

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2020

13. DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION ITEMS**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

This is a standing agenda item to receive and discuss informational updates from DFW.

- (A) Director's report
- (B) Marine Region
- (C) Wildlife and Fisheries Division and Ecosystem Conservation Division
- (D) Law Enforcement Division

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Verbal reports are expected at the meeting for items (A) through (D). DFW news releases of potential interest related to wildlife and inland fisheries are provided as exhibits C1-C5.

Under Item (B), the Marine Region report will include:

- I. Update related to the Pacific Fishery Management Council , the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), annual recreational ocean salmon and Pacific halibut regulations, and automatic conformance to federal regulations.

IPHC held its annual meeting Feb 3-7 to determine area catch limits for the upcoming Pacific halibut season; the previous Washington-Oregon-California catch-sharing plan remains in effect.

DFW will hold its annual salmon information meeting on Feb 27 in Santa Rosa (Exhibit B1).
- II. Update on Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) master plan implementation and completing a draft prioritization list of invertebrate fisheries for more focused management (see exhibits B2-B3).

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

- B.1 [DFW 2020 salmon information meeting notice](#)
- B.2 [DFW presentation](#)
- B.3 [MLMA master plan implementation work plan](#), dated Feb 7, 2020
- C.1 [DFW news release: CDFW Awards \\$11.35 Million for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Project](#), dated Dec 10, 2019
- C.2 [DFW news release: CDFW Awards \\$10.1 Million for Fisheries Habitat Restoration and Forest Legacy Projects](#), dated Dec 11, 2019
- C.3 [DFW news release: CDFW Releases Final Environmental Impact Report for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve](#), dated Dec 19, 2019

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- C.4 [DFW news release: Roadkill Still Illegal to Possess on Jan. 1, Despite Passage of the "Wildlife Traffic Safety Act"](#), dated Dec 23, 2019
- C.5 [DFW news release: Elk, Pronghorn Antelope Captures to Be Conducted in Northern California](#), dated Feb 5, 2020

Motion/Direction (N/A)



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



2020 Salmon Information Meeting

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Annual Salmon Information Meeting will be held on February 27, 2020 in Santa Rosa, California.

At the meeting, agency staff will present information on 2019 ocean harvest, river harvest, and river returns for California salmon stocks and the outlook for California salmon fisheries in the upcoming 2020 season. The public is encouraged to provide comments on potential fishing regulations for California ocean salmon fisheries in 2020. A panel comprised of fishery managers, scientists and industry representatives will be assembled to address questions and collect public input that will be used in developing a range of season alternatives for California salmon fisheries at the March 3-9, 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Rohnert Park, California. Final season regulations will be adopted at the April 4-10, 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Vancouver, Washington.

Where: Sonoma County Water Agency
404 Aviation Blvd.
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Date: Thursday February 27, 2020

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information on the meeting, please contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Scientist Grace Ghrist at (707) 576-2375 or visit the Department's Ocean Salmon web page at www.wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon.

