

Regulations

- I. What is a regulation? It is simply another tool in the manager's tool box. A way to control the *behavior* of the humans in the fishery.
- II. Good regulations have many requirements
 - A. Acceptance and/or understanding of the constituents
 - B. Enforcement of the regulation
 - C. Evaluation of the success/failure of the regulation (surprisingly rare)
 - D. Research before and after the regulation is implemented
- III. Who has the authority to develop and implement fishery regulations?
 - A. State government - primary goal in most inland fisheries; on rivers, states can have conflicting regulations
 - B. Federal government - somewhat restricted in jurisdiction; develops regulations for anadromous fish, endangered species, international fisheries
 - C. International commissions - marine systems; Great Lakes (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)
- IV. How do regulations work?
 - A. Ecological significance
 1. Population level significance
 2. Community/ecosystem significance
 - B. Sociological significance
 1. Sustenance fisheries
 2. Recreational fisheries
 3. Commercial fisheries
 - C. Informational significance
- V. Types of regulations
 - A. Licensing and permits - largely have an informational significance; the information is usually limited
 - B. Size limits (each has a unique outcome from an ecological and sociological perspective)
 1. Minimum size limit
 2. Maximum size limit
 3. Slot limit
 4. Inverse slot limit
 - C. Creel (bag) limits
 1. Definition - limit on the number of fish harvested
 2. In recreational fisheries, the sociological benefit is probably greater than the ecological benefit
 3. In commercial fisheries, a quota may be implemented; quota is a set limit to the total annual harvest based on knowledge of population and recruitment
 - D. Closed seasons - spawning is typical
 - E. Closed areas
 1. Spawning habitat
 2. Entire lake/reservoir
 - F. Gear restrictions
 1. In commercial fisheries, restrictions in gear are intended to protect sizes and restrict total catch
 2. In recreational fisheries,
 - a. Sociological goal is to provide opportunities for different angler types
 - b. Ecological goal varies

- (1) reduce hooking mortality in catch-and-release fisheries
 - (2) prevent introductions of exotic bait species
- VI. Regulatory process
- A. Proposal
 - B. Public comment
 - C. Ratification by legislature
 - D. Implementation
 - E. Education
 - F. Enforcement