

Summary of fishermen responses to open-ended survey questions

Table 1. In your opinion, what are the top two to three things that can be done to improve enforcement of fishery regulations?

Section 1: Percent of Responses by General Category^o			
	New England (%)	Gulf of Mexico (%)	Pacific (%)
Regulatory	35.8	33.3	25.0
Enforcement	58.6	65.1	61.7
Penalties	14.8	14.0	11.7
Section 2: Percent of Specific Comments Within Each General Category			
Of respondents who mentioned regulations, the percent who stated:			
Regulations too complicated/change too frequently	29.3	20.9	13.3
Regulations too strict/fewer regulations needed	13.8	16.3	6.7
Regulations not strict enough/more regulations needed	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regulations unfair	5.2	23.3	13.3
Regulations nonsensical	12.1	7.0	13.3
Regulations based on poor science, bad data, misuse of data, politics	5.2	9.3	6.7
Cooperate/involve fishermen in regulatory process	12.1	18.6	13.3
Of respondents who mentioned enforcement, the percent who stated:			
More enforcement/presence/patrols/USCG involvement needed	48.4	56.0	5.4
Enforcement sufficient/enough enforcement currently exists	16.8	14.3	40.5
Less enforcement/less USCG involvement	9.5	7.1	13.5
Enforcement unfair	0.0	7.1	5.4
Lenience in enforcement for accidental/occasional/first time/minor violations	7.4	7.1	8.1
Enforcement officers overzealous/confrontational/antagonistic	8.4	8.3	13.5
Of respondents who mentioned penalties, the percent who stated:			
More/harsher penalties needed	41.7	61.1	42.9
Less penalty needed	4.2	0.0	0.0
Penalties unfair	12.5	0.0	0.0
Penalties should be harsher for repeat offenders	25.0	27.8	14.3
Lenience in penalties for accidental/occasional/first time/minor violations	29.2	33.3	42.9

Table 2. In your opinion, what are the top two to three things that can be done to improve fishermen's willingness to comply with fishery regulations?

Section 1: Percent of Responses by General Category^a			
	New England (%)	Gulf of Mexico (%)	Pacific (%)
Regulatory	70.7	58.6	44.9
Enforcement	16.7	26.3	21.7
Penalties	15.5	25.6	18.8
Section 2: Percent of Specific Comments Within Each General Category			
Of respondents who mentioned regulations, the percent who stated:			
Regulations too complicated/change too frequently	22.8	19.2	9.7
Regulations too strict/fewer regulations needed	21.1	15.4	16.1
Regulations not strict enough/more regulations needed	0.0	0.0	0.0
Regulations unfair	13.0	23.1	0.0
Regulations nonsensical	14.6	3.8	22.6
Regulations based on poor science, inaccurate data, misuse of data, politics	16.3	12.8	25.8
Cooperate/involve fishermen in regulatory process	14.6	16.7	16.1
Of respondents who mentioned enforcement, the percent who stated:			
More enforcement/presence/patrols/USCG involvement needed	44.8	51.4	20.0
Enforcement sufficient/enough enforcement currently exists	3.4	0.0	13.3
Less enforcement/less USCG involvement	3.4	8.6	13.3
Enforcement unfair	17.2	11.4	6.7
Lenience in enforcement for accidental/occasional/first time/minor violations	24.1	25.7	26.7
Enforcement officers overzealous/confrontational/antagonistic	17.2	8.6	26.7
Of respondents who mentioned penalties, the percent who stated:			
More/harsher penalties needed	55.6	58.8	53.8
Less penalty needed	3.7	0.0	15.4
Penalties unfair	7.4	14.7	0.0
Penalties should be harsher for repeat offenders	14.8	52.9	0.0
Lenience in penalties for accidental/occasional/first time/minor violations	25.9	26.5	30.8

^aNumbers are the percent of all respondents who provided comments that were associated with the general categories: regulations, enforcement or penalties.

Note: Percents do not add to 100% because each respondent could provide more than one comment.