



# Coastal Fishing Communities Project

## Policy Drafting Workshop

February 23, 2022

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# Agenda



1. Welcome and introductions
2. Review Commission direction, workshop goals, and materials
3. Initial draft potential coastal fishing communities policy language drafted by staff
  - a. Overview of policy approach
  - b. How the initial draft is organized
  - c. Participants provide input on staff's initial draft potential policy
4. Discuss initial draft and ways to improve the potential coastal fishing communities policy
5. Wrap-up
  - a. Next steps
  - b. Additional opportunities for engagement

# Welcome and Introductions



## Introductions

- Agency staff introductions
- Participants introduce selves via chat



# Technical Notes

- Having video on is welcome, but not required
- Please mute microphone if not speaking
- Use the raise hand feature



# Participant Expectations

- One speaker at a time
- Support open and constructive dialogue
- Items not directly related to today's goals will be put in the "parking lot"



# Commission Direction

- Public meetings to hear needs of coastal fishing communities
- *2019 Staff Synthesis Report on Coastal Fishing Communities*
- Begin implementing first staff recommendation: “*to develop and adopt a policy and definition for coastal fishing communities.*”
- Regional roundtable discussions



# Workshop Goals

1. Understand Commission direction on policy development
2. Orient participants to materials that serve as the starting point for drafting a potential coastal fishing communities policy
3. Provide input on staff's initial draft language and structure

# Workshop Goals Continued



4. Collaboratively contribute to the next iteration of a potential coastal fishing communities policy
5. Develop shared understanding of next steps and additional opportunities for engagement





# Meeting Materials

Today's focus:

Initial Staff Draft Policy (on screen today)

Pre-meeting workshop documents (online)

Additional project background information (online)

# Initial Draft Potential Policy



- A. Overview of policy approach
- B. Initial draft structure
- C. Participant input on initial staff draft

# Components of Effective Policies



## *Visionary and Broad*

- Lays out direction Commission wants to go

## *Addressed causes instead of symptoms*

## *Non-Prescriptive*

- Not giving exact directions or instructions about how something should be done
- Implementing actions adaptable over time

# Making this policy effective



## We want your input to help:

- Better reflect community concerns in the policy
- Fill in knowledge or policy gaps

# Overview of Staff Draft Policy



- Part I “Coastal fishing community” definition
- Part II Recognition of coastal fishing community importance
- Part III Legislative foundation - Marine Life Management Act objectives
- Part IV Statement on policy direction the Commission wants to go
  - A-D: Four policy goals that can move the Commission in that direction

# Participant Input on Staff Draft – Target Time



Sections I, II, and III: 15 minutes

Section IV:

Goal A: 20 minutes

Goal B: 20 minutes

Goal C: 20 minutes

Goal D: 20 minutes



# Section I

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

- I. For purposes of this policy, coastal fishing community is defined as *a social, cultural, economic, and/or place-based group whose members:*
  - are dependent upon, engaged in, or benefit from wild capture commercial, recreational, or subsistence fishing to meet the social or economic needs of the community;
  - include, but are not limited to, businesses and organizations that depend on or support fishing or aquaculture production by providing goods and services, including infrastructure to that community or those communities; and
  - may be a subset or member of a larger or associated coastal communities which are dependent on and/or have an interest in healthy ocean ecosystems.



# Section II

## II. The Commission recognizes that

- California and Californians benefit from sustainable domestic wild-capture fisheries, and healthy coastal fishing communities.
- The fisheries off California and, more broadly, the U.S. west coast are sustainably managed through its management programs/processes, and fishermen and resource managers are always working toward adapting to enhance sustainability.
- Coastal fishing communities are an important part of California's maritime heritage and economy and depend on its coastal and ocean ecosystems, [and are prioritized for protection in the Coastal Act (sec 30234, 30234.5, and 30703)].
- Recreational and commercial fisheries require not only healthy marine resources and habitats, but also people and businesses to participate in, and support, fishing activities. Those activities, in turn, support local economies and recreational opportunities, and provide seafood to consumers.
- Fisheries and fishermen play an important role in domestic food security
- Recognizing and protecting the economic, commercial and recreational importance of fishing activities and facilities are standards established in the Coastal Act (sec 30234 and 30703).