Marine Life Management Act Master Plan Implementation

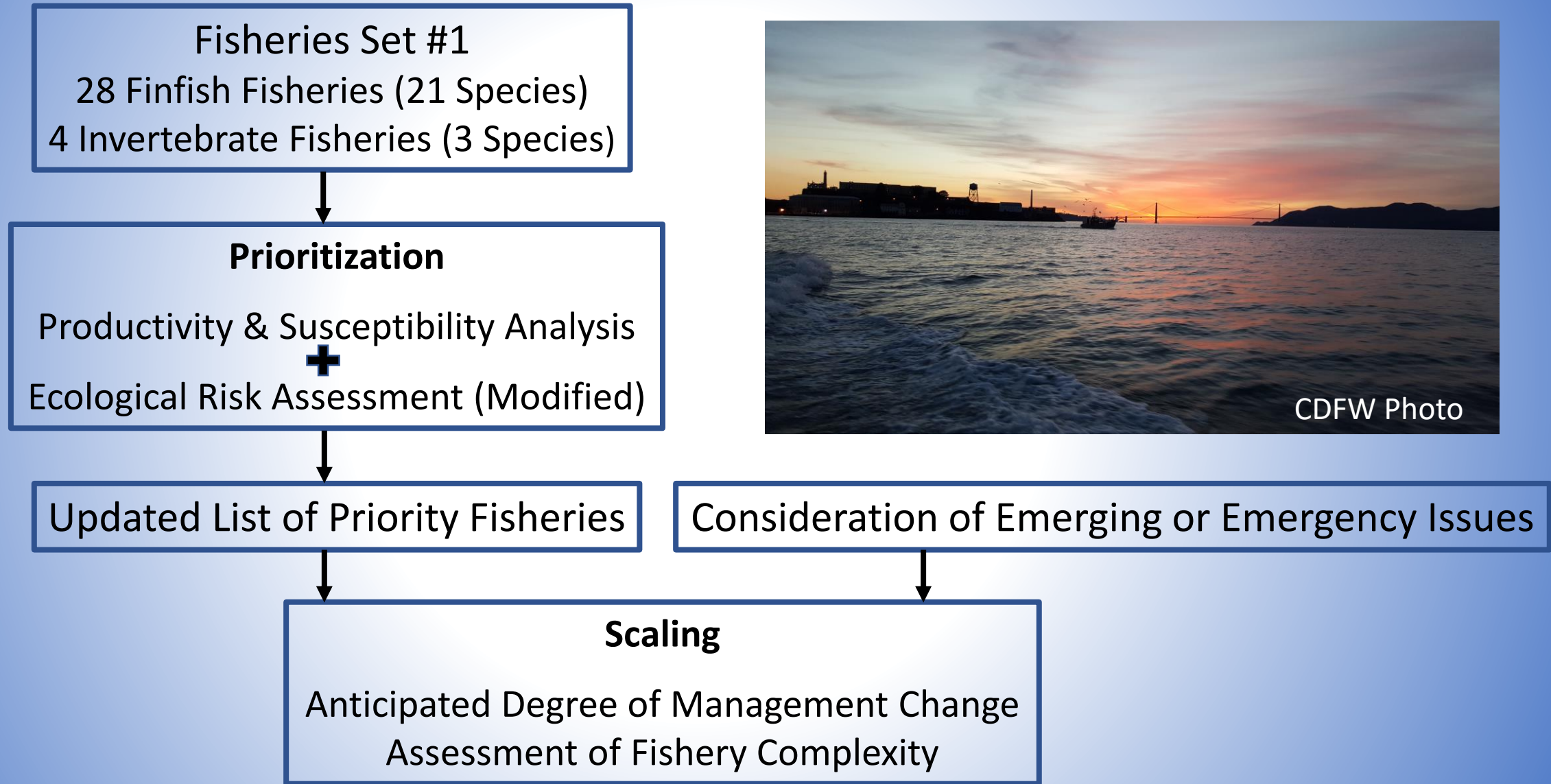
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager
Marine Region
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Sacramento
February 21, 2020



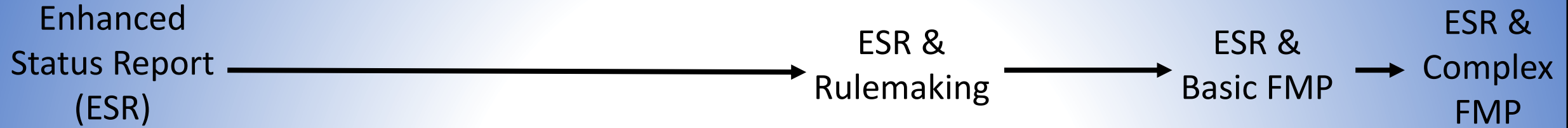


Overview of Prioritization and Scaling Process





What Scale of Management is Appropriate?



ESR

Spotfin Croaker*
Yellowfin Croaker*
Yellowtail*
Surf Smelt*

ESR & Data/Scoping

Barred Sand Bass
Kelp Bass
Barred Surfperch
California Barracuda
Bay Shrimp
Pacific Angel Shark
Brown Smoothhound
Shark

ESR & Rulemaking

Grunion**
Kelp**

ESR & Basic/Complex FMP

California Halibut
Red Abalone***

* Species not included in prioritization process, but identified as needing an ESR

** Species not included in prioritization process, but identified as needing an ESR and rulemaking in accordance with criteria listed in the MLMA Master Plan, Chapter 2, regarding emerging issues

*** FMP currently being developed



Enhanced Status Reports

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/Marine/Species



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife



Home



Fishing



Hunting



Licensing



Conservation



Learning

[Home](#) | [Regions](#) | [Marine](#) | [Species](#)

Marine Species Information

Click a species for their Enhanced Status Report



Bay Shrimp



Barred Sand Bass

Paralabrax nebulifer



Brown Smoothhound Shark

Mustelus henlei



California Corbina

Menticirrhus undulatus



California Halibut

Paralichthys californicus



California Sheephead

Semicossyphus pulcher



California Spiny Lobster

Panulirus interruptus



Dungeness Crab

Metacarcinus magister



Giant Red Sea Cucumber

Apotichopus californicus



Jacksmelt

Atherinopsis californiensis



Kellet's Whelk

Kelletia kelletii



Kelp Bass

Paralabrax clathratus



Market Squid

Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens



Night Smelt

Spirinchus starksi



Ocean Pink Shrimp

Pandalus jordani



Ocean Whitefish

Caulolatilus princeps



Pacific Angel Shark

Squatina californica



Pacific Barracuda

Sphyraena argentea



Pismo Clam

Tivela stultorum



Red Abalone

Haliotis rufescens



Red Sea Urchin

Mesocentrotus franciscanus



Ridgeback Prawn

Sicyonia ingentis



Rock Crab

Genus Cancer



Shiner Perch

Cymatogaster aggregata



Spot Prawn

Pandalus platyceros



Spotted Sand Bass

Paralabrax maculatofasciatus



Surf Perch

Family Embiotocidae

Thank You

Questions:

