

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR JULY 20, 2017

8B. CALIFORNIA'S FISHING COMMUNITIES**Today's Item**Information Direction

Receive staff update on meetings concerning California's fishing communities.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Initial discussion on fishing communities | Mar 4, 2015; MRC, Marina |
| • Continued discussion on fishing communities | Nov 4, 2015; MRC, Ventura |
| • Public meeting and discussion | Jul 20, 2016; Petaluma |
| • Update on planning efforts | Nov 15, 2016; MRC, Los Alamitos |
| • Review of proposed meeting locations | Mar 15, 2017; MRC, San Clemente |
| • First regional-scale public meeting and discussion | Jun 21, 2017; Smith River |
| • Today's update | Jul 20, 2017; MRC, Santa Rosa |

Background

Discussions in Mar and Nov 2015 between MRC and members of various fishing communities demonstrated the potential value in expanding a conversation surrounding challenges facing California's fishing communities through a public meeting dedicated to the topic. At the direction of MRC, a public meeting and discussion was held Jul 20, 2016 in Petaluma. Based on public feedback in support of continuing the discussion, in Aug 2016 FGC supported an MRC recommendation for staff to schedule a series of fishing community discussions with more locally-focused meetings along the coast. In Nov 2016, MRC recommended that regional fishing community meetings occur in the spring of 2017. In Mar 2017, MRC recommended aligning the meetings with existing FGC and MRC meetings for the sake of staff time and resources.

The series of community discussions is anticipated to focus on future fishing development needs in specific communities, and how FGC could potentially support localized efforts to foster stability in California's diverse fishing communities.

At this MRC meeting, staff will provide an update on the first regional fishing communities meeting for the north coast, held in Smith River on Jun 20, 2017 (Exhibit 1), as well as proposed dates and locations for additional coastal meetings in 2017. Today provides an opportunity for public input and discussion on proposed locations, timeframes, and format. Considerations for scheduling include staffing availability, avoiding conflicts with active fishing seasons, and logistical planning needs.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

FGC staff: Approve public meeting schedule for 2017.

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Exhibits

1. [Meeting summary from north coast fishing communities meeting in Smith River, CA, Jun 21, 2017](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Marine Resources Committee recommends the schedule and locations of regional fishing community meetings for 2017 as proposed.

OR

The Marine Resources Committee recommends the schedule and locations of regional fishing community meetings for 2017 as proposed, except for _____.

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President

Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell E. Burns, Member
Napa

Peter S. Silva, Member
El Cajon

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

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Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

Fishing Communities Discussion **North Coast – Smith River** **June 21, 2017 Meeting Summary**

The following is a summary of the meeting as prepared by staff.

Meeting Goals

- Opportunity for California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) staff to learn from coastal communities about their perspectives on observed changes in ocean ecosystems, marine resources and related harvest opportunities
- Discuss ideas for building stronger, more resilient coastal communities in the face of change
- Identify process for next steps, if any

1. Welcome, Background, and Goals

Commission Executive Director Valerie Termini convened the meeting at Howonquet Hall in Smith River at 3:00 p.m. Commission staff provided a welcome, reviewed meeting groundrules, and introduced Commissioner Hostler-Carmesin and Commissioner Williams, Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff, and introductions were made around the room. A brief background on the coastal fishing communities discussions was presented, and the meeting goals and structure were identified.

2. In-depth Discussion and Dialogue

(A) Current Concerns - Local Status Updates

- I. What are the changes in your coastal fishing community that have affected community productivity?
 - Discrepancy between sport fishing reporting and actual take from Cape Mendocino-north (extrapolation model is insufficient)
 - No credit for closures of yelloweye rockfish (constrains all other groundfish catch)
 - Marine protected areas (i.e., lack of access)
 - Aging and disappearing infrastructure

- Access to markets and buyers; buyers dictating markets
- Public health issues (harmful algal blooms, etc.) impacting marketability of products
- No young people in fisheries
- Worry about permit holders who aren't active who may start fishing again if their permits become transferable and lower the available quota per fisherman
- Competition with Oregon for processing capabilities, as well as market, mostly because of Oregon's Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification

II. What localized efforts have happened to promote your fishing community, if any? How can these efforts be supported by the Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other agencies?

- Fishing community sustainability plans (referred to as "CSPs") happening in other fishing communities (Monterey, Eureka, Shelter Cove, etc.) could provide a model for other areas
- The port exists to serve fishermen, but is operating in the red; there is not enough processing infrastructure so product is trucked elsewhere
- MSC certification → when Oregon fisheries are certified but California fisheries are not, California is less competitive
 - Shrinking fleet means less money for the port (especially shrinking recreational fleet)
 - Consolidation problems
- How can the Commission support?
 - Institutional change → adopt a fisheries policy supporting fishing communities
 - Should access Pacific Fishery Management Council observer data to better manage fisheries
 - Manage a fishery by managing fishermen
 - Even small amounts of allowable bycatch can be very helpful/profitable

(B) Future Vision for Ports and Fisheries

I. What is your vision for what your port should look like in the next 5-10 years? What is in the way of accomplishing that vision?

- Community co-ops → state subsidized?
 - Fishers agree to sell all landed catch to one place, fishers are investors, profits get split amongst fishers who participate in the co-op
 - Commission sets boundaries but fishermen manage the resource as a community → case study of the lobster fishery out of Santa Barbara
- More regionally-focused permit structures

- More engagement with federal fisheries managers
 - Experimental fisheries permits (e.g., squid)
 - Improved buyer participation
 - Rebuilding waterfront infrastructure to support fishing activities
 - Need to pique the interest of the public in preserving the working waterfronts (need to be able to engage with them if they are going to care about the future of waterfronts)
 - As permits retire, take them under state control and re-allocate to young fishermen
 - Economic studies that account for impacts beyond the resources and include impacts to entire communities
 - More open access and less limited entry
- II. What aspects of management influence your ability to be adaptable or flexible in your fisheries?
- Need to streamline the permitting structure/procedure
 - Re-distributing “retired” permits to young fishers/new entrants
 - Managing access and entrants → set standards for entrants?
 - Difficult to diversify in fisheries
 - Physical access (beaches, etc.)
 - Addressing local governments takes too long; need to educate authorities of their duty to protect fishermen
 - Waterfronts that are being gentrified

(C) Actions Moving Forward

- I. How can your fishing community directly move forward to promote opportunities for development?
- Diversify fisheries
 - Develop community permits (co-ops)
 - Fishermen participation in tagging/collecting data, sampling
 - Need guidance on interacting and working with county fish and game commissions
- II. How can the Commission support these efforts?
- Marine protected areas (MPAs) should be examined for effectiveness and if they’re not working they should be removed
 - Develop a fishing community sustainability plan at state level
 - Adopt a fishing community policy
 - Permit transferability (in deeper nearshore)
 - Ability to pass licenses on to other fishers, family members, and apprentices
 - Make permits more easily transferrable within an apprenticeship program (e.g., no fees, lower fees)

- Create incentives for participation (in lieu of enforcement)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife could identify next generation and incentivize participation
- Want ability to pass permits on to children
- Driver license-type test for fishermen for merit-based system
- Streamline/standardize permitting processes/structures
- Include fishermen in MPA collaboratives
- Look at regional science when setting restrictions (e.g., bycatch)
- Resource-based take instead of license-based take formulas
- Future projections should take into account geography/topography (e.g., conditions in the north versus the south)
- Regional fisheries committees
- Reward successful/responsible fishers
- Respect/support fishermen/women
- Support community economics
- Stock assessments for all fished species
- Re-examine historical policies and their impacts on coastal fishing communities

3. Next Steps and Wrap-up

Commission staff provided a brief recap of what was learned from the meeting and explained that these meetings will be continued up and down the coast in order to learn more about the regional challenges faced by fishing communities. Staff thanked meeting attendees for participating and explained that a meeting summary will be posted to the Commission website (www.fgc.ca.gov).