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Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

COASTAL FISHING COMMUNITIES DISCUSSION

DECEMBER 5, 2017 MEETING SUMMARY

South Coast – San Diego

The following is a summary of the meeting as prepared by staff. Participant responses to questions posed in the agenda are captured in bulleted format below each question.

Meeting Goals

- Identify priorities for your fishing community
- Discuss challenges and opportunities facing fishing communities
- Discuss how the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) can contribute to more resilient fishing communities

1. Welcome, Background, and Goals

Valerie Termini convened the meeting at Handlery Hotel in San Diego at 6:00 p.m. Commission staff provided a welcome, reviewed meeting ground rules, and introduced Commissioner Holster-Carmesin, Commissioner Burns, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) staff. Introductions were made around the room, and approximately 25 members of the public attended. A brief background on the coastal fishing communities discussion was presented, and the meeting goals and structure were identified.

2. In-depth Discussion and Dialogue

(A) What are the biggest challenges to a successful fishing/ocean dependent industry in your area? (e.g. infrastructure, limited seasons/catch, complexity of regulations, etc.)

- Deteriorating infrastructure
 - Need increased investment in ports
- Barriers to access
 - Permit availability is limited
 - Difficult to move between fisheries
 - Lost fishing access due to Shelter Island ramp construction

- Difficult for younger fishermen to start a fishing career
- Limited catch data available
- Food system viability
- Tijuana River sewage spills polluting fishery
- Transboundary issue
 - Difficulty in importation process of fish caught recreationally in Mexico due to recreational fishing possession regulation in California
- Difficulty in understanding/deciphering commercial fishing regulations due to existing management structure complexity
- Concern about marine spatial planning with respect to aquaculture
- Need transparency for money that has been contributed from fishing
- Population increase of predators (e.g., sea lions)
- Increased fees and landing taxes

(B) Fisheries and port conditions have changed over the past 20 years. What do you want your port to look like 20 years from now?

- Developed infrastructure that accommodates fishermen's needs
 - Adequate pier size
 - Offloading resources
 - Local markets

(C) What policies or new regulations would you like to see the commission develop to help you meet future goals?

- Establish an apprenticeship program for new entrants
- More direct marketing to involve the community
- Co-management practices that allow flexibility for local fishermen to make decisions
- Increase connectivity between local fishing and food systems
- Implement artificial reefs to increase habitat for fish populations
- Support the hatchery program and its expansion
 - White seabass program is effective
 - Consider a California halibut and yellowtail hatchery program
- Develop new fisheries
 - Experimental box crab fishery development is underway
- Educational support for underutilized local species in the market place
 - E.g., "San Diego-caught" marketing
- Implement a 12-month from date of purchase sport fishing license instead of calendar year
- Promote pier fishing to bring young fishermen into the industry
- Implement a fee for non-consumptive users utilizing the resource
- Intermediary between commercial fishing and DFW
- Extend the electronic tickets deadline from 24 hours to 1 week

- Eliminate fish fraud in the market place
- Streamline permit transfers between family members
- End permit fee increases
- Need to collect more data to fish more diverse fisheries

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).

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.