

Quinn Tribolet

11/8/17

## Fishing Regulations

### ***How are sports and commercial fishing regulations similar and different?***

Where do you think the fish in your local supermarket come from? Chances are that it came from the San Diego Bay. Fishing is the hidden gem of San Diego; it's something that's always been done here, but not many people know about it. There are different types of fishing and within each type, there are different regulations that each fisherman must follow. Each of these regulations depend on specific and carefully analyzed variables to be able to continue fishing.

Most regulations for fishing depend on the species of fish and the type of fishing. Here's how it works for commercial fishing. First, when the fishermen catch fish, they compile a list of everything that they caught and how much they caught. Then they give the list to the communication director, who, then gives the list to the scientists so they can create the data. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), then, uses the data to alter the regulations. The council meets about six times a year and is required to contain representatives from the government, and stockholders of the industry. During the meetings, they discuss the quality and quantity of certain types of fish, how much have been caught, how much are left, and all the statistics involved using scientist data. They make regulations using these factors to help benefit the survival of specific fish species and the overall fishing economy.

Commercial fishing, also, has a size requirement on what you can catch. For example, there are only three types of bass you can catch. You can catch five bass per day per hook and

each bass must be at least 14 inches. If regulations are broken and you catch something you're not supposed to catch or go into restricted fishing waters, there are consequences. Some could be as small as a ticket, going to court, or in extreme cases, going to jail.

For sportfishing, it's very similar. They still need to tell the communication director what and how much they have caught, so PFMC can figure out new regulations. The difference is that sport fisherman are not allowed to sell what they catch, whereas the commercial fishermen fish with the intent to sell their catch. Sport fishermen count what they catch by the bag, so instead of counting each individual fish, they count the caught fish by bag limits which varies.

People come from all over the world to fish in our wide and beautiful San Diegan bays and oceans. Fishing is very intricate and complicated, as there are many aspects of fishing to consider, from the types of fishing and the rules and regulations placed on the different types, and to selling them on the market.