Debbie Aseltine-Neilson

Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Marine Life Management Act Master Plan: Implementation Work Plan

February 7, 2020

Background

The Marine Life Management Act Master Plan (2018 Master Plan) was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) in June 2018. The 2018 Master Plan, which updates the original 2001 Master Plan, provides guidance and a toolbox for implementing the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) goals and objectives. To help ensure that the 2018 Master Plan is implemented effectively, it specifies the development of an Implementation Work Plan (Work Plan).

Structure and Content

To aid in the successful implementation of the 2018 Master Plan, the Work Plan incorporates the following two characteristics:

1. The Work Plan must clearly capture the range of activities that are required to implement MLMA-based management over the next several years. These include fishery prioritization and scaling components from the 2018 Master Plan as well as routine ongoing activities and new statutory mandates.
2. The Work Plan must be adaptable to reflect change as specific tasks reach completion and others are initiated. In many cases, the results from completed tasks will inform the development of new tasks. For instance, the prioritization and scaling tasks within the MLMA-based management “Framework” will inform the decision (and resulting tasks) regarding which species currently need more focused management.

The Work Plan incorporates these two characteristics through nine key elements. The tasks listed under these elements within the Work Plan table below reflect current or soon-to-be implemented work. Some completed tasks are listed to provide context for current work; other completed tasks are listed in Appendix A. Planned next steps, those that are expected to be addressed at within the next several years, are provided in Appendix B.

Stakeholder engagement and peer review, as described in the 2018 Master Plan, are crucial to the successful implementation of the MLMA across most of the elements listed below. A variety of partners assist the Department with the implementation of these tasks including: members of the fishing industry; commercial and recreational fishing associations; academics; federal, state and local agencies; and non-government organizations.

Plan Updates

This is an update to the Work Plan provided to the FGC at their June 2019 meeting. Verbal updates of the MLMA Master Plan implementation will be provided to the MRC and, as needed or requested, to the FGC Tribal Committee and FGC at their scheduled 2020 meetings.

Work Plan

Time Frame: Completed, Annual, Ongoing, EC (Estimated Completion, Month and Year), In Progress (no estimated completion date), TBD (To Be Determined), or specifically described

I. MLMA Framework - Prioritization

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Fisheries Set #1: Key finfish plus Bay Shrimp, CA Spiny Lobster, and Market Squid	Present prioritized list to FGC	Completed - FGC Dec 2019
Fisheries Set #2: Remaining key invertebrate fisheries	Conduct Bycatch ERA and Habitat ERA; conduct Target ERA and combine with PSA; combine Bycatch, Habitat, and PSA + Target results	In progress
Fisheries Set #2	Present prioritized list to FGC	TBD

II. MLMA Framework - Scaling

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Prioritized Fisheries (Set #1)	Conduct evaluation (degree of management change needed; fishery complexity) to determine appropriate management scale; as possible, include socioeconomic and climate considerations (See Appendix C)	Completed Feb 2020
Prioritized Fisheries (Set #2)	Conduct evaluation (degree of management change needed; fishery complexity) to determine appropriate management scale; as possible, include socioeconomic and climate considerations	TBD

III. Scaled Fishery Management: Document Development

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Enhanced Status Reports (ESRs)	Develop 30 ESRs for 33 species	Completed
ESRs	Develop ESRs for remaining 5 species (see Section IV and V for more information on CA Halibut, Pacific Herring, and Bay Shrimp)	In progress
All ESRs	Update completed ESRs with 2019 landings and catch, research and monitoring results, and regulation changes	Dec 2020
New ESRs	Develop 4 additional ESRs (Spotfin Croaker, Yellowfin Croaker, Yellowtail, and Surf Smelt)	TBD
Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)	Complete Red Abalone FMP	EC Jan 2021
FMPs	Conduct a management strategy integration process for Red Abalone to determine the suite of indicators that provide the best management strategies for reopening a fishery and for managing an open fishery	EC Apr 2020

