



Public Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration for Santa Barbara Mariculture Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to Section 15105 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, is providing public notice of the completion of, and opportunity for public comment on, a mitigated negative declaration for a proposed project to continue shellfish aquaculture operations on reconfigured State Water Bottom Lease No. M-653-02, offshore from Santa Barbara, California.

Project Location. The project is an offshore aquaculture lease located 0.75 mile from the coast of Santa Barbara, California.

Description of Project. Since 2005, Santa Barbara Mariculture Company (SBMC) has been culturing shellfish on lease No. M-653-02, a 72-acre area with an average water depth of 80 feet. The lease is issued by the Commission.

The project would modify the position of the existing 72-acre leased state water bottom through a 26-acre reduction in the deepest portion of the existing parcel and the addition of a new parcel of equal size, sited northwest and adjacent to the existing operations, to create a narrower configuration and a net result of two adjacent parcels totaling 72 acres using the same culture gear to cultivate the same species currently employed. Approximately 25 acres of the current lease area are in continuous mussel and intermittent oyster production using 12 longlines. If approved, the project will result in adding 28 new longlines for a total of 40 longlines across the combined, newly-configured 72-acre lease.

For purposes of CEQA, this document is analyzing all changes from the existing shellfish growing operation area currently used in lease No. M-653-02 to the final, reconfigured 72-acre lease area when fully utilized for growing operations.

Document Availability. The mitigated negative declaration for the project is available at:

- [Santa Barbara Mariculture Mitigated Negative Declaration \(online\)](#)
- Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth St., Rm 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814 (print)

Review Period. The public review period starts January 19 and ends February 8, 2018. Comments are requested to be submitted prior to the Commission's February 7-8 meeting.

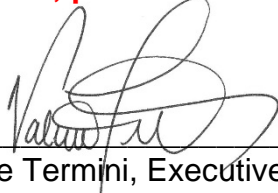
How to Submit Comments

By email: Aquaculture_CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov

By mail: California Fish and Game Commission, Attn: Susan Ashcraft
1416 Ninth St., Rm 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814

Please do not send comments to the mailing address if sending via email. **Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2018; postmarks are not acceptable.**

Dated: January 16, 2018



Valerie Termini, Executive Director