

APPENDIX A:

Common General and Port-Specific Challenges Shared by Participants at Coastal Fishing Community Meetings

Common General Challenges

- Loss of access to historical fishing grounds, beach, and piers
- Restricted access
 - Limited access to local resources
 - Existing permit structure within state managed fisheries (permits are often for large-scale operations)
 - Results in transient existence of fleets and fishermen
 - Fishery and area closures
 - No access to areas where species have recovered
 - Cannot compete with imported fish sold at lower prices
 - Limited market and economic value
 - Demand for buying local is high
 - Decreased profitability with increased fish taxes
 - Decreased food system viability
 - Seasonal closures limiting access to markets
 - Increased fishing fees reduces fishing opportunities
- Limited career trajectory for young fishermen
 - Shrinking fleet and lack of young fishermen entrants
 - High cost of entry
 - Cultural knowledge lost with the retirement of older fishermen
 - Not enough fishermen to feed people (food security)
- Deteriorating infrastructures
 - Loss of docks, ice machines, storage, and fuel facilities
 - Variable catches aren't consistent enough to retain infrastructure
- Environmental impacts
 - Climate change (e.g., species distribution shifts, marine heat waves, loss of biogenic habitat)
 - Coastal erosion
 - Diseases and human health risks (e.g., harmful algal blooms)
 - Drought
- Permit transferability constraints and/or costs to purchase
- Difficulty in deciphering regulations
 - Different regulations for nearshore versus offshore

- Lack of simple information clearing houses
- Difficult to interpolate legal boundaries
- Conflicting regulations between federal and state laws (e.g., for shark fin ban)
- Data gaps in fisheries management
 - Stock assessment process needs revision for all fished species
 - Lack of data
- Competing uses
 - Marine spatial planning initiatives (e.g., aquaculture impacts on port dynamics, offshore wind energy)
 - Competition with onshore businesses (e.g., restaurants)

Port-Specific Challenges

North Coast

- General:
 - Problems related to reallocation of federal groundfish individual transferable quotas to outside of California
 - Competition with Oregon for processing capabilities and market
 - Small communities have a difficult time advocating for their access needs
 - e.g., the Commission denying requests that fishermen believe are available, such as issuance of experimental squid permits or new pink shrimp permits)
 - Restrictions on nearshore fishing due to Pacific Fishery Management Council limits
- Smith River:
 - No credit for closures of yelloweye rockfish (constrains all other groundfish catch)

Central Coast

- Half Moon Bay:
 - Fishing is concentrated in nearshore areas and no access to deep reef
 - Need regulation for tier allocation (e.g., crab and salmon)
 - Layout of rockfish conservation areas are arbitrary and difficult to decipher
 - Limited access to chilipepper rockfish since a special permit is required
- Monterey:
 - Over-regulation of groundfish and fishing grounds constrained by rockfish conservation areas
 - Loss of California halibut trawl grounds in Monterey Bay waters
- San Luis Obispo:
 - Trident Winds' proposal for offshore wind energy development project
 - Potential impact on fishable area
 - Fishing between windmills is a safety issue
 - Impact of wind energy cables on fishing

South Coast

- General:
 - Increase in marine mammal populations (e.g., sea lions, otters)
 - Lacking a solution to help fishermen coexist with marine mammals
- Santa Barbara:
 - Moratorium on abalone fishing. Still being impacted by closure of commercial abalone fishery.
- Ventura:
 - Redevelopment process that reduces commercial and recreational fishery access to the harbor
 - Concerns about sheephead fillet length requirements
 - Sea cucumber trawl fishing needs a time limit
 - Increased harbor business costs
 - Lack of money to dredge harbor mouth
 - Lack of lingcod data for management decisions
- San Diego:
 - Lost fishing access due to Shelter Island ramp construction
 - Tijuana River sewage spills polluting fishery
 - Transboundary issue
 - Difficulty in importation process from Mexico due to recreational fishing possession regulation in California
 - Need to expand hatchery program to include halibut and yellowtail