

STAFF SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 14, 2020

5. RECREATIONAL PURPLE SEA URCHIN EMERGENCY (SECOND 90-DAY EXTENSION) (CONSENT)

Today's Item

Information ☐Action ☒

Consider adopting a second 90-day extension of the emergency regulations concerning recreational take of purple sea urchin at Caspar Cove, Mendocino County.

FGC staff recommends this item be removed from the agenda.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| • Adopted emergency regulations | Feb 21, 2020; Sacramento |
| • Adopted extension of emergency regulations | Aug 19-20, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference |
| • Today's potential emergency re-adoption | Oct 14, 2020; Webinar/Teleconference |

Background

At its Feb 2020 meeting, FGC adopted emergency regulations to remove the recreational bag limit for purple sea urchin at Caspar Cove, Mendocino County. The action was taken in response to poor conditions of northern California kelp forests. FGC adopted the emergency regulation to explore and evaluate whether intensified removal of purple sea urchin may promote the recovery of kelp and the associated species that kelp supports.

The original emergency action was set to expire on Sep 14, 2020. Staff developed a plan to request two subsequent 90-day extensions to allow the urchin removal work to continue for up to a year under the emergency regulation. Efforts are also underway to make this rulemaking permanent (Agenda Item 12 for this meeting).

FGC approved the first of two expected extensions at its Aug 2020 meeting; a second extension was planned for today's meeting. Due to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-40-20 and N-66-20, the original emergency has been extended by 120 days, and a second readoption of the emergency action is therefore unnecessary as staff expects the permanent rulemaking to be approved and effective before the emergency expires.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

FGC staff: Remove this item from the agenda.

Exhibits (N/A)

Motion/Direction

Not applicable if removed from the agenda under item 1.