

Economic Impact Analysis

Section 7.50(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations Inland Sport Fishing

Creation or Elimination of Jobs, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California

The Department does not anticipate any substantial 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, that provide services to inland sport fishermen from the proposed regulations because: (1) the fishing areas that will be affected are few and remote; and (2) the number of anglers that will be affected is small. The proposed changes will increase localized fishing opportunities which may modestly increase the volume of visitor spending to businesses that support recreational angling activities. The proposed regulations will revise and update inland sport fishing regulations starting in 2014. Currently, the seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits for inland sport fishing are reviewed periodically by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and the Fish and Game Commission.

Benefits of the Regulation

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Inland Aquatic Resources

It is the policy of the state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all its citizens and to promote the development of local California fisheries. 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 in the quantity that is sufficient to provide a satisfying sport. Adoption of scientifically-based inland trout and salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of trout and salmon to ensure their continued existence.

Health and Welfare of California Residents

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Trout and salmon are a nutritious food source and increasing inland sport fishery opportunities encourages consumption of this nutritious food. Sport fishing also contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by younger generations, the future stewards of California's natural resources.

Benefits to Worker Safety

The Department does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety from the proposed regulations because inland sport fishing does not impact worker conditions.