Notice: Commercial Harvest of Kelp and Other Aquatic Plants

Presented to:
Fish and Game Commission

Presented by:
Rebecca Flores Miller
Environmental Scientist
Marine Region
• 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Change Time Frame (compared to 1984-2013 mean)</th>
<th>Mendocino</th>
<th>Sonoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 - 2020</td>
<td>92% decline</td>
<td>97% decline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - third quarter of 2021</td>
<td>90% decline</td>
<td>95% decline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kelp Canopy – Del Norte and Humboldt Counties

Percent Change Time Frame (compared to 1984 – 2013 mean)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Del Norte</th>
<th>Humboldt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 - 2020</td>
<td>&lt;1% increase</td>
<td>31% increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - third quarter of 2021</td>
<td>5% decline</td>
<td>20% increase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data source: Santa Barbara Coastal LTER et al. 2021
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
• 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

kelp@wildlife.ca.gov,

References