

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR JULY 14, 2022 MRC

7. STAFF AND AGENCY UPDATES REQUESTED BY THE COMMITTEE**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive written updates from staff and other agencies.

- (A) California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
- (B) DFW
 - I. Law Enforcement Division
 - a. Marine protected area (MPA) related enforcement actions in 2021
 - II. Marine Region
 - a. California halibut fishery bycatch evaluation in support of the fishery management review
 - b. California halibut trawl grounds evaluation
 - c. Market squid fishery management and fishery management plan review
- (C) FGC staff
 - I. Coastal fishing communities policy development

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

This is a standing item for staff and agencies to provide an update on marine-related activities of interest. Updates related to current work plan topics are generally provided in writing. The public will have an opportunity to provide comment, although the level of in-meeting discussion will be at the discretion of MRC.

(A) OPC

OPC staff will provide a verbal update on several topics of interest to the committee.

(B) DFW**I. DFW – Law Enforcement Division**

The Law Enforcement Division will give a presentation highlighting MPA-related enforcement actions in 2021 (Exhibit 1).

II. DFW – Marine Region

The Marine Region has provided written updates on the following work plan topics:

(a) California halibut fishery bycatch evaluation in support of the fishery management review

A combined update for (a) and (b) is provided in Exhibit 2.

In response to a Jun 2022 request from FGC, DFW's update describes how its current bycatch review for California halibut fits into a broader undertaking to evaluate bycatch across all California state-managed trawl and set gill net fisheries in coordination with partners. DFW proposes that an evaluation of the

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other fisheries utilizing these gear types follow the current California halibut-centric evaluation.

(b) *California halibut trawl grounds evaluation*

A combined update for (a) and (b) is provided in Exhibit 2.

(c) *Market squid fishery management and fishery management plan review*

DFW has provided an update on the anticipated squid fishery advisory committee process and timeline (Exhibit 3). DFW has also transmitted a memo from a contracted, independent facilitator, CONCUR Inc., summarizing interviews conducted with stakeholders to help inform the process (Exhibit 4).

(C) **FGC staff**

I. *Coastal fishing communities policy development*

An FGC staff update on activities and next steps in developing a draft policy is provided in Exhibit 5.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [DFW presentation on MPA-related enforcement actions in 2021](#)
2. [DFW update on California halibut fishery bycatch evaluation and trawl grounds review, received Jul 1, 2022](#)
3. [DFW update on squid fishery advisory committee process for market squid management review, received Jul 1, 2022](#)
4. [Memo from CONCUR Inc. to DFW concerning squid fishery management stakeholder assessment, dated Jun 20, 2022](#)
5. [FGC staff update on coastal fishing communities policy development, dated Jul 8, 2022](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)



MPA Enforcement Report

May 2022

MPA Enforcement Stats 2021 Totals

2021

- Patrol Hours – 16,363 Hrs.
- Contacts – 32,441
- Warnings Given – 1,366
- Citations Issued – 665
- MPA Citations- 271

