



Notice: Commercial Harvest of Kelp and Other Aquatic Plants

15-16 Dec. 2021

Presented to:

Fish and Game Commission

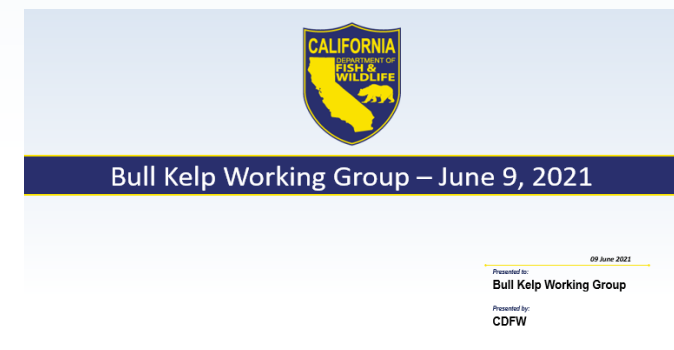
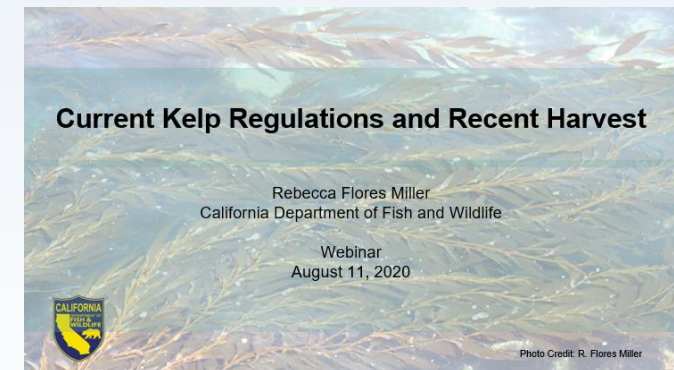
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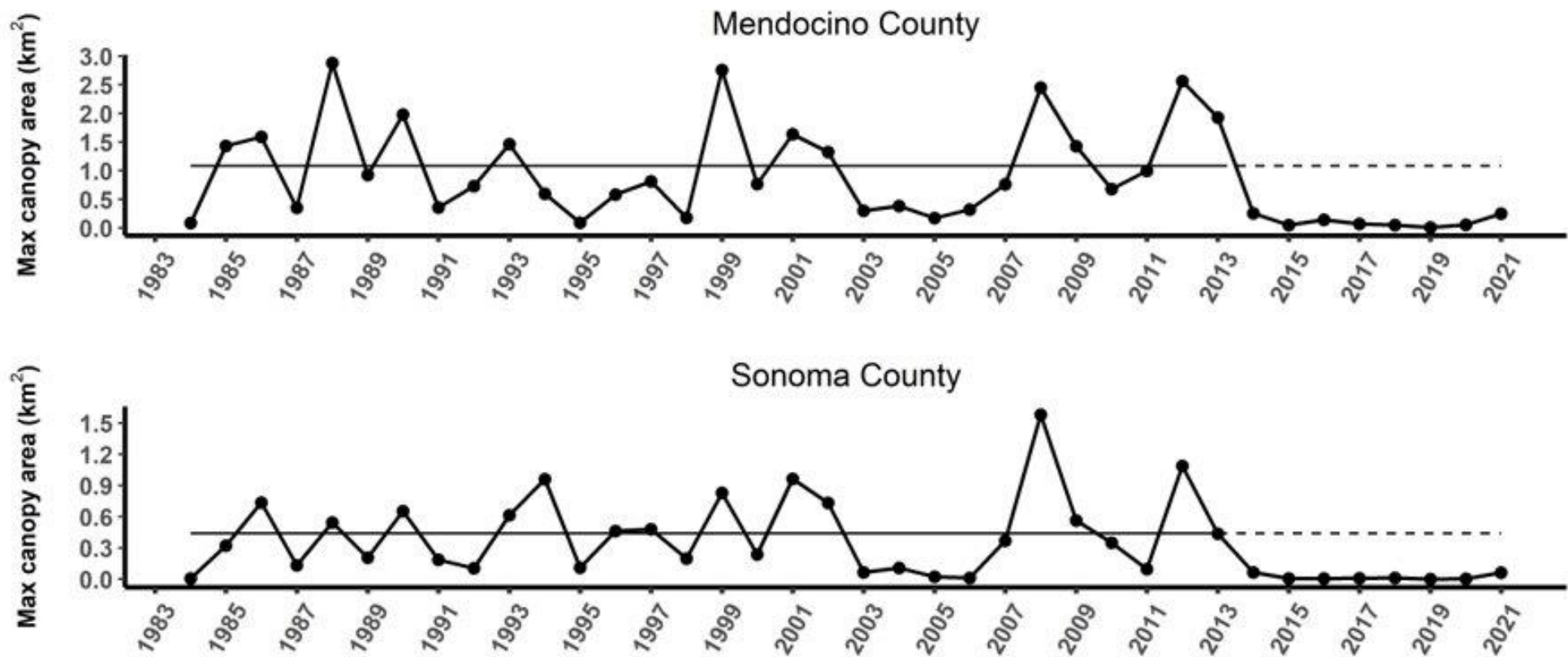
Background and Outreach

