



**Q: When is the best time to see a grunion run?**

A: The grunion may run from March through August on nights following a full or new moon. "Peak" spawning season during the months of **April, May and June** which is your best bet for experiencing a nice run. Runs tend to be larger and more consistent during peak season, which is also when it is closed for fishing so the runs are not disturbed. The predicted spawning schedule published by California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (see [California Grunion: Facts and Expected Runs](http://www.CaliforniaGrunion.org)) includes four nights following the full or new moon. The third and fourth

nights tend to be better, but not always. ***The grunion may run anytime within a two-hour window after high tide so be prepared and be patient.***

**Q: Where is the best spot to see a grunion run?**

A: There is no "best" spot! As we say, only the fish know where they'll show up on any given forecasted run night. However, they do prefer flat, sandy beaches, surf breaks, and areas without a lot of flashing light, noise and activity. The largest runs occur in southern CA but smaller runs can occur farther north. Conditions at each beach constantly change, so we cannot recommend a specific beach in your area. Also, beach curfews vary between locations, so please check local regulations before heading out. Lastly, once you choose a beach, we suggest you head to a quiet area away from any crowds and noise. Grunion are less likely to run in areas with a lot of disturbance.

**Q: Where can I find out where they ran last time so I know where to try next time?**

A: Reports of runs are not available to the public. The grunion are neither more or less likely to run again at the same beach the next night in any case. Keep in mind, the fish are wildlife! Follow the tips and bring a bit of luck in your back pocket.

**Q: Do you offer any guided grunion run programs?**

A: We do not offer public programs but a few organizations do, including [Cabrillo Aquarium](http://www.CabrilloAquarium.org), Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association, and Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Please check with those organizations to see a schedule.

**Q: I went to the beach on a night they were supposed to run. Why didn't I see any fish?**

A: If the beach was crowded and there was lots of noise, beachgoers may have discouraged fish from coming ashore. Also, grunion may run any time within a two-hour window after high tide. You may have arrived too late or left too early. In addition, sometimes the fish simply do not show up! We have ourselves been "skunked" many times. This is why the grunion are often considered elusive.

**Q: What about fishing for grunion?**

A: Grunion are an extremely vulnerable species, and part of a unique southern Californian culture that we hope to preserve. They are also an important part of the food web, with predators such as endangered shore birds, marine mammals, sharks, and many other species. They are found nowhere else in the world and represent a rare opportunity to experience wildlife right at your feet.

**The months of April, May, and June are closed season** for grunion, when **no take or contact** of any kind is allowed. During Closed Season, avoid disturbing the spawning fish and encourage others to do the same. This is usually the best time to observe an undisturbed spawning run.

**The National Marine Fisheries Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration define TAKE as:** "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct."

**In March, July, and August grunion fishing is permitted during open season but with restrictions.** During open season, follow the Fish and Wildlife Regulations: Bare hands only, and never take more fish than you need, or more than 30 in one night. Anyone 16 or older must have a valid California marine fishing license. **No gear of any kind can ever be used** including nets, hooks, traps, buckets for scooping--only your bare hands may be used. The law also stipulates that you may only take what you plan to use, with a **limit of 30 grunion per person per day**.

**We encourage "observe and conserve" or "catch and release".**

If you observe poaching out of season, or any violations of grunion fishing regulations such as use of gear or nets at any time, please advise the California Department of Fish and Wildlife via <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP> or call their hotline, 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258).

[www.Grunion.org](http://www.Grunion.org)     [www.BeachEcologyCoalition.org](http://www.BeachEcologyCoalition.org)

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