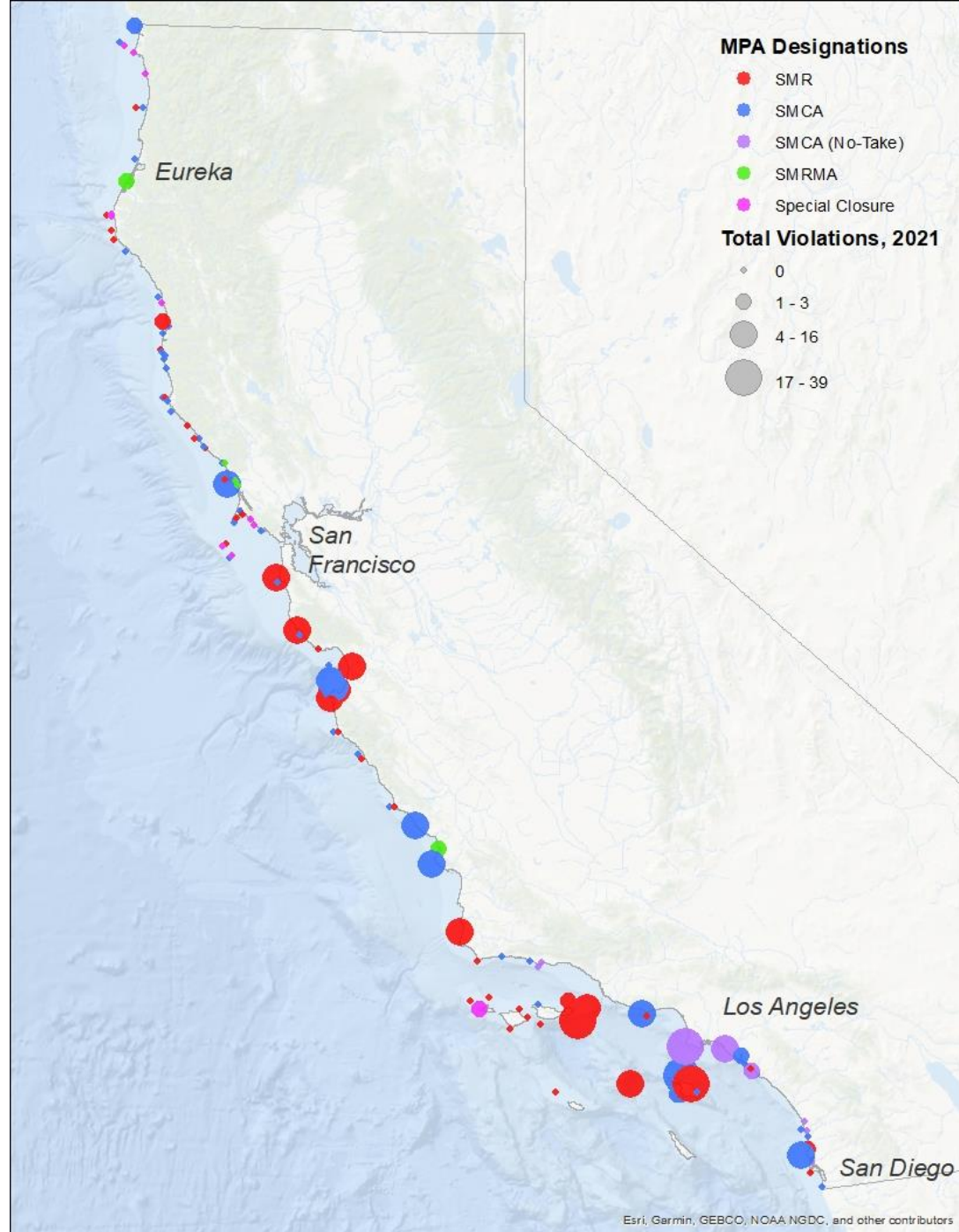
MPA Enforcement Stats 2021 Totals

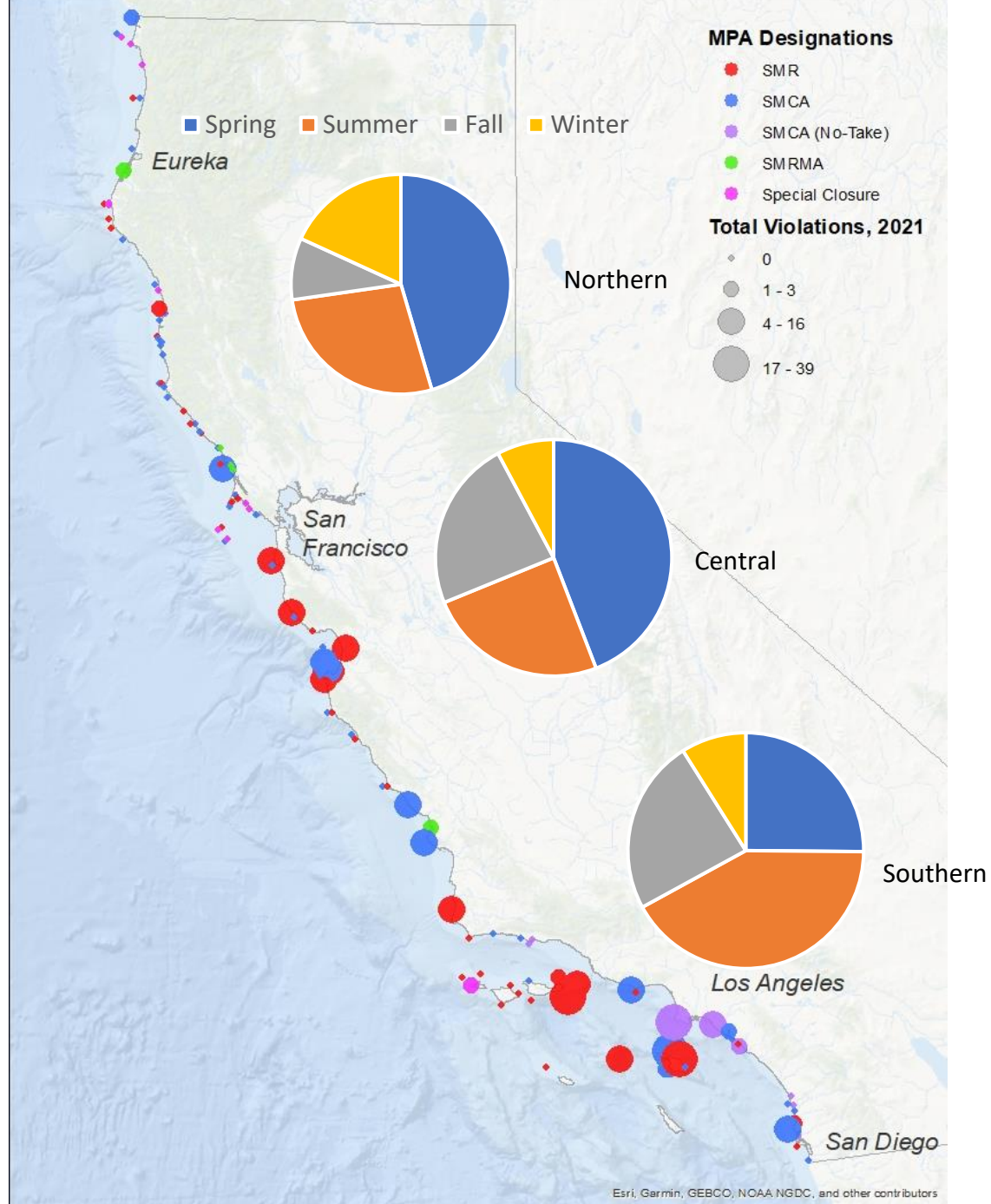
2021