- Key Outreach and Engagement (2019-present):
 - Formal consultations with member Tribes of the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
 - Web-based survey sent to harvesters
 - 2 Outreach webinars
 - 1 Scientific forum
 - 4 Bull Kelp Working Group meetings
 - 15 Commission, Marine Resources Committee, and Tribal Committee meetings





Kelp Canopy - Mendocino and Sonoma Counties

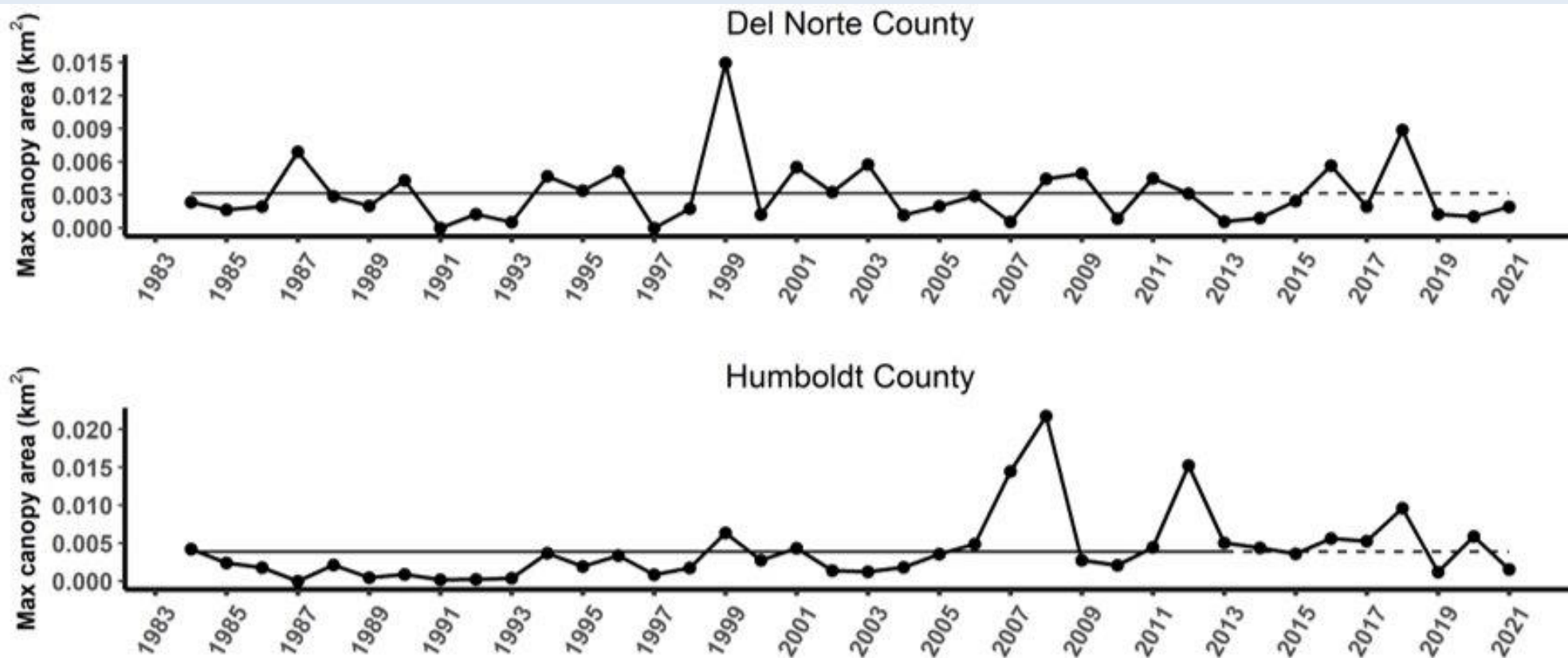


Data source: Santa Barbara Coastal LTER et al. 2021

Percent Change Time Frame (compared to 1984-2013 mean)	Mendocino	Sonoma
2014 - 2020	92% decline	97% decline
2014 - third quarter of 2021	90% decline	95% decline



Kelp Canopy – Del Norte and Humboldt Counties



Data source: Santa Barbara Coastal LTER et al. 2021

Percent Change Time Frame (compared to 1984 – 2013 mean)	Del Norte	Humboldt
2014 - 2020	<1% increase	31% increase
2014 - third quarter of 2021	5% decline	20% increase



Temporary Proposed Regulations – Bull Kelp

- Mendocino and Sonoma counties:
 - **Option 1:** Closure
 - **Option 2:** Annual quota between 1 to 2,000 lbs. (wet weight)
- Humboldt and Del Norte counties annual quota of 4 tons (8,000 lbs) wet weight
 - Maintain current annual 2 tons (4,000 lbs) wet weight limit per license holder
- Weekly reporting for harvest in counties with quota(s)
- Limit lease applications for lease only Administrative Kelp Beds:
