

Economic Impact Assessment
Amend subsection (c) of Section 27.80, Title 14, CCR

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) coordinates federal management of ocean salmon fisheries offshore of Washington, Oregon and California. The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is proposing state regulations to conform to federal ocean salmon regulations that are expected to be in effect in April 2014.

The regulatory changes for subsection (c) of Section 27.80 under consideration will set the 2014 ocean salmon sport fishing regulations for the month of April to conform to federal ocean salmon sport fishing regulations.

The proposed regulations will allow for ocean salmon sport fishing at status quo levels for April 2014 as compared the 2013 ocean salmon sport fishing season.

The proposed addition of subsection (e) of Section 27.80 will allow an ocean salmon possession limit of up to two daily bag limits on land.

A. Effects of the regulation on The Creation or Elimination of Jobs

The Commission does not anticipate any adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs due to status quo regulations.

The Commission does not anticipate any adverse impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs due to doubling the possession limit. While there may be new incentive for anglers to extend their fishing trips additional days, to capitalize on the double possession limit (on land), there will also be a reduction in trips taken to replenish stored fish kept on land. The resulting economic effect of the double possession limit depends mostly on factors outside the scope of these regulations such as: consumer demand for fresh salmon, and fuel and related travel cost factors.

B. Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses,

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses due to status quo regulations.

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses due to doubling the possession limit. While there may be new incentive for anglers to extend their fishing trips additional days, to capitalize on the double possession limit (on land), there will also be a reduction in trips taken to replenish stored fish kept on land. The resulting economic effect of the double possession limit depends mostly on factors outside the scope of these regulations such as: consumer demand for fresh salmon, and fuel and related travel cost factors.

C. The Expansion of Businesses in California

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California due to status quo regulations.

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California due to doubling the possession limit. While there may be new incentive for anglers to extend their fishing trips additional days, to capitalize on the double possession limit (on land), there will also be a reduction in trips taken to replenish stored fish kept on land. The resulting economic effect of the double possession limit depends mostly on factors outside the scope of these regulations such as: consumer demand for fresh salmon, and fuel and related travel cost factors.

D. Benefits of the Regulation

Concurrence with Federal Law

California's sport fishing regulations need to conform to the new Federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California. The PFMC annually recommends west coast adult salmon fisheries regulations aimed at meeting biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the Salmon Fishery Management Plan. These recommendations coordinate west coast management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California and California inland sport salmon fisheries. These recommendations are subsequently implemented as ocean fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and as sport salmon regulations for state marine and inland waters by the Commission.

Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment. Adoption of scientifically-based ocean salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents; providing opportunities for an ocean sport salmon fishery encourages consumption of a nutritious food. Salmon sport fishing also contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners as fishing is a hobby and form of relaxation for many. Salmon sport fishing also provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of California's natural resources. By doubling the possession limit, fishermen and their families may better utilize accumulated daily bag limits for family gatherings, cultural and ceremonial traditions, and fish curing for long term storage; including drying, salting, smoking, pickling, canning, etc. This will lead to better enjoyment of the fishing activity and utilization, and a more satisfying overall experience from the services provided by the ocean salmon recreational fishery.

Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The proposed regulations are to conform to federal fisheries management allowable harvest levels, and intended to sustain the fishery. As such, the agency is not aware of any consequences to worker safety that could arise from the proposed regulations.

Other Benefits of the Regulation

Other benefits of the proposed regulations are resource sustainability and ensuring the future enjoyment and continuation of activities dependent on the salmon fishery. Maintaining healthy populations of salmon can translate into significant economic contributions to the State: in 2012 recreational ocean salmon activities contributed as much as \$24 million in total economic output, \$9.5 million in wages, and 180 jobs for Californians.