

## COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MARCH 24, 2022 MRC

**6. KELP RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN****Today's Item**Information Action 

Receive DFW overview of plans and process to develop a kelp recovery and management plan (KRMP) for giant and bull kelp, and discuss next steps.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

DFW is in the early planning stages of developing a statewide, ecosystem-based, adaptive KRMP for giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*). In Feb 2022, FGC referred KRMP development to MRC as a work plan topic.

In preparation for this effort, DFW has developed a proposed approach – in partnership with the California Ocean Protection Council – to create the KRMP (Exhibit 1). DFW proposes developing the KRMP using strategies similar to those used for developing fishery management plans under the Marine Life Management Act. The KRMP will provide a framework for ecosystem-based management and a kelp restoration toolkit. The process to develop the KRMP will encompass:

1. Hiring a project manager
2. Assembling a management team
3. Assembling a science advisory committee
4. Promoting Tribal engagement
5. Engaging stakeholders, possibly via separate work groups for giant kelp and bull kelp

The ultimate goal is to advance a draft proposed KRMP to FGC for adoption.

At today's meeting, DFW will provide an overview of its proposed approach for MRC discussion.

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

Discuss DFW's proposed approach to develop a KRMP for giant and bull kelp, and schedule updates at future MRC meetings to track progress.

**Exhibits**

1. [DFW overview of proposed process to develop a statewide kelp restoration and management plan for MRC meeting, Mar 24, 2022](#)

**Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

# Overview of Proposed Process to Develop a Statewide Kelp Restoration and Management Plan

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Marine Resources Committee Meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission

March 24, 2022

**Overview:** Staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) have developed a proposed approach to create a statewide, ecosystem-based, adaptive Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) for giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, and bull kelp, *Nereocystis luetkeana*. The KRMP will include a cohesive kelp management strategy which consists of three core components: 1) a harvest management framework and other Fishery Management Plan (FMP) elements required by the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), 2) an innovative framework for ecosystem-based management (EBM) of kelp forest systems, and 3) a Restoration Toolkit. The integration of EBM approaches and a Restoration Toolkit into the traditional FMP framework will facilitate a robust, adaptive, climate-ready approach to managing the State's kelp forest ecosystems in the face of changing ocean conditions.

**Process:** To develop the kelp management strategy outlined above, CDFW staff, with support from OPC, propose a multi-pronged approach and process which includes:

(a) Hiring a **Project Manager**, contracted to support CDFW in all aspects of project administration and coordination.

(b) Assembling a **Management Team**, composed of staff members from CDFW, OPC, and California Fish and Game Commission (Commission). The Management Team will collaborate with other agency partners (e.g. California Sea Grant, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' West Coast Region) to discuss shared priorities and intended management actions. The Management Team will lead the development of the KRMP and will integrate scientific guidance, Tribal and stakeholder feedback, and other data and information streams into actionable management strategies.

(c) Assembling a **Science Advisory Committee** consisting of experts from a broad scope of disciplines and geographic areas, tasked with providing scientific and technical guidance on all aspects of the KRMP.

(d) Working with California Native American Tribes to develop pathways and opportunities to **promote Tribal engagement** throughout the KRMP development process. Pathways and opportunities will be explored and identified initially through solicitation for feedback at the Commission's Tribal Committee meeting on April 19, 2022. Tribal engagement will include early consultation and listening sessions as well as opportunities to consult on draft products. Regular updates on the development process will be provided at the Commission's Tribal Committee meetings.

(e) Convening two working groups, one for giant kelp and one for bull kelp, to openly and inclusively engage the broad suite of **stakeholder perspectives** on each of the three core components of the KRMP. Meetings of the two working groups will be facilitated to solicit and incorporate feedback throughout the KRMP development process. Occasional convergence of the two working groups may be explored to address and navigate elements applicable to both species. Each of these working groups will be inclusive and open to stakeholders, Tribes, and members of the public interested in engaging throughout the process.