IV. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species without FMP^a

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
CA Halibut	Develop CA Halibut stock assessment	EC Jun 2020
CA Halibut	Conduct formal peer view of CA Halibut stock assessment	EC Jul 2020
CA Halibut	Conduct outreach meetings	EC Jul 2020
CA Halibut	Complete ESR	EC Dec 2020
CA Halibut	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
CA Halibut	Explore development of FMP	TBD
CA Halibut	Explore incorporation of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Data Limited Methods toolkit (toolkit) results into management	TBD
Grunion	Develop ESR	EC Apr 2020

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Grunion	Develop regulation package for recreational fishery	EC Feb 2021
Kelp (Giant and Bull Kelp)	Develop ESR	EC Apr 2021
Kelp and Marine Algae	Commercial kelp and marine algae regulatory overhaul	Phase II EC Aug 2020
Kelp	Implement a statewide Kelp Management Plan	EC Apr 2022
Kelp	Develop a suite of priority projects (Statewide Kelp Restoration Toolkit) for kelp recovery and restoration	EC Apr 2022
Barred Sand Bass	Develop stock assessment	TBD
Barred Sand Bass	Evaluate immediate management needs	TBD
Barred Sand Bass	Explore incorporation of MSE toolkit results into management	TBD
Kelp Bass	Develop stock assessment	TBD
Kelp Bass	Explore incorporation of MSE toolkit results into management	TBD
Barred Surfperch	Conduct MSE using toolkit	TBD
Barred Surfperch	Identify most accurate ageing techniques using an age validation analysis	EC Dec 2020
Barred Surfperch	Conduct a latitudinal analysis of fecundity and parturition timing	EC Jun 2021
CA Barracuda	Conduct MSE using toolkit	TBD
CA Barracuda	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
Bay Shrimp	Complete ESR	EC Dec 2020
Bay Shrimp	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
Pacific Angel Shark	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
Brown Smoothhound Shark	Monitor stock status as outlined in the ESR	Ongoing

^a Information on how these species fit within Scaled Fishery Management is provided in Appendix D.

V. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species with FMP

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
White Seabass	Complete maturity study	EC Feb 2021
White Seabass	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
Pacific Herring	Implement FMP	Effective Mar 2020
Pacific Herring	Complete ESR	EC Dec 2020
Pacific Herring	Herring Eggs on Kelp Rulemaking	EC June 2020
CA Sheephead	Evaluate bycatch in commercial fishery	TBD
Market Squid	Reconvene Fishery Advisory Committee	TBD
Market Squid	Evaluate need for short and long-term regulatory changes	TBD

VI. Managing Fisheries

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Monitoring/Research	Long-term fishery–dependent and –independent data collection	Ongoing
Monitoring/Research	Collaborative study investigating climate change impacts on the sustainability of CA Spiny Lobster, Market Squid, and Pacific Sardine within the CA Current System	EC 2020
Monitoring/Research	Socioeconomics of recreational fishery including target species choices	TBD
Data Analysis and Stock Assessments	Conduct Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) through the Data-Limited Methods (DLM) Toolkit on eight state-managed species/species groups (Barred Sand Bass, CA Halibut, Kelp Bass, Redtail Surfperch, CA Spiny Lobster, Red Sea Urchin, Rock Crab [3 species], and Warty Sea Cucumber)	EC Jun 2020

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	White Seabass, Pacific Herring, and CA Spiny Lobster status as determined through process outlined in FMPs	Annual
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Market Squid status as determined through egg escapement evaluation	Ongoing
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Cabazon, Greenlings, CA Sheephead, Kellet's Whelk and Sheep Crab landings against TACs	Annual
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Northern CA Red Abalone status	Ongoing
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Dungeness Crab meat quality evaluation	Annual
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Dungeness Crab, Rock Crab, Razor Clam, and CA Spiny Lobster domoic acid level evaluation	Ongoing
Identification of Management Measures and Development of Regulations	Recreational crab trap bycatch of whales and turtles	Proposed adoption Nov 2020
Identification of Management Measures and Development of Regulations	Hydraulic pump use for taking clams	TBD
Identification of Management Measures and Development of Regulations	Purple Urchin emergency rulemaking	Proposed Adoption Feb 2020

VII. Outreach

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
ESR Accessibility	Upload 30 final ESRs onto Marine Region website until imported into CA Fisheries Portal	EC Feb 2020
CA Fisheries Portal Phase 2	Build website for CA Fisheries Portal and add ESR text	EC July 2020
Marine Region Website	Renovate website	In progress
FGC Updates	Provide regular updates at FGC Marine Resource Committee and Tribal Committee meetings	Ongoing

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement	Participate on formal and informal fishery task forces and workgroups	Ongoing
Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement	Outreach to fishermen through port discussions	Ongoing
Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement	Build partnerships to support implementation	Ongoing

