossbow bolt may be used except as prohibited by subsection (d) below. Notwithstanding the general prohibition of the use of lights in Fish and Game Code section 2005, arrows or crossbow bolts with lighted nocks that do not emit a directional beam of light may be used.
- (d) No arrows or crossbow bolt with an explosive head or with any substance which would tranquilize or poison any animal may be used. No arrows or crossbow bolt without flu-flu fletching may be used for the take of pheasants and migratory game birds, except for provisions of section 507(a)(2).
- (e) No arrow or crossbow bolt may be released from a bow or crossbow upon or across any highway, road or other way open to vehicular traffic.
- (f) No bow or crossbow may be used which will not cast a legal hunting arrow, except flu-flu arrows, a horizontal distance of 130 yards.
- (g) Except as described in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used to take game birds and game mammals during archery seasons.
- (h) Except as provided in subsection 353(g) of these regulations and in Section 4370 of the Fish and Game Code, archers may not possess a firearm while hunting in the field during any archery season, or while hunting during a general season under the provisions of an archery only tag.
- (i) No person may nock or fit the notch in the end of an arrow to a bowstring or crossbow string in a ready-to-fire position while in or on any vehicle.
- (j) Upon application to the department, the department may issue a Disabled Archer Permit free of any charge or fee, to any person with a physical disability, as defined in 354(k), which prevents him/her from being able to draw and hold a bow in a firing position. The Disabled Archer Permit authorizes the disabled archer to use a crossbow or device which holds a string and arrow in the firing position to assist in the taking of birds and mammals under the conditions of an archery tag or during archery season.
 - (1) Applications for a Disabled Archer Permit as specified in Section 702 shall be submitted to the department at the address specified on the application and shall include:
 - (A) Applicant's name
 - (B) Applicant's physical address
 - (C) Applicant's date of birth
 - (D) Applicant's Driver's License or DMV Number
 - (E) Applicant's telephone number
 - (F) Applicant's signature
 - (G) Medical Physician's name
 - (H) Medical Physician's business address
 - (I) Medical Physician's business telephone number
 - (J) Medical Physician's State medical license number
 - (K) A description of the disabled archer's disability. The physician shall designate if the disability is permanent or temporary. If the disability is temporary, shall provide date the disability is expected to end.
 - (L) Medical Physician's signature
 - (M) Signature of the authorizing department employee and date issued
 - (2) Proof of meeting eligibility requirements may be met by providing a previously issued Disabled Archer Permit when the disability is still in effect.
 - (3) The valid Disabled Archer Permit shall be in the archer's immediate possession while hunting and shall be shown on demand to any person authorized to enforce this regulation.
 - (4) The Disabled Archer Permit is valid beginning July 1 through June 30 of the following year or if issued after July 1 of the license year, it is valid beginning on the date issued through to the following June 30. For any person with a permanent disability, the permit is valid through the end of the license year. A Disabled Archer Permit for a permit holder with a temporary disability that ends prior to the end of the license year is valid only through the date specified by his/her physician.
- (k) For the purposes of this section a physical disability means, a person having a permanent loss, significant limitation, or diagnosed disease or disorder, which substantially impairs one or both upper extremities preventing a hunter to draw and hold a bow in a firing position.

Amendment filed 6/25/13; effective 7/1/13.

Can I shoot fish with a Slingbow in California?

Answer: Yes, a slingbow is legal to use to take a limited number of fish species in freshwater and the ocean. For fishing purposes, the arrow must have a line attached to be legal (California Code of Regulations Title 14, section 1.23). In ocean waters, the slingbow can be used for skates, rays and sharks (CCR Title 14, section 28.95). In freshwater systems, the slingbow may only be used for certain species and in specific areas (CCR Title 14, section 2.25). Info. above found here... <http://californiaoutdoorsqas.com/category/fishing-2/spear-fishing/>

Info. below found here... <http://californiaoutdoorsqas.com/>

While the practice of bowfishing for carp may seem like a combination of hunting and fishing, it is considered fishing and thus you are required to have a fishing license to do so. Sport fishing regulations permit bow and arrow fishing for the following **nongame species only: carp, goldfish, western sucker, Sacramento blackfish, hardhead, Sacramento pikeminnow and lamprey** (for specific areas and exceptions, see California Code of Regulations Title 14, section 2.25 on page 15 of the sport fishing regulations booklet). Even though California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) law might allow for bow and arrow fishing in your local area, some lakes and waterways prohibit the possession of bow and arrow equipment. You will need to check with the jurisdiction that runs the body of water (e.g. State Parks, Regional Parks, local county parks, etc.) When bow and arrow fishing, make sure the tackle has the arrow shaft, the point or both attached by a line to the bow or to a fishing reel. This rule also applies to crossbows (CCR Title 14, section 1.23).

*Answers by **Carrie Wilson** is a marine environmental scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. While she cannot personally answer everyone's questions, she will select a few to answer each week in this column. Please contact her at CalOutdoors@wildlife.ca.gov.*

What can I currently hunt with a **SLINGSHOT in California?**

Answers found on this official page... <http://californiaoutdoorsqas.com/2012/02/02/slingshot-hunting/>

Slingshots may only be used to take nongame birds and mammals (California Code of Regulations Title 14, section 475). However, the only nongame birds that may be taken by any method are **English house sparrows and starlings** (FGC, sections 3800(a) and 3801). There is also a crow hunting season, but crows may only be taken by shotgun, falconry or archery (CCR Title 14, section 485). Common nongame mammals ("varmint" is not a term used in Fish and Game law) that may be taken include **coyotes, bobcats, opossums, ground squirrels and orange-belly marmots. Take of bobcat requires possession of a bobcat tag** (CCR Title 14, section 478.1). **Rabbits and tree squirrels are game mammals, and their take with a slingshot is ILLEGAL.** Nongame mammals are those species not otherwise categorized in the law as resident small game (CCR Title 14, section 257), big game (CCR Title 14, section 350) or fur-bearing mammals (FGC, section 4000). The complete Fish and Game Code is available online at: <http://dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/>.