

Economic Impact Assessment

Section 28.20 Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Pacific halibut

The proposed regulatory action is intended to improve regulatory efficiency and reduce costs, by reducing redundancies between State and federal rulemaking processes for the management of the Pacific halibut fishery. The proposed regulations will not set specific fishing quota allocations for this species; they will establish an automatic process to bring California's recreational Pacific halibut regulations into conformance with federal regulations. The majority of the recreational fishery for Pacific halibut occurs in the northern part of the state and provides limited amounts of economic benefit to businesses in California.

Adoption of scientifically-based sport fishing regulations provides for the enhancement and maintenance of species to ensure their continued existence and provide for future sport fishing opportunities. In 2011, saltwater anglers in California expended approximately \$923 million, of which about \$535 million directly supports merchants and manufacturers in the State's business sector based on a fisheries economic analysis conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (The Economic Contribution of Marine Angler Expenditures in the United States, 2011, Lovell et al.). Coupled with the indirect and induced effects of this \$535 million direct revenue contribution, the total realized economic benefit to California is about \$1.4 billion in total economic output annually. This is equivalent to about \$526 million in income to Californians, which affects about 10,000 jobs in the State, annually. The portion of this benefit derived from or related to the Pacific halibut fishery is unknown.

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

The Commission does not anticipate any significant impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, because the regulatory action does not alter existing conditions except for reducing the lag between the federal action and conforming State action. The intent is to improve regulatory efficiency in State conformance with federal regulations.

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

The Commission does not anticipate any significant impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses in California. The regulatory action does not alter existing conditions

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

The Commission does not anticipate any significant impacts on the expansion of businesses currently doing business in California. The regulatory action does not alter existing conditions.

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 to participate in sport fisheries fosters conservation through

education and appreciation of California's wildlife.

Benefits of the regulation to worker safety

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety because this regulatory action will not impact working conditions or worker safety.

Benefits of the regulation to the State's environment:

Sustainable Management of Marine Resources

It is the policy of the State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living marine resources 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 benefits of the proposed regulations are a continuation of sustainable management of sport fishing resources.

Other benefits of the regulation:

Concurrence with Federal Law:

The proposed regulations will establish an automatic process to bring California's recreational regulations into alignment with federal regulations.