VIII. Implementing New Programs

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
California Fisheries Innovation Act of 2018 (AB 1573)	Implement Experimental Fishing Permit Program	EC Dec 2020
SB 1309	Implement Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP)	EC Nov 2020
SB 1309	Implement Gear Retrieval Program for Dungeness Crab Traps	Completed Sept 2019
SB 1309	Implement Standardized Gear Marking Program	EC Apr 2020
Experimental Fisheries	Initiate Experimental Box Crab fishery	Started April 2019
Experimental Fisheries	Collect Box Crab catch information	EC for first year Mar 2020
Fisheries Disaster Relief Programs	Implement as required	Ongoing

IX. Improving MLMA Fisheries (Ecological, Social, and Management Systems)

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Data Modernization and Review	Review and evaluate logbooks and use of E-logs	In progress
New Data Collection Methods	Evaluate use of electronic monitoring for vessels participating in Box Crab experimental fishing program	EC Mar 2022
New Fishery Management Protocols and Tools	Develop criteria and protocols to evaluate and respond to potential risk of marine life entanglement (SB 1309)	Ongoing
FMP Planning	Lessons learned evaluation for FMP planning	In progress

Topic	Tasks	Time Frame
Restricted Access	Provide information for review of restricted access programs for Market Squid, Pink Shrimp, Spot Prawn, and CA Halibut	EC Dec 2020
Ocean Resources Enhancement	Administer Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP)	Ongoing
Fisheries Adaptive Capacity	Investigate ways for improving fisheries management responsiveness and fishing communities' resilience to changing ocean conditions	Ongoing
Fisheries Adaptive Capacity	Support development of port profile descriptions and socioeconomic tools	EC Sep 2020

Appendix A: Completed Tasks

A-I. MLMA Framework – Prioritization

Topic	Tasks
Fisheries Set #1: Key finfish plus Bay Shrimp, CA Spiny Lobster, and Market Squid	Bycatch Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) and Habitat ERA, Target ERA conducted and combined with Productivity & Susceptibility Analysis (PSA); Bycatch, Habitat, and PSA + Target results combined
Fisheries Set #1	Update on production of prioritized list presented to MRC
Fisheries Set #1	ERA + PSA prioritization results presented to stakeholders

A-II. MLMA Framework - Scaling

See II. MLMA Framework – Scaling for current status of tasks.

A-III. Scaled Fishery Management: Document Development

See III. Scaled Fishery Management: Document Development for current status of tasks.

A-IV. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species without FMP

See IV. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species without FMP for current status of tasks.

A-V. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species with FMP

Topic	Tasks
Pacific Herring	FMP completed

A-VI. Managing Fisheries

Topic	Tasks
Monitoring/Research	Collaborative research on habitat use and population monitoring of the Warty Sea Cucumber completed
Identification of Management Measures and Development of Regulations	Regulations for Pacific Hagfish traps permitted on single vessel adopted

A-VII. Outreach

Topic	Tasks
CA Fisheries Portal Phase 1	Design for CA Fisheries Portal developed; includes layout for ESR text

A-VIII. Implementing New Programs

Topic	Tasks
Fisheries Disaster Relief Programs	Program for Dungeness Crab fisheries disaster payout developed

A-IX. Improving MLMA Fisheries (Ecological, Social, and Management Systems)

Topic	Tasks
Data Modernization and Review	Transition from paper commercial landing receipts to electronic receipts
New Data Collection Methods	Evaluation of use of remote operating vehicles for collecting sea cucumber data inside and outside of MPAs
New Fishery Management Protocols and Tools	Scoping regarding types of analyses to support review of CA restricted access programs

Appendix B: Longer-term Tasks

B-I. MLMA Framework – Prioritization

Topic	Tasks
Future Prioritization Process	Develop socioeconomic assessment tool for use in prioritization process as noted in MLMA-based Management Framework
Future Prioritization Process	Develop oceanographic and climate assessment tool to include in the prioritization process

B-II. MLMA Framework – Scaling

No new tasks identified at this time.

B-III. Scaled Fishery Management: Document Development

Topic	Tasks
Update ESRs	Enhance sections of management documents for priority fisheries including socioeconomics and climate
Prioritized Fisheries (Set #2)	Address target species of priority fisheries at appropriate scale identified in Section II

B-IV. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species without FMP

Topic	Tasks
Prioritized Target Species (Set #2)	Identify key actions for target species of priority fisheries identified in Section II that are not currently covered under an FMP

B-V. Scaled Fishery Management: Key Actions for Priority Species with FMP

Topic	Tasks
Prioritized Target Species (Set #2)	Identify key actions for target species of priority fisheries identified in Section II that are currently covered under an FMP