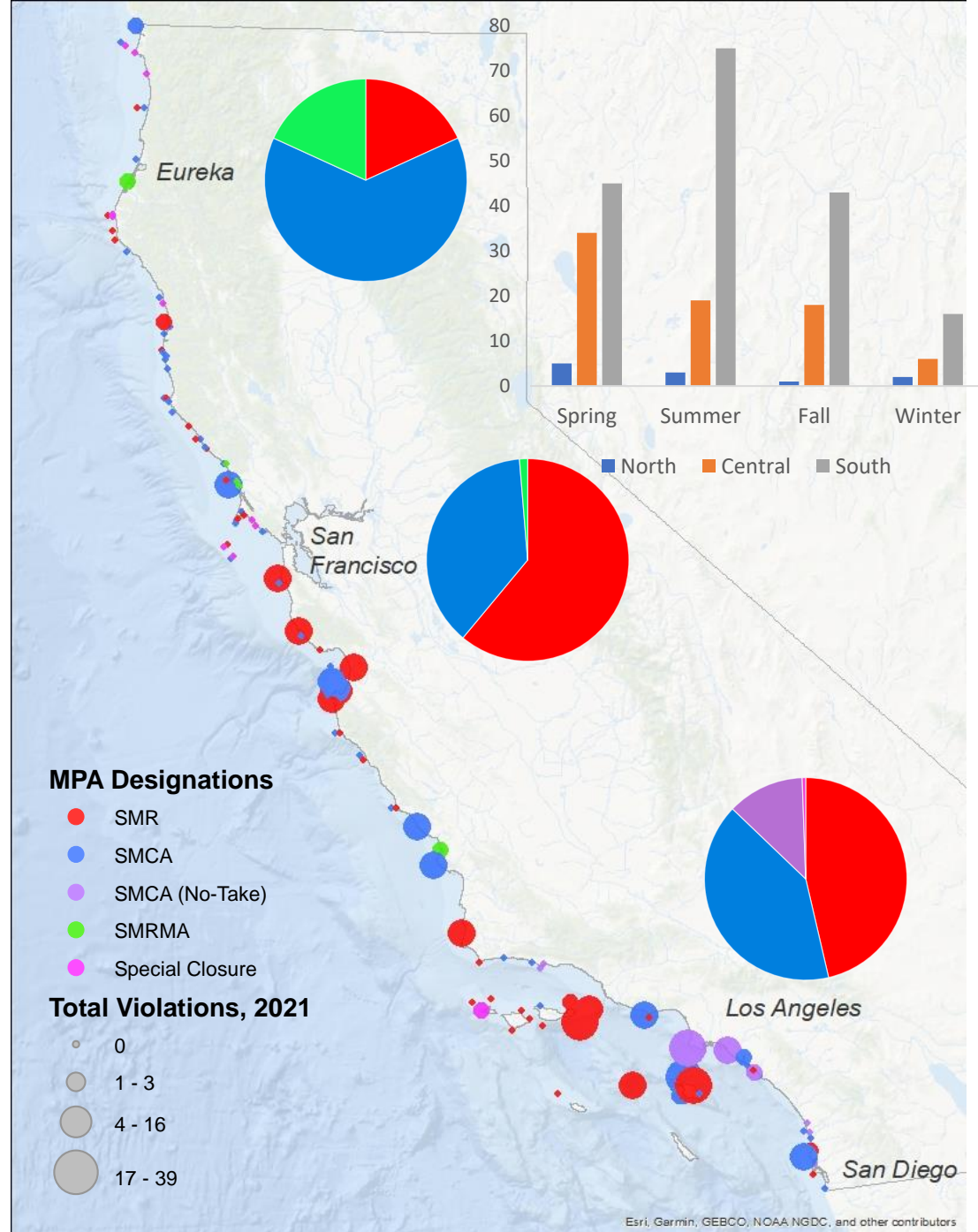
- Patrol Hours – 16,363 Hrs.
- Contacts – 32,441
- Warnings Given – 1,366
- Citations Issued – 665
- MPA Citations- 271

2020

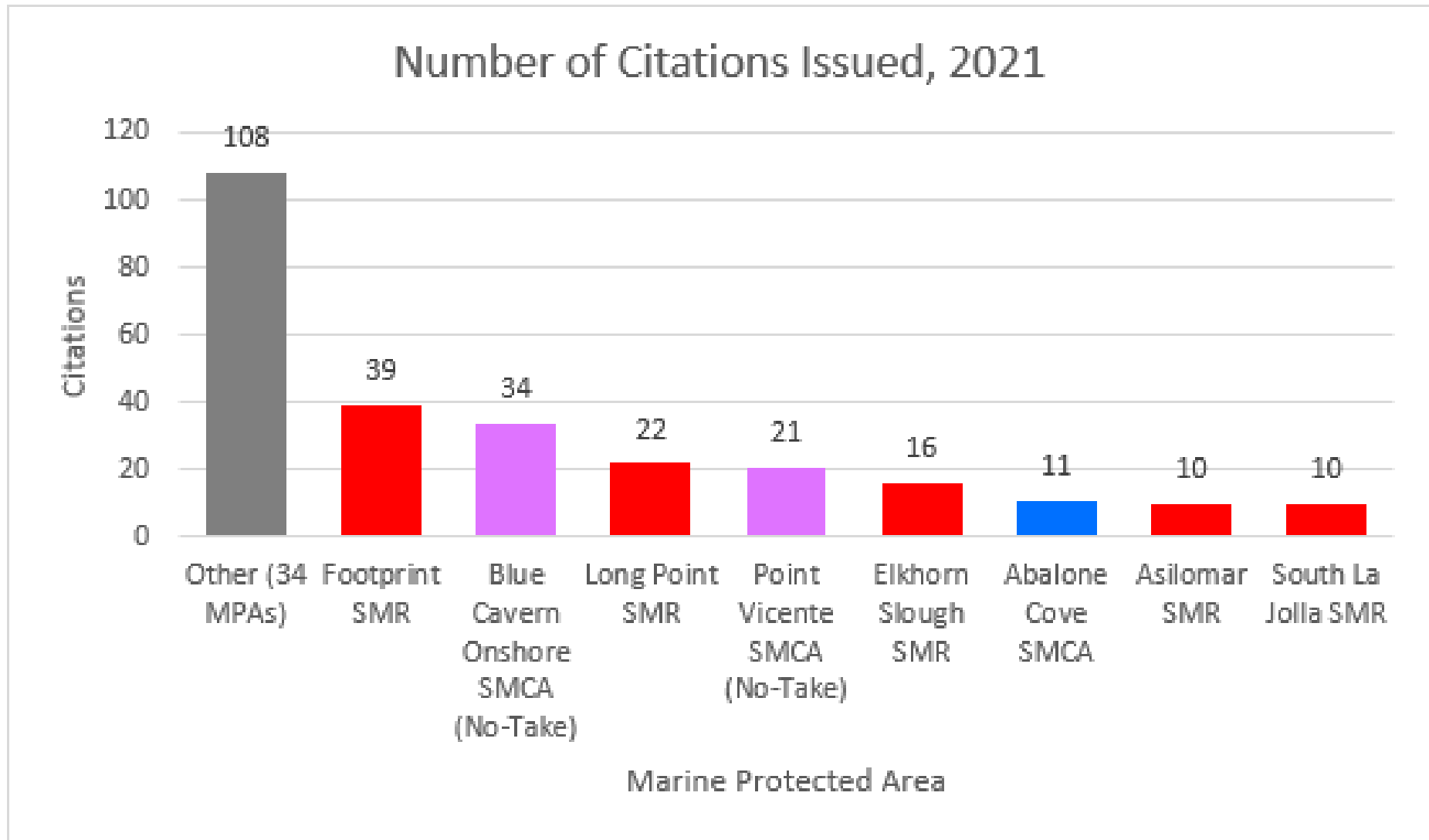
- Patrol Hours – 13,034 Hrs.
- Contacts – 29,762
- Warnings Given – 1,230
- Citations Issued – 649
- MPA Citations- 605







MPA citations for 2021- 271 total



Patrol Boat Chinook

The last modifications for the vessel have been completed and the *Chinook* is now in the Fort Bragg area conducting it's first patrols. Statistics from the *Chinook* patrols will be included in future enforcement reports



Questions?



California Halibut Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Fish and Game Commission
Marine Resources Committee
July 14, 2022

California halibut fishery bycatch evaluation in support of the fishery management review

- Bycatch is one of the primary reasons California halibut rose to the top of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) Master Plan for Fisheries prioritization process, particularly the commercial trawl and gill net gear types. These gear types can lead to the accidental capture of sub-legal sized California halibut as well as sensitive species under the endangered species act, marine mammals, sea birds, and other non-target species.
- The Department, in coordination with partners, has undertaken, a two-part study evaluating bycatch in California's state-managed trawl and gill net fisheries. The relatively low selectivity of trawl and gill net gears means that they are used in multi-species fisheries and California halibut is one of many species legal to be targeted and sold.
 - Phase I of this evaluation study included a two-year process to compile available fishery catch information for all state fisheries with gill net and trawl gear types.
 - Phase II, which is currently underway, is taking a California halibut-centric view of these gear types. The project is working to analyze three categories of data, which include (1) retained, landed catch of non-halibut species; (2) discards of non-halibut species; and (3) discards of sub-legal sized halibut. We are calculating ratios of these categories to legal-sized halibut catch, and examining patterns by gear type, location, depth, and day of year to identify opportunities for maximizing halibut catch while minimizing unwanted catch in the fishery.
 - An important future next step in identifying a pathway forward will be to engage with stakeholders to help define what is "acceptable" using the criteria outlined in the MLMA and if deemed unacceptable, to identify opportunities for reducing unwanted catch through management changes.
 - Following completion of the halibut-centric analysis, the Department is proposing to focus a similar evaluation of other fisheries that utilize these gear types.

California halibut trawl grounds evaluation

- Legislation the original CHTG in 1971; they encompass a series of designated areas 1-3 nm off the coast of SB and Ventura Counties. Fish and Game Code requires the Commission to review relevant research and monitoring information to evaluate potential impacts of bycatch, and to habitats, ecosystem health, and restoration of habitats.

- Following guidance from the MRC in November 2021, the Department has designed a field study to assess the existing southern CHTG.
 - The first observer trip of the CHTG evaluation is scheduled for the week of July 18. Staff will coordinate with the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) to assure no schedule conflicts occur between Department staff and WCGOP observers. Staff will be aboard for two consecutive fishing days.
 - The cooperating fisherman will utilize normal fishing practice while staff document catch quantity and disposition, tow duration, depth, start/end locations, and interactions with marine mammals or other fisheries. Staff will also record information on net dimensions and indications of significant bottom contact. If time allows, staff will collect EFI on retained, legal-sized halibut.
 - Following the completion of next week's observation, staff will schedule the next observation trip in September, followed by two additional observation trips in the winter and next spring.

Squid Fishery Advisory Committee – Process Update

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Fish and Game Commission

Marine Resources Subcommittee

July 14, 2022

California Market Squid Fishery Management Review –

- Market squid is routinely California's largest fishery both in terms of value and volume landed.
 - In 2021, the fishery accounted for more than \$60 million in revenue and nearly 100 million pounds (66% of all landings to California ports).
- Squid experience rapid population fluctuations driven by oceanographic changes.
- The impacts of climate-driven shifts on fishing communities and marine ecosystems have accelerated the need to review the market squid fishery management plan (FMP), one of the State's oldest.
- The Department is bringing a cross-section of stakeholders together in a Squid Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC) to review management strategies and modernize data collection to increase climate-resiliency of the fishery.
 - The first phase of this process is nearing completion.
 - The contracted independent facilitator, CONCUR Inc., has conducted interviews with 35 individuals from a broad cross section of stakeholders.
 - CONCUR developed a summary of those interviews (attached).
- The immediate next step will be for CONCUR to provide the Department with SFAC process recommendations, based on the results of their interviews and their own experience facilitating marine resources management processes.
 - Once a final process and the desired configuration of the SFAC is determined, the Department will initiate a nomination process for SFAC membership.
- This stakeholder engagement will also be supported by a novel modelling approach to evaluate the performance of the fishery under climate change. With support from the Resources Legacy Fund and Pew Charitable Trusts, an experienced post-doctoral scholar has been hired in the lab of Dr. Stephan Munch, at University of California Santa Cruz, to conduct this analytical work.
- On June 14, 2022, the California Ocean Protection Council voted unanimously to provide \$338,000 for the SFAC process along with scientific research into squid genomics to help inform the management review.
- Next Steps (Dates subject to change):
 - Final process recommendations delivered – August, 2022
 - Seek SFAC Nominations – September, 2022
 - CDFW Selects SFAC Members – October, 2022
 - SFAC Meetings commence – January, 2023
 - SFAC Meetings conclude – January, 2024
 - CDFW Provides Recommendations to MRC – June, 2024

Squid Fishery Management Stakeholder Assessment Memo

Prepared by CONCUR Inc.

Scott McCreary, Ph.D. and Debbie Schechter, M.S. • June 20, 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

In preparation for reviewing the Market Squid Fishery Management Plan and the planned convening of the Squid Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC), CONCUR Inc. conducted a series of structured interviews between late February and early May 2022. The following provides a summary of the interview results. It will be followed by a companion document spelling out specific process recommendations from CONCUR for convening and facilitating the SFAC process.

Participants in the interviews included a broad cross-section of stakeholders active in aspects of the California Market Squid Fishery. The interviews were conducted on behalf of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to inform the development of the SFAC process to help evaluate market squid fishery management and provide recommendations on potential management changes. The interviews were intended to:

- clarify and better understand the issues and interests in the squid fishery;
- help to identify information needs and priority topics to be addressed by the SFAC;
- inform the design of the SFAC process; and
- gauge the potential interest of key stakeholders in participating in the SFAC.

CONCUR and CDFW jointly developed an interview guide, which included background for interviewees on the need to review California market squid fishery management and questions regarding interviewees' background and interests in the fishery, key issues and challenges for squid fishery management, and planning for the upcoming stakeholder process.

Interviewees were selected by CDFW based on their stake, knowledge, and interest in the squid fishery and were intended to represent key sectors including the fishing industry (organized geographically and including permit holders, crew, vessel and lightboat operators, and dealers/processors), environmental and conservation non-governmental organizations, scientific researchers, and government regulators and enforcement staff interested in the squid fishery. CONCUR consulted with the interviewees and CDFW to identify additional constituents to ensure all key interests and sectors were represented. CONCUR interviewed 35 individuals in total in 29 interviews.

Interviews were conducted by Scott McCreary and Debbie Schechter of CONCUR. Interviews were approximately 45 minutes in duration, which provided enough time to raise and discuss a full set of questions (the interview guide appears as Appendix B in this document). In a few cases, CONCUR conducted team interviews with small groups (two to three people) from the same organization or with closely shared interests and experiences. CDFW staff did not participate in the interviews but the CONCUR team provided periodic progress reports and updates. The CONCUR team encountered a very high level of cooperation in scheduling and conducting the interviews; participants were engaged, took the series of questions seriously, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to share their perspectives.

2. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

The following key themes were prevalent in the interviews:

- Central importance of resource and fleet sustainability:** Nearly every respondent highlighted the importance and conviction of maintaining a sustainable squid fishery. While many respondents opined that the fishery has been remarkably robust over the years, there is not an inclination to take this for granted, and there was widespread support for devising well-informed, forward-looking management.
- Shared values, but also some divergent views:** Interviewees acknowledged that among active members of the fishing fleet, there are some divergent views about how aggressively to fish on squid. Some preferring a more paced schedule, and others noting there are now highly leveraged, highly capitalized industry players who are understandably eager to pay off loans sooner than later.
- Long running engagement with and commitment to the fishery.** Nearly every respondent characterized his or her engagement with the fishery or management of the fishery as dating back several years, anywhere from a decade to fifty plus years. The depth and breadth of experience among engaged stakeholders is notable among natural resource dialogues (but perhaps similar to other California fishery management dialogues). As a result of this experience, many stakeholders know each other and are active in the same communication networks.
- Broad support for strengthening the scientific basis of squid fishery management.** Another cross-cutting finding is the view of respondents that while current science is not yet pointing directly to specific guidelines for squid fishery management, there is very broad support for building the information base and strengthening science support for management going forward.
- Broad recognition that aspects of squid fishery management merit updating and revision.** Though the basic premise of this inquiry is to prepare for an update of fishery management, it is noteworthy that nearly all respondents named one or more elements of the management regime that could merit updating, concurrent with responding to a request to state their interests relative to the squid fishery. There is interest and willingness to engage in productive dialogue to generate recommendations to improve

management, to be briefed on and use the best available information and to work within the context of the updating process outlined in the interview guide and reinforced by the questions we posed.

3. INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUNDS

We asked interviewees to briefly describe their professional background including their role in the California market squid fishery, whether they have tracked squid fishery management including the fishery management plan (FMP), and their involvement in other fisheries and other marine resource planning efforts.

We found that interviewees come from the full range of sectors within the squid fishery including fishermen, processors/dealers, conservation organizations, scientists and regulatory/enforcement agencies. Within the fishing sector, interviewees included squid permit holders, crew members, and vessel owners and operators (including seine, brail, and lightboats).

The geographic base of fishermen and processors ranged from the North Coast to Southern California and included Ft. Bragg, Monterey Bay, Ventura, and San Pedro. At least one is primarily based in Alaska. Many fish in multiple regions and states. Respondents have worked with a range of other West Coast fisheries including herring, salmon, king crab, and Dungeness crab. Respondents have worked throughout the West Coast, from Alaska all the way south to the US-Mexico border. Several respondents have served as members or advisors to the Pacific Fishery Management Council or past management-focused deliberations on issues such as anchovy, herring, Dungeness crab, and California spiny lobster.

4. INTERESTS

CONCUR asked interviewees about their (or their organization's) interests in the market squid fishery. Key themes regarding interests are summarized as follows.

Sustainable Fishery: Almost all interviewees shared an interest in a sustainable fishery. This interest was described in varying ways by respondents. Many mentioned the importance of protecting and sustaining the resource and maintaining a healthy fishery. Others also referred to the need for economic sustainability, job security for fishermen, and making a living. Interviewees also mentioned the importance of sustaining communities that are reliant on squid fishing. One respondent mentioned maximizing the benefit to the environment, the economy and communities, or "triple bottom line".

“Keep fishing and keep the squid around.”¹

“I’ve been doing this for 40 years and I’d like to keep doing it until I retire, so I’d like to see it last.”

“I want to see a sustainable fishery for my kids.”

Access to the Fishery: Several interviewees expressed an interest in maintaining or gaining access to the squid fishery. Those who have invested in permits and have access want to maintain it. Others who currently cannot access the fishery, due to the limited access permit structure, would like to gain access so they can fish squid locally. (See the Issues section of this document for more specific comments regarding access.)

“Fishermen need to be able to fish the resource that is in their harbor.”

Ecosystem Integrity and Productivity: A few interviewees were interested in broader ecosystem integrity and productivity, encompassing marine life and seabirds that forage on squid and protecting marine food webs.

[I would like to see] “a protected and thriving ocean ecosystem in collaboration with industry.”

Use of Science: The use of science to drive the review of squid fishery management was an important interest of several interviewees. They wanted fishery management decisions to be based on data collection, analysis, and adaptive management in real time as opposed to the time it typically takes to revise regulations.

“Good science informs good management.”

“Science is the foundation and protection of the resource.”

5. KEY ISSUES FROM INTERVIEWS

Interviewees were asked about the key issues and challenges related to modernizing squid fishery management to maintain a sustainable squid fishery. While respondents were free to raise any issue, CONCUR inquired specifically about access to the fishery, timing of closures, regional differences in fishery dynamics, effects of gear interactions with spawning habitat, and effects of lighting. Responses regarding these issues and other key issues raised are described below in order of importance to the interviewees as a group.

¹ When we introduced the interviews, the premise was that we would complete a synthesis rather than a set of transcripts, and that we would not attribute quotes to individuals. Accordingly, we include a handful of specific quotes but for the most part we include illustrative statements offered by respondents, which are usually paraphrases of comments we received, edited for clarity.

A. COMMENTS ON GEAR REQUIREMENTS

Respondents broadly acknowledged that updating and setting clear guidelines and expectations for gear configurations is a logical task for the SFAC. At the same time, they recognize that “one size does not fit all”, so creating flexibility depending on region or fishing method is appropriate. Several respondents noted challenges of the current status quo of using chain leadlines. Many spoke favorably of switching to riblines.

Comments on drawbacks of chain leadlines included the following:

- From Monterey Bay area to Half Moon Bay, we have seen increased egg masses in the catch. Fisherman are raising this issue. It has to do with locations and catch method. Also, coral and crustaceans are showing up in the nets.
- Traditional methods with heavy leadlines can disrupt egg beds. With riblines in use nets don't hang on the bottom and allows them to function better and reduces impact on bottom.

Several respondents characterized the use of riblines as a promising strategy--one that has the potential of earning very broad support. Respondents noted that outfitting nets with riblines presents the dual benefits of avoiding disturbance to valuable egg beds and avoiding net entanglement. Some respondents noted that a regulatory system that requires all fishery participants to use riblines would impose a moderate cost for those who have not already chosen to make this move. In addition, as with all potential regulatory changes, enforcement feasibility is also an important consideration.

A few interviewees noted that appropriate net dimensions should be considered, as longer nets can reach deeper and disturb egg beds. A suggestion was that regulations could specify length, depth, and weight limits of gear.

B. COMMENTS ON ACCESS TO THE FISHERY

Almost all interviewees agreed that access to the squid fishery is an important issue for squid fishery management. Several interviewees supported providing access for small boats to fish in Northern California (north of Pt. Arena/Fort Bragg area). Others were not in favor of expanding the number of squid permits or allowing access in this area. Some felt that it would be possible to accommodate small scale squid fishing while preserving the investment by current permit holders. The following factors related to access were mentioned:

- Desire to continue to limit access to maintain a sustainable fishery.
- Desire to protect the investment that participants in the fishery have already made.
- Desire to provide access to small boats to access squid in Northern California.
- Desire to support small scale fisheries, live bait, and fishing communities.
- How to address the northern shift in squid populations due to climate change.

- One respondent noted that “at this point the squid fishery is incredibly expensive to access and functionally overcapitalized. This is generating a situation where participants who are not active in multiple fisheries may find it hard to continue to engage.”
- “Limited entry participation, in some form, allows the ability to manage the resource sustainably. What that looks like could vary and could extend into other areas where fisheries are being developed.”
- “Fishermen need to be able to fish the resource that is in their harbor.”

C. COMMENTS ON CLOSURES AND TIMING

Interviewees were asked for their thoughts on whether the current weekend closure allows enough time for squid spawning. More than half of the interviewees commented that a longer closure should be considered in Monterey. Several commented that a longer closure (closer to three days) would allow for uninterrupted spawning and would further protect the resource. Others supported a longer closure based on concerns about fishing pressure in Monterey Bay, the number of boats fishing at once, and the “chaotic” pace of the fishery in that region. Other interviewees stated that the current weekend closure in Monterey Bay is sufficient for squid spawning.

Several interviewees noted that closures need to be looked at region by region and should be driven by what the science says about the impacts of closures on spawning. A couple of interviewees recommended that closures should be changeable and considered in close to real-time based on what's going on in the fishery. One commenter suggested having a rolling closure in a specific area if the squid are too small.

“Monterey Bay is so eccentric; from the deep-water portion of the Bay, squid move up into the shelf; on the east side of the Monterey Bay; squid all funnel into one area. Those areas need another closure day like a Sunday; one more day would allow the squid to get to the closed areas.”

D. COMMENTS ON ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Electronic monitoring and electronic logbooks received broad, but not universal support.

Comments in support of electronic logbooks noted that they will increase accuracy and provide information faster and closer to real-time than paper logbooks. Several interviewees expressed that using electronic logbooks would be easier and more convenient for fishermen. Many boats already have elaborate electronics or are using electronic reporting for other fisheries. Interviewees also noted that having real-time and fine-scale data (e.g., one square mile as opposed to 10 square miles) would help with well-informed management of the fishery. In addition, electronic data could be integrated directly into CDFW's centralized database. In order to make electronic logbooks successful, a couple of interviewees recommended a transition phase from paper to electronic methods that would include technology testing, training, and support for fishermen.

Some interviewees expressed concerns about electronic logbooks including the lack of internet connectivity when out at sea, lack of familiarity with computers for some in the fishing industry and concerns about data sharing and lack of confidentiality.

One observed “It’s the best way to go; it gives a real-time message; am a fan of that; went to that with CPFV; easier and more efficient; you don’t have to mail the records; you hit a button; can process information much more quickly.”

“We are already doing electronic reporting for live bait. We have a tablet on the boat. Paper is archaic.”

“Electronic monitoring would make things a lot easier. But fishermen might grumble.”

E. COMMENTS ON LIGHTING

The majority of the interviewees felt that lighting was not a significant issue to be addressed in a review of squid fishery management. Many respondents commented that lights work well for catching squid. Several interviewees noted that lights do not impact the sustainability of the fishery and that light shields and submersible lights are effective. A few commenters explained that the benefits of lights include improved efficiency, less bycatch and the need for shallower nets because the lights attract the squid. Several respondents noted that the vast majority of squid fishing in both Southern and Northern California occurs at night and that lights are essential. A couple of interviewees expressed that in some areas, boats are using more light than they need and noted that the light may impact seabirds. Some also expressed concern about the effectiveness of LED lights.

F. OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY INTERVIEWEES

Interviewees mentioned a couple of issues in addition to the ones for which we had specific questions. These issues are described below.

Regional Fishing Pressure: Several people expressed concerns about the potential for overfishing in Monterey Bay. These interviewees advocated for fewer boats or for a longer closure to prevent this and to preserve the resource. One stated “Some days all the squid are caught because we’re fishing 24 hours a day.” Related to this, a couple of interviewees noted that the large number of boats in Monterey Bay can create conflicts with coastal recreational users such as kayaks.

Seal Bombs: A couple of interviewees expressed concerns about seal bombs, an acoustic deterrent used by squid fishermen to deter interference by pinnipeds. These interviewees noted that seal bombs may have the unintended consequence of causing whales, dolphins, or endangered species to retreat from their habitat or may otherwise affect their behavior.

6. ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SUPPORTING THE SFAC PROCESS

As noted previously, many interviewees commented on the importance of involving scientists in the SFAC process and using scientific information to drive fishery management decisions. This section summarizes interviewee comments on how scientists could be engaged in the SFAC and scientific questions that the interviewees suggested that may be useful to inform squid fishery management.

