

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 16-17, 2021

23. MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**Today's Item**Information Action

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting on Jul 21, 2021.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Previous MRC meeting Mar 16, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference
- **Today consider approving agenda topics Jun 16-17, 2021; Webinar/Teleconference**
- Next MRC meeting Jul 21, 2021; MRC, Webinar/Teleconference

Background

MRC works under FGC direction to set and accomplish its work plan.

Committee Work Plan

Topics that have been referred by FGC to MRC are displayed in a work plan (Exhibit 1) for scheduling and tracking.

New MRC Topics

During the May 2021 FGC teleconference meeting, a commenter expressed concern about observed declines in abundance of *Polstelsia*, a marine algal species known as sea palm that is commercially harvested as edible seaweed, in long-term monitoring data sets. The commenter requested that FGC schedule discussion at the Jul MRC meeting and explore potential regulation changes for sea palm commercial harvest as a precautionary response to abundance declines.

Review of regulations for commercial harvest of all edible seaweed species, including sea palm, is currently scheduled as the second phase of the MRC work plan topic "kelp and algae commercial harvest regulations review." The first phase, focused on bull kelp only due to its immediate, precipitous declines, is scheduled for recommendation at the Jul 2021 MRC meeting; the second phase will resume in Nov 2021. The commenter is concerned that sea palm has declined and also needs immediate attention.

Since the request in May, FGC staff has conferred with the requester and DFW. Discussions with relevant researchers, as well as a collaborative review of the data, gaps, and interpretation are underway.

Staff believes that a discussion about sea palm would be better suited for the Nov 2021 MRC meeting, so it can be held concurrently with a planned review of edible algae commercial harvest regulations; this will also provide time for DFW to evaluate the available monitoring data to support discussion and potentially provide a recommendation.

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Next Committee Meeting

The next MRC meeting is scheduled for Jul 21, 2021 as a webinar and teleconference. Five brief updates and five discussion topics are proposed.

Updates from Staff and Other Agencies

1. Update on Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Program Phase II rulemaking
2. Red abalone Fishery Management Plan (FMP) development
3. Pink shrimp FMP development
4. Use of hydraulic pump gear to take clam, sand crab and shrip, and future rulemaking
5. California's Coastal Fishing Communities Project

Discussion Topics, Including Potential Recommendations

1. Aquaculture – Review of current requests related to existing and proposed state water bottom leases
2. Aquaculture – Development of public interest determination criteria for new aquaculture lease applications
3. Kelp and algae commercial harvest – Bull kelp
4. Marine protected area network – 2022 decadal management review
5. Review of market squid fishery management

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

FGC staff: Approve adding sea palm for the Nov 2021 MRC meeting, and approve the identified agenda topics for the Jul 2021 MRC meeting.

Exhibits

1. [MRC work plan, updated Apr 18, 2021](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves adding sea palm harvest to the Marine Resources Committee work plan for discussion in November 2021 and approves the topics for the July 21, 2021 committee meeting, as discussed today.

California Fish and Game Commission
Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to MRC

Updated Apr 18, 2021

TOPIC	CATEGORY	MAR 2021	JUL 2021	NOV 2021
Planning Documents & Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)				
MLMA Master Plan (MP) for Fisheries – Implementation Updates	MP Implementation	X	X	X
Red Abalone FMP / ARMP Update	FMP	X	X	
California Halibut FMP	FMP	X	X	
California Pink Shrimp FMP	FMP	X	X	
Market Squid Fishery Management Review	Management Review		X	
Marine Protected Area Network – 2022 Decadal Management Review	Management Review	X	X	
Regulations				
Kelp and Algae Commercial Harvest – Bull Kelp	Commercial Kelp	X	X/R	
Kelp and Algae Commercial Harvest – Edible Algae (Seaweed)	Commercial Kelp			X
Use of Hydraulic Pump Gear to Take Clam: Review of Emergency Prohibition and Future Rulemaking	Recreational Take		X	X
California Spiny Lobster FMP Implementing Regulations Review (<i>added Feb 2019; timing TBD</i>)	FMP Implementing Regulations			
Marine Aquaculture				
Aquaculture Program Planning (Information Report, Action Plan)	Planning Document	X		X
Aquaculture State Water Bottom Leases: Existing & Future Lease Considerations	Current Leases / Planning		X	X
Moratorium on New Aquaculture Lease Applications	New Leases	X/R		
Public Interest Determination Criteria for New Aquaculture Lease Applications	New Leases		X	
Aquaculture Lease Best Management Practices (BMP) Plans (On hold, TBD)	Regulations			
Emerging Management Issues				
Kelp Restoration and Recovery Tracking	Kelp	X		
Invasive Non-native Kelp and Algae Species	Kelp / Invasive Species			
Special Projects				
California's Coastal Fishing Communities	MRC Special Project	X/R	X	X

Key: X = Discussion scheduled X/R = Recommendation developed; topic may be moved to FGC