PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR)
COASTAL MARINE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM

APRIL 10, 2018 - SANTA ROSA CA
APRIL 12, 2018 - SAN DIEGO CA

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT FISH AND WILDLIFE
Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Welcome – introductions – agenda
- CEQA process & Lead agency role
- Aquaculture in California
- Senate Bill 201
- Program Overview
- Analysis Scope and Issues to be Addressed
- Certification and Project Approval Process
- Public Testimony / Comments
CEQA
California Environmental Quality Act

- Requires consideration of physical environmental effects
- Applies to discretionary decisions by public agencies

Fish & Game Commission’s discretionary decisions: aquaculture leases and regulation of aquaculture. 
Lead Agency: lease first
PURPOSE OF SCOPING MEETING

- PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE ELEMENTS OF THE MARINE AQUACULTURE PROGRAM (PROJECT) AND ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED IN THE PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR)

- RECEIVE PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS ON WHAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE PEIR
AQUACULTURE DEFINED:

Aquaculture
the farming of aquatic organisms
(eg: fish, molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic plants, & algae)

Mariculture
aquaculture in marine waters
GLOBAL FOOD:

World population by 2050:
~ 9.5 billion

Including increasingly affluence middle class

More food next 32 yrs than last 8000!
How Would You Prioritize Food Production Resources?

GHG Emissions

- Dr. Steve Gaines, UCSB Bren School
How Would You Prioritize Food Production Resources?

GHG Emissions

Water Use

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How Would You Prioritize Food Production Resources?

- GHG Emissions
- Water Use
- Land Use

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AQUACULTURE:

FASTEST GROWING FOOD PRODUCING SECTOR
GLOBAL PRODUCTION HAS SURPASSED BEEF
MANY ADVANTAGES:

EFFICIENT FEED CONVERSION:
COLD BLOODED – ZERO GRAVITY

BIVALVE SHELLFISH: NO ADDED FEED (FILTER)

FINFISH: MORE EFFICIENT THAN TERRESTRIAL LIVESTOCK

EFFICIENT WATER USE
SEAFOOD SUPPLY:

HALF OF WORLD’S SEAFOOD IS NOW FARM-RAISED BUT LITTLE PRODUCED IN US (OVER 90% IS IMPORTED)

Source: World Resources Institute
California Seafood:

CA Population: ~40M People
@ 15+ Lbs / Person (US Ann. Per Capita Avg)

= ~600M Lbs Seafood / Yr
consumed in California

Total Commercial Fishery Landings into CA (2016):
~ 167M Lbs (worth $200M)

vs: 358M Lbs (worth $235M in 2014)

USDA Dietary Guidelines:

Eat More Seafood (It’s Healthy)

Seafood demand far exceeds local supply
Senate Bill (SB) 201

SUSTAINABLE OCEANS ACT OF 2006
FISH AND GAME CODE §15008 AND 15400

Leasing of CA marine waters for finfish aquaculture:

• Evaluate potential environmental effects of marine aquaculture through a programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR)

• Establishes requirements for finfish aquaculture leases
Senate Bill (SB) 201

Requirements

• Operations must not unreasonably
  – Interfere with fishing or other uses of ocean
  – Disrupt wildlife and marine habitats
  – Harm environment’s ability to support
    “Ecologically significant flora and fauna”
• Minimize use of fishmeal and fish oil
• Site-specific BMPs
• Minimize use of fishmeal and fish oil
• Identification of farmed fish (tag, marker, etc)
Senate Bill (SB) 201

ENFORCEMENT

- Fish and Game Commission may take action to prevent damage to the marine environment, including:
  - Removal of fish stock
  - Facility closure
  - Lease termination

Fish and Game Code §15400
Senate Bill (SB) 201

**Lease Conditions**

- **Initial term of lease is 10 years**
- **Leases may be renewed or awarded to highest responsible bidder**
- **All structures must be removed and site restored upon termination**

Fish and Game Code §15400 et seq.
CEQA Process

- **Notice of Preparation**
  - 30-day public review period
  - Initially issued in February 2007
  - Reissued due to elapsed time between 2007 & now
  - Available for 30 days

- **Scoping Meetings**
  - Sonoma (April 10)
  - San Diego (April 12)
CEQA Process

- **Draft EIR**
  - 45-day public review period
- **Public Meeting(s)**
  - Like scoping meetings but focused on analysis presented in Draft EIR
- **Final EIR**
- **Project Decision by Fish and Game Commission**
  - Certification of Final EIR
## Scope of EIR

PEIR will evaluate potential impacts related to:

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<tr>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
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<td>Agricultural Resources</td>
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<td>Biological Resources</td>
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<td>Cultural, Historic, and Tribal Cultural Resources</td>
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<td>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</td>
<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Transportation and Traffic (inc. marine navigation)</td>
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CEQA Process and Schedule

- NOP Circulated: March 30, 2018
- Scoping Meeting: April 10 & 12, 2018
- DEIR Prepared: Fall 2018
- FEIR Prepared: Winter 2018
- EIR Certification: Following FEIR
Why are we here?

Opportunity for the public and governmental entities to provide feedback on scope & content of the PEIR.

- Scope of important environmental issues;
- Potential environmental protection measures;
- Similar studies relevant to the proposed program;
- Characterization of the existing environment;
- Resources that may be cumulatively affected
Public Input:

• Verbal comments may be offered

In order for your comments to become part of the record, please write your comments down on comment sheet(s) provided

• Provide name/address on comment sheet(s)
• Focus comments on environmental issues
SB201

- It was pointed out that SB201 specified certain concerns to be addressed. Subsequently, these concerns were addressed in Fish and Game Code.
- Open the hyperlinks below to review the codes:
  - FGC 15008
  - FGC 15400
We want to hear from you. Thank you!

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