 - **Option 1:** Hiatus on accepting new lease applications (administrative action)
 - **Option 2:** Change status to closed (regulation action)
- Sunset date options: Three to five years



Sections 165, 165.5, 705.1, License, Harvest Reports, Form

- Overall cleanup
- Modify the commercial Kelp Harvesting License
 - Include drying permit option per statute
- Monthly harvest reports
 - Kelp Harvester's
 - Edible Seaweed/Agarweed Aquatic Plant Harvester's
- Add Section 705.1
 - License application, monthly harvest reports, Release of Property form



Summary and Timeline

- Options for Commission consideration
 - Mendocino and Sonoma counties: closure or annual quota between 1 to 2,000 lbs
 - Lease only Administrative Kelp Beds: hiatus on new applications or change status to closed
 - Sunset date: three to five years
- Timeline
 - Notice: Today
 - Discussion and potential adoption: February 16 – 17, 2022
 - Proposed effective date: July 1, 2022



Photo Credit: R. Flores Miller, CDFW

Thank You

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References

Santa Barbara Coastal LTER (T. Bell, K. Cavanaugh, and D. Siegel). 2021. *SBC LTER: Time series of quarterly NetCDF files of kelp biomass in the canopy from Landsat 5, 7 and 8, since 1984* (ongoing) ver 14. Environmental Data Initiative.

<https://doi.org/10.6073/pasta/89b63c4b49b80fb839613e9d389d9902> (Accessed 2021-11-04 with updates from T. Bell).