B-VI. Managing Fisheries

Topic	Tasks
Monitoring/Research	Conduct research to address the use of marine protected areas in MLMA-based management
Monitoring/Research	Conduct research to address socioeconomic information gaps
Monitoring/Research	Conduct research to address climate-related information gaps
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Identify management options to address fisheries concerns (e.g., ecological and socioeconomic) highlighted through monitoring/research and assessments
Review Analytical Results and Develop Management Options	Identify management options for addressing risks to fish stocks and fishing communities from climate change

B-VII. Outreach

Topic	Tasks
CA Fisheries Portal Phase 3	Implement enhancements for CA Fisheries Portal

B-VIII. Implementing New Programs

Topic	Tasks
New Mandated Programs	Implement any new marine fisheries programs as mandated through new legislation

Topic	Tasks
Experimental Fisheries	Identify emerging fisheries that might benefit from inclusion in an experimental gear program

B-IX. Improving MLMA Fisheries (Ecological, Social, and Management Systems)

Topic	Tasks
Data Modernization and Review	Develop and implement public fisheries data query tool for the Marine Landings Data System
Data Modernization and Review	Centralize fisheries independent data sets
New Fishery Management Protocols and Tools	Test methods for reducing bycatch
Fisheries Adaptive Capacity	Identify management approaches that increase adaptive capacity for responding to climate change

Appendix C: Fisheries Prioritization Set #1

Commercial Fisheries

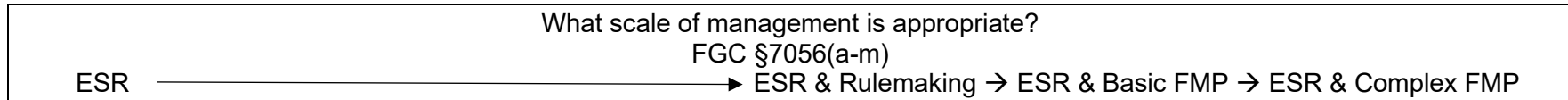
Species	Gear	Total	PSA Rank	Bycatch Rank	Habitat Rank
Pacific Angel Shark	Gill Net	4	1	1	2
CA Halibut	Trawl	5	2	2	1
CA Halibut	Gill Net	5	2	1	2
White Seabass	Gill Net	6	3	1	2
CA Bay Shrimp	Trawl	7	3	3	1
Spiny Lobster	Trap	7	2	3	2
Pacific Herring	Gill Net	8	3	3	2
CA Sheephead	Trap	8	2	4	2
CA Barracuda	Gill Net	10	3	2	5
Pacific Hagfish	Trap	11	4	4	3
Shiner Perch	Trap	11	4	4	3
Market Squid	Purse Seine	11	4	3	4
CA Halibut	Hook-and-Line	12	3	4	5
Pacific Bonito	Purse Seine	13	4	4	5
Redtail Surfperch	Hook-and-Line	13	4	4	5
Night Smelt	A Frame	13	4	4	5
Jacksmelt	Hook-and-Line	13	4	4	5

Recreational Fisheries

Species	Gear	Total	PSA Rank	Bycatch Rank	Habitat Rank
Brown Smoothhound	Hook-and-Line	9	1	4	4
CA Sheephead	Hook-and-Line	9	2	4	3
Kelp Bass	Hook-and-Line	9	2	4	3
Ocean Whitefish	Hook-and-Line	9	2	4	3
Spiny Lobster	Hoop Net	9	3	4	2
Spotted Sand Bass	Hook-and-Line	10	2	4	4
Barred Sand Bass	Hook-and-Line	10	2	4	4
CA Halibut	Hook-and-Line	11	3	4	4
Barred Surfperch	Hook-and-Line	11	3	4	4
White Seabass	Hook-and-Line	12	4	4	4
CA Barracuda	Hook-and-Line	12	3	4	5
CA Corbina	Hook-and-Line	12	4	4	4
White Croaker	Hook-and-Line	12	4	4	4
Pacific Bonito	Hook-and-Line	13	4	4	5

Appendix D: Scaled Fishery Management

Scaled Fishery Management along a continuum from Enhanced Status report (ESR) to a complex Fishery Management Plan (FMP)
[Adapted from the 2018 MLMA Master Plan, Figure 2]



ESR	ESR & Data/Scoping	ESR & Rulemaking	ESR & Basic/Complex FMP
Spotfin Croaker*	Barred Sand Bass	Grunion**	California Halibut
Yellowfin Croaker*	Kelp Bass	Kelp**	Red Abalone***
Yellowtail*	Barred Surfperch		
Surf smelt*	California Barracuda		
	Bay Shrimp		
	Pacific Angel Shark		
	Brown Smoothhound Shark		

* Species not included in prioritization process, but identified as needing ESR

** Species not included in prioritization process, but identified as needing ESR and rulemaking in accordance with criteria listed in the MLMA Master Plan, Chapter 2, regarding emerging issues

*** FMP currently being developed

CDFW Awards \$11.35 Million for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Projects

December 10, 2019

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today announced the selection of seven projects to restore wetlands that will reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and provide other ecological co-benefits.