# Section III



- III. The Commission further recognizes that the California Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) establishes specific objectives for recognizing coastal fishing community interests and impacts when pursuing the primary fishery management system goal of sustainability for marine fisheries under the state's jurisdiction (Fish and Game Code section 7056).

# Section IV Goal A - part 1



- IV. Consistent with MLMA objectives and guidance in the 2018 MLMA master plan for fisheries for meeting those objectives, in order to promote ecologically sustainable management actions that also support the socioeconomic sustainability of, and minimize adverse impacts on coastal fishing communities in California, it is the policy and practice of the Commission to:
- A. Consider potential coastal fishing community-scale impacts in development of fisheries management options and in Commission decision-making.
- Consistent with the master plan for fisheries, social and economic essential fishery information (EFI) is crucial to understanding potential direct impacts and indirect or “downstream” effects of management actions through each fishing community.
  - The Commission, with the assistance of the Department is encouraged to help identify what social and economic EFI data gaps exist and where, and to develop strategies to fill those gaps.

# Section IV Goal A - part 2



- The Department is also encouraged to utilize existing social and economic data sets to evaluate the potential qualitative and, where possible, quantitative impacts of management options on potentially impacted sectors of a fleet or other established fisheries, explore the potential downstream effects within coastal fishing communities, and identify ways to minimize the burden on individual sectors or individual fishing communities to the extent practicable.
- The Commission, with the assistance of the Department and interested stakeholders, will seek new data sources and partnerships that provide information on the direct and indirect effects of management actions on fishing communities as a whole.

# Section IV Goal B - part 1



- B. Contribute to the sustainability of coastal fishing communities through community engagement that is inclusive and reflective of community diversity, knowledge, and priorities.
- It is crucial to support the ability of a range of fishing operations to access fishing grounds and shoreside infrastructure; therefore the Commission will make efforts to illuminate the concerns of and risks to coastal fishing communities posed by outside stressors or proposed actions, initiatives, or projects.
  - The Department, the Commission, and other partners should consider developing new methods to engage fishing communities at the port level directly and deliberately and to collectively consider options for regular dialogue in less-formal settings.

# Section IV Goal B - part 2



- The Department, the Commission, and other partners should also consider new ways to leverage the expertise of fishermen in collecting data to fill data gaps and include their unique perspectives when developing or amending management plans, or when undertaking a rulemaking.
- Additionally, the Department, Commission, and other partners should continue to identify where management options could align with priorities identified by individual coastal fishing communities.

# Section IV Goal C



## C. Support economic growth of the fishing industry.

- To help support enduring and persisting coastal fishing communities, the Commission will consider management options that may contribute to the long-term interests of people and communities dependent on fishing for food, livelihood, or recreation, including entry points for new fishery participants.

# Section IV Goal D - part 1



## D. Build pathways for innovation and adaptation

The Commission will:

- consider where adjustments to policies and regulations can be made to create opportunities when actions are taken to limit a fishery in some way;
- work with state and federal agencies to advocate for the importance of fishing access to coastal communities and ensure that maintaining coastal community access to fisheries is prioritized while still protecting ocean resources;
- encourage the use of the Commission's Experimental Fishing Permit Program, experimental fishing practices or alternative gear types with realistic biological and economic success metrics, to explore innovation;

# Section IV Goal D - part 2



- support integration of state aquaculture leasing in a manner that aligns with coastal fishing community goals and enhances stability and availability of infrastructure;
- explore pathways to provide greater flexibility to communities to enable them to adapt to emerging needs (without destabilizing existing fishery structures); and
- encourage the Department to contribute to/pursue/engage in building pathways as discussed in this policy.



# Wrap-up and Next Steps



- Meeting recap
- Next steps and opportunities for engagement
  - Presentation to the Marine Resources Committee
  - Send input on initial staff draft via email
  - Draft policy considered for adoption by the Commission



# THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

- Corinna Hong: [Corinna.Hong@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:Corinna.Hong@fgc.ca.gov) (through March 5)
- Kimi Rogers: [Kimberly.Rogers@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Rogers@fgc.ca.gov) (2022 and onward)