

## Economic Impact Analysis

### **Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California**

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California.

The proposed regulation changes the lobster report card from a calendar year card to a seasonal card which will match the open season for the take of lobster. A payment of a non-return fee if the report card is not returned in the required period is also proposed. Other changes are proposed to improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations. None of the changes are expected to affect businesses or the number of jobs in the State.

#### **Benefits of the Regulation:**

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Spiny Lobster Resources. Without more detailed information on the current levels of recreational spiny lobster harvest, the state's spiny lobster population can only be estimated with an unacceptably high level of uncertainty. Adoption of a non-return fee for those individuals who don't return their lobster report cards is intended to recover the increased cost of management of lobster due to non-reporting of report card data. The combination of the non-reporting fee and seasonal card is also anticipated to increase return rates of lobster cards, which will allow for an accurate estimation of the recreational lobster harvest.

Health and Welfare of California Residents. Hoop netting or diving for lobster are outdoor activities that provide benefits for individuals who participate and for the environment. Health benefits come from outside exercise. The fees lobster fishermen pay for licenses and report cards are used for conservation of the nearshore ocean ecosystem and sustainable management of the fishery.

People who fish usually have a special connection with the ocean and an awareness of the relationships between the ocean and its inhabitants (including fish, invertebrates, and algae) and humans. People won't support or protect what they are unfamiliar with.

Fishing is a tradition that is often passed from one generation to the next, and is also shared with friends; thereby creating a special bond between family members and friends. Preparing and sharing a meal of fish/lobster is also an important component of fishing.

Seafood has become an expensive item in the market and at restaurants. Lobster prices push it into the luxury category. The only opportunity that the majority of the state's residents have to consume seafood like lobster is to harvest it themselves.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety.