

# Navigating Policymaking Mindsets: A SciPolComm Worksheet (Front)

## YOUR POLICY IDEA, ROUGHLY:

California ought to create a Experimental Fishing Permits program to help encourage collaborative and innovative commercial and recreational fisheries research.

1. Roughly write out a science policy idea in the box to the left.
2. Consider your idea against the mindset of each “policymaking character” — what they care about, what is within their power, what opposition exists, and if there is critical mass or opportune timing.
3. Summarize your notes using the seven boxes on the back page.

GOVERNOR	BUDGET	AGENCIES	LEGISLATORS	COURTS
<p><i>Do They Care About This Issue?</i> Governor touts himself as a leader in environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Governor is under criticism for not supporting jobs and industries.</p>	<p><i>Are There Competing Expenses?</i> The State is stressed in terms of public spending, but there is a budget surplus, and many programs are being approved.</p> <p>A permit program could probably charge a review fee to recoup costs and not dip into State Budget.</p>	<p><i>Who Implements and How?</i> California Fish and Game Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) have jurisdiction.</p> <p>They already oversee an “experimental gear permits” program to test commercial marine fisheries gear.</p>	<p><i>Any Champions or Opposers?</i> Champions: State Legislators representing rural coastal districts, working harbors, and recreational fishing grounds would be champions.</p> <p>Opposers: Probably not many. Fishing and jobs are good optics.</p>	<p><i>Ongoing or Potential Challenges?</i> No known challenges regarding experimental marine fishing permits at State or U.S. Federal courts level.</p>
INDUSTRY & INSTITUTIONS	THE MEDIA	CONSTITUENTS	SOCIETY	SCIENTISTS
<p><i>Any Champions or Opposers?</i> Conservation advocates would probably appreciate more flexibility for innovation partnerships.</p> <p>Commercial fisher groups would appreciate more freedom to innovate and option for research validation.</p> <p>Recreational fishing industry usually pro-conservation.</p>	<p><i>Is This Issue a Visible Topic?</i> Fisheries permits are not usually in public news.</p> <p>Media looks favorably on conservation news that both environmentalists and industry can agree on.</p> <p>Outdoors and conservation are positive topics in California.</p>	<p><i>Do They Care About This Issue?</i> Most people probably don’t pay attention to fisheries permits. But many people appreciate outdoor recreation and tourism.</p> <p>Working coastal communities would appreciate having a say in their livelihoods.</p>	<p><i>Is the Time Ripe for Change?</i> Society is somewhat aware of marine fisheries declines.</p> <p>Some Californians hear about the Monterey Bay Aquarium seafood cards.</p> <p>Society generally appreciates progress benefiting both environment and economy.</p>	<p><i>What Is the State of the Science?</i> U.S. Magnuson-Stevens Act already authorizes NOAA Fisheries to issue similar Federal “exempted fishing permits (EFP)” since 1976.</p> <p>More opportunity to encourage research partnerships with fishers are always needed.</p>

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POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS	POTENTIAL OPPOSITION
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Think Access, Money, Relationships, Publicity, Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research universities</li> <li>- Communities that rely on coastal industries and tourism</li> <li>- Commercial fishing organizations</li> <li>- Recreational fishing / outdoor advocates</li> <li>- Environmental conservation advocates</li> <li>- Most State Legislators</li> <li>- Governor</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Think Access, Money, Relationships, Publicity, Communication</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hardline advocates completely against fishing industries?</li> </ul>

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	COSTS	OPTICS	PUBLIC SENTIMENT
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>What's Great About This Idea?</i></p> <p>It's a low-hanging fruit: basically tweaking an existing State program.</p> <p>It copies an existing U.S. Federal program with proven track record.</p> <p>We can probably charge a fee and make it cost-neutral to the State Budget.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>What Needs Work?</i></p> <p>The permit program probably need a mechanism to publicly post ongoing permits, and share research findings publicly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Are Its Costs Prohibitive?</i></p> <p>It would cost staff time to the Fish and Game Commission and CDFW to review permits and publish updates and reports.</p> <p>But costs aren't prohibitive, and we can charge fees to recoup costs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Does This Idea Look Good on TV?</i></p> <p>Government looks good helping coastal communities and working families.</p> <p>Government looks good supporting conservation and outdoor recreation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do Constituents Care About This?</i></p> <p>Issue is not high on everyone's radars.</p> <p>But people like feel-good stories about environmental progress.</p> <p>People love the ocean.</p>

#### 4. Based on your notes, assess the viability of your policy idea:

- NO, this idea is not worth proposing at all.
- NO, this idea currently has no easy path to acceptance.
- NO, but we can adjust the idea that may result in an easier path.
- YES, this idea is worthwhile and there is a navigable path to acceptance. Let's adventure!

#### YOUR POLICY IDEA, ROUGHLY (INCLUDE ANY ADJUSTMENTS):

UNCHANGED: California ought to create a Experimental Fishing Permits program to help encourage collaborative and innovative commercial and recreational fisheries research.

(IRL: California A.B. 1573 Bloom, signed into law in 2018!)