

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 proposed regulations will set the 2013 ocean salmon sport fishing regulations to conform to the Federal rules. Currently, ocean salmon sport fishing is closed in California. Adverse impacts (as compared to an average ocean salmon sport fishing season) to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to ocean salmon sport fishermen may be realized if the ocean salmon season remains closed for 2013 (no-change alternative). Neutral to positive impacts to jobs and businesses that provide services to ocean salmon sport fishermen may be realized depending on the exact regulations ultimately adopted by the Commission. Under an average season ocean salmon anglers contribute an estimated \$121 million in direct revenues to the State's business sector. This is based on a 2006 US Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California and adjusted for inflation. Adding the indirect and induced effects of this initial revenue contribution and the total benefit to California's economy is normally almost \$184 million. This is equivalent to approximately \$69 million in total wage earnings to Californians, or about 1,400 jobs in the State. The proposed regulations range from no salmon fishing in 2013 to an average ocean salmon season; therefore, the potential impacts range from 0 to 1,400 jobs. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, subsequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

Each year, as part of the Federal season setting process for west coast ocean salmon fisheries, the states and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) compile a full review of the prior-year's fisheries in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The 2011 Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report was relied upon to prepare the range of season alternatives contained within the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISORs) to amend subsections 27.80 (c) and (d). The 2012 SAFE report will be made available in February 2013, and it will be used in consideration for the final decision of the 2013 ocean salmon fishing regulations. The 2012 report will be posted in February 2013 on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's website at <http://www.pcouncil.org/salmon/stock-assessment-and-fishery-evaluation-safe-documents/>. Chapter 4 contains the socio-economic assessment of the west coast salmon fisheries.

Benefits of the Regulation

Concurrence with Federal Law. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) annually reviews the status of west coast salmon populations. As part of that process, it recommends ocean salmon fisheries regulations aimed at meeting biological and

fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These recommendations coordinate west coast management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Federal fishery management zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. These recommendations are subsequently implemented as ocean fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

California's sport fishing regulations need to conform to the new Federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California.

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Ocean Salmon Resources. It is the policy of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant-water fisheries based in California in harmony with international law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual sport fishery bag limits to the quantity this is sufficient to provide a satisfying sport. Adoption of scientifically-based ocean salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

Promotion of Businesses That Rely on Recreational Ocean Salmon Fishing. Adoption of scientifically-based ocean salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence and future ocean salmon sport fishing opportunities. Under an average ocean salmon sport season, anglers contribute an estimated \$121 million in direct revenues to the State's business sector. This is based on a 2006 US Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California and adjusted for inflation. Adding the indirect and induced effects of this initial revenue contribution and the total benefit to California's economy is normally almost \$184 million. This is equivalent to approximately \$69 million in total wage earnings to Californians, or about 1,400 jobs in the State. While having an open season with increased fishing opportunity plays a part in the State's revenue from ocean salmon fishing, ultimately the fishing success of anglers impacts business as fishing effort tends to increase with angler catch throughout the season.

Health and Welfare of California Residents. Salmon is a nutritious food. Providing opportunities for an ocean salmon sport fishery encourages consumption of a nutritious food.

No benefits to worker safety are anticipated.