

**Economic Impact Assessment**  
**Add Section 180.6, Hagfish Traps, Title 14, CCR**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is proposing a regulation requiring that any trap used to take hagfish shall have all holes with a minimum diameter of 9/16 inch. This proposal is intended to sustain California's hagfish fishery by reducing retention of smaller, immature fish by providing an adequate means of trap escapement.

Since 2010, six port complexes have been landing hagfish with an average of 28 participating vessels annually. Without regulation, operators use their own preferred trap hole size, usually  $\pm 1/2$  inch. Generally, catches containing larger hagfish (traps with larger holes and fewer immature fish) are preferred by the fish buyers and end consumers. This fishery is entirely for export. In 2013, the hagfish fishery's ex-vessel value was over \$1,015,000.

Effects of the regulation on the creation or elimination of jobs within the State

The regulation is unlikely to affect the creation or elimination of jobs in California. The number of jobs related to the hagfish fishery is not anticipated to change as a result of the proposed regulation because such jobs are influenced primarily by the foreign market demand for hagfish.

Effects of the regulation on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State

The regulation is unlikely to affect the creation or elimination of hagfish businesses in California. The number of businesses related to the hagfish fishery is not anticipated to change as a result of the proposed regulation because such businesses are influenced primarily by the foreign market demand for hagfish.

Effects of the regulation on the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State

The regulation is unlikely to affect the expansion of hagfish businesses in California. The potential expansion of businesses related to the hagfish fishery is not anticipated to change as a result of the proposed regulation because such businesses are influenced primarily by the foreign market demand for hagfish.

Benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents

This fishery is entirely for foreign export; therefore the regulation is unlikely to affect the health and welfare of California residents.

Benefits of the regulation to worker safety

The regulation does not affect worker conditions or safety.

Benefits of the regulation to the State's environment

Benefits to the State's environment are anticipated. Adoption of measures to ensure escapement of immature hagfish will help maintain sufficient populations of hagfish to ensure the continued sustainability of this resource.

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