The awards, totaling \$11.35 million, were made under CDFW's 2019 Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program Proposal Solicitation Notice. The seven projects will restore or enhance approximately 1,700 acres of wetlands and mountain meadows and sequester an estimated 67,400 metric tons of carbon dioxide (MTCO₂e).

The Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program focuses on projects with measurable objectives that will lead to GHG reductions in wetlands and watersheds while providing co-benefits such as enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, protecting and improving water quality and quantity and helping California adapt to climate change. Wetlands have high carbon sequestration rates that can store carbon for decades.

"These projects will significantly benefit climate science and ecosystems representing the coast, the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada," said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. "We are excited to continue the momentum to restore California's wetlands while making a demonstrable impact to greenhouse gases."

To improve efficiency and alignment with program priorities, a new two-phase application process involving a pre-application and final application was implemented for 2019 solicitation.

The following projects are approved for funding:

- **The Light-handed Meadow Restoration in Faith Valley and Log Meadow** (\$475,675 to American Rivers) will restore and protect 138 acres of mountain meadow at two high-priority sites, Faith Valley in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and Log Meadow in Sequoia National Park. The project will have an estimated GHG benefit of 7,644 MTCO₂e.
- **The Hill Slough Restoration Project** (\$5,577,413 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc.) will restore 603 acres of managed seasonal wetland to tidal wetland and restore 46 acres of existing upland to tidal wetland in the Suisun Marsh. The project will have an estimated GHG benefit of 25,242 MTCO₂e.
- **The City of Newman Inland Wetland Restoration Project** (\$610,000 to the City of Newman) will restore a 10-acre parcel of land owned by the City of Newman, Merced County. The project will provide multiple environmental, economic and public benefits and will have an estimated GHG benefit of 78 MTCO₂e.
- **The White Slough Tidal Wetlands Restoration Project** (\$852,113 to the California State Coastal Conservancy) will restore 40 acres of coastal tidal wetlands on diked historic tidelands in the

White Slough Unit of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Humboldt County. The project will have an estimated GHG benefit of 17,073 MTCO₂e.

- **The Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration Project** (\$895,000 to the California Tahoe Conservancy) will restore 13 acres of wetlands in the Upper Truckee River in El Dorado County by grading back to historic topography, removing invasive species and revegetation. The project will have an estimated GHG benefit of 6,545 MTCO₂e.
- **The Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project** (\$950,000 to Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) will restore and enhance approximately 183 acres of tidal wetlands and tidal channel, 17 acres of non-tidal pickleweed marsh and 36 acres of adjacent lowland terrestrial ecotones, and create and enhance approximately 60 acres of uplands. The project will have an estimated GHG benefit of 5,690 MTCO₂e.
- **The Ocean Ranch Restoration Project** (\$1,998,282 to the California State Coastal Conservancy) will restore the natural tidal prism and improve connectivity of tidal and freshwater habitats within 571 acres of Ocean Ranch in Humboldt County. The ORRP will have an estimated GHG benefit of 5,223 MTCO₂e.

CDFW's Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program is part of California Climate Investments (CCI), a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. CCI projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. More information about the CDFW program can be found at www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/watersheds/greenhouse-gas-reduction.

For more information about cap-and-trade funding and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, please visit the CCI website at www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

###

Media Contacts:

Matt Wells, CDFW Watershed Restoration Grants Branch, (916) 445-1285

Kirsten Macintyre, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8988

CDFW Awards \$10.1 Million for Fisheries Habitat Restoration and Forest Legacy Projects

December 11, 2019 by [kmacintyre](#)

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today announced the selection of 31 projects that will receive funding for the restoration, enhancement and protection of anadromous salmonid habitat in California watersheds, as well as forest legacy restoration.

The grants, which total \$10.1 million, are distributed through CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). They include \$256,440 allocated for timber legacy restoration projects and approximately \$9.8 million for anadromous salmonid restoration projects. FRGP monies come from a combination of state sources and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

"We are excited to further the restoration of river ecosystems critical to California's salmon and steelhead," CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. "Several of this year's projects incorporate process-based restoration to address the root of ecological degradation and benefits all species using the waterway, including salmonids."

In response to the 2019 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grant Solicitation, CDFW received 70 proposals requesting more than \$38 million in funding. All proposals underwent an initial administrative review. Those that passed were then evaluated through a technical review process that included reviews by CDFW and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists.

The 31 approved projects will further the objectives of state and federal fisheries recovery plans, including removing barriers to fish migration, restoring riparian habitat, monitoring of listed populations and creating a more resilient and sustainably managed water resources system (e.g., water supply, water quality and habitat) that can better withstand drought conditions. These projects further the goals of California's Water Action Plan and CDFW's State Wildlife Action Plan, as well as addressing limiting factors specified in state and federal recovery plans.

The list of approved projects is available on the [FRGP web page](#).

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CDFW Releases Final Environmental Impact Report for Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

December 19, 2019

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has released the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the restoration of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER).

CDFW, in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy and The Bay Foundation, has spent years working with the public and envisioning a plan for the revitalization of BWER. The report, found at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/5/Ballona-EIR>, is the culmination of countless hours of staff work to determine a course of action for the Ballona Wetlands which were once an approximate 2,000-acre expanse of marshes, mud flats, salt pans and sand dunes that stretched from Playa del Rey to Venice and inland to the Baldwin Hills. Today, BWER is less than 600 acres of open space, all that remains of the former wetlands, now owned by the people of California and managed by CDFW.

Following the release of this FEIR, CDFW will select a final restoration project and assist Los Angeles County Flood Control District in applying for a permit from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers as well as seeking approval from other agencies including the Coastal Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The Final EIR, appendices, and all documents referenced in the Final EIR are available for public review during normal working hours at the following locations:

- California State Coastal Conservancy, 1515 Clay St., 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
- Los Angeles Public Library, Playa Vista Branch, 6400 Playa Vista Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90094
- County of Los Angeles Public Library, Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey, 4533 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA 90292
- Los Angeles Public Library, Westchester-Loyola Village Branch, 7114 W Manchester Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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Roadkill Still Illegal to Possess on Jan. 1, Despite Passage of the “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act”

December 23, 2019

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reminds the public it is still illegal to collect or possess roadkill animals and violators could face citation, even after Jan. 1, 2020. SB 395 – Chapter 869 (Archuleta), also known as the “Wildlife Traffic Safety Act,” was enacted with the intent to eventually make available for utilization the roadkill meat of deer, elk, pronghorn antelope or wild pig.

However, the legislative language does not permit the general public collection and utilization of roadkill animals, but rather authorizes development of a program for what the bill describes as “salvageable wild game meat.” Such a program is not yet in place, contrary to many news articles and social media traffic.

SB 395 only authorizes the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations, in consultation with the California Department of Transportation, California Highway Patrol and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, to establish such a salvageable wild game meat utilization program. It would mandate any such program to include a permit and a reporting process.

“Many Californians think it will be legal to possess and utilize roadkill on Jan. 1, which is the technical effective date of the Wildlife Traffic Safety Act, but that’s not the case,” said David Bess, CDFW Deputy Director and Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. “There is no collection or utilization program in place. We are trying to avoid any confusion by misinformed citizens who think it is lawful to collect roadkill animals.”

In addition, SB 395 authorizes CDFW to create a roadkill reporting database to help wildlife managers identify the places where wildlife/vehicle collisions are most common. Data from such a reporting system could support wildlife conservation efforts conducted through regional conservation investment strategies. That program is also not yet in place. However, the University of California, Davis has a public reporting system called the [California Roadkill Observation System](#) (CROS) that is currently operational. Any citizen can contribute roadkill data and photos to CROS, either anonymously or as a registered user.

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Elk, Pronghorn Antelope Captures to Be Conducted in Northern California

February 5, 2020

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is planning to capture numerous elk and pronghorn antelope in northern California over the next two weeks.

Under the direction of CDFW veterinary staff, CDFW wildlife biologists will lead the captures. Capture crews will locate elk and pronghorn via helicopter, capture them with net guns and restrain the captured animals for tagging and collaring.

From Feb. 6-8, CDFW will capture as many as 10 adult Roosevelt elk in Humboldt County in northwestern California. From Feb. 9-13, CDFW will capture up to 22 Rocky Mountain elk in Shasta, Lassen, Modoc and Siskiyou counties in northeastern California. Pronghorn captures are scheduled for Feb. 14-15, also in northeastern California.

The elk will be captured on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Park Service (NPS) as well as on private properties with permission from landowners. CDFW is grateful to the USFS, NPS, timberland owners and other private landowners that are providing access to their lands for the captures.

Each elk will be ear tagged and fitted with a GPS collar. The collars will provide detailed information about elk for approximately five years. The information will enhance CDFW's knowledge of current elk distribution, abundance, survival and habitat use.

For additional information regarding captures in Shasta, Lassen, Modoc or Siskiyou counties, please contact CDFW wildlife biologist Erin Nigon at (530) 598-6011. For information regarding captures in Humboldt County, please contact CDFW wildlife biologist Carrington Hilson at (707) 502-4078. For information on pronghorn captures, please contact biologist Richard Shinn at (530) 233-3581