Engaging Scientific Expertise in the SFAC Process

Notably, among scientists we interviewed (excluding those affiliated with conservation NGOs), all expressed interest in supporting the deliberations but none expressed a strong interest in serving on the SFAC and attending each and every day of meetings. Scientists noted they could support the SFAC in several ways: by providing updates on their current research, discussing its application to fishery management, and potentially offering comments on the feasibility of alternate management options if requested by CDFW and within sideboards established by their home organizations (including approval to devote time to this issue).

Areas of Scientific Uncertainty and Potential Questions for Initial Investigation Suggested by Interviewees

As part of our interviews, we queried what scientific questions, if addressed, could help support more informed management. As a caveat, we emphasized that the enterprise of conducting scientific research can be a long one, but invited interviewees to propose questions for investigation, without any explicit representation that they would be addressed or resolved completely within the near-term timeframe of the SFAC process.

The following scientific questions were raised by interviewees. We emphasize that these questions may not lend themselves to definitive or even initial findings in the timeframe of the SFAC process. For purposes of completeness, they are presented here to demonstrate the range of interests and currently identified areas of scientific uncertainty. As well, these questions could potentially help create the frame for a longer term applied research agenda:

- What is the extent of squid biomass?
- How can data on the size of the squid population/biomass be improved?
- A corollary: How much squid biomass can be removed such that fishing does not trigger ancillary ecosystem effects.
- How can the egg escapement model be refined to inform and support in-season management? Can such models support in-season management by region?
- What causes variability in squid populations from season to season?
- What is the impact on squid spawning of longer area-specific closures?

- What are the impacts of climate change on squid spawning, population dynamics and migration?

7. ADVICE ON GROUND RULES AND PROCESS

CONCUR asked respondents to offer advice on useful ground rules to guide the SFAC process and ensure productive meetings. Though the CONCUR team did not pose questions about the potential text of specific ground rules, respondents had a wide variety of suggestions, which cluster in a few recurring categories:

- participation and representation,
- agenda setting and meeting management,
- protocols for collaborative deliberation,
- building on lessons learned.

G. Participation and Representation

While testing for interest in participating in the SFAC was a secondary purpose of the interviews, it was notable that a strong majority of respondents – with few exceptions – from fishing, producer, and conservation sectors expressed interest in personally serving on the SFAC.

Range and Balance of Participants

Interviewees recommended that CDFW strive for balanced participation in the SFAC, recognizing that the SFAC will likely include processors, fishermen, environmentalists, and perhaps scientists. A suggestion was made to include participants “who are not afraid to go against the grain.”

Attributes of Participants

Many interviewees recommended that SFAC representation be focused on participants who truly have a stake in the operation of the Squid FMP, that careful thought be devoted to the relative parity of the number of members (both reflecting fishing and conservation views and reflecting North and South geographic orientations), and that membership reflect individuals with multi-decade perspective as well as newer participants. Some respondents suggested recruiting SFAC members who have a demonstrable long-term stake – perhaps intergenerational – stake in the fishery.

Inclusion of Alternates

Several interviewees suggested that CDFW consider having alternates, in the event that appointed primary members are not able to attend all meetings. If alternates are included, it

was suggested that they be pre-approved and pre-appointed (as opposed to acting on a last minute, as needed basis). It was also suggested that the opportunity for primary members to suggest alternatives be limited to one alternate.

H. Agenda Setting

There were many recommendations related to agenda setting. They included the following:

- Be clear about meeting goals, objectives, and tasks.
- Be clear and explicit about the CDFW's expectations for the process.
- Strive to cover some of the bigger topics first; their resolution may answer or at least narrow the divergent views on smaller topics
- Provide food and travel reimbursement for in-person meetings and utilize appropriate technology for successful remote meetings.

I. Protocols for Effective Deliberation

Establish and Maintain a Safe Space for Productive Dialogue

A strong recurring theme is that ground rules relate to creating an environment where all participants feel safe about sharing ideas and feelings even if they are not popular.

Interviewees recommended the following ground rules:

- Provide each participant a chance to speak; have a clear process or ordered queue for speaking.
- Guide participants to share airtime and be concise.
- Once they are established, enforce ground rules.
- Advise participants to "be patient; recognize that people are understandably emotionally invested." Passion can get in the way.
- Acknowledge that some people have great ideas or insights but don't always communicate effectively; some may not be accustomed to speaking at public meetings.

Information Sharing and Building Agreement

Interviewees had several recommendations for effectively sharing information, collaborating, and building agreement:

- Strongly encourage speakers to support their assertions with evidence.

- Make sure to establish a “common language” so people understand the issues under deliberation.²
- Establish the principle that the dialogue is to be solution oriented.
- Set expectations for attendance, participation, reviewing documents, and responding to emails and information requests.
- Keep conversations moving and do not get stuck on minutia.
- Have a clear process for engagement of SFAC members, agency representatives, and the public.
- Review the process and outcomes at the conclusion of the SFAC to identify lessons learned.

APPENDICES

- A. Initial Letter of Invitation from CDFW to Interviewees
- B. Stakeholder Interview Guide developed by CDFW and CONCUR Inc.
- C. Table of Interviewees (name, affiliation, date of interview)

² Some natural resource dialogues use the term “level setting” to describe the effort to provide a common language, and a common frame of reference and set of available information.

APPENDIX A
Initial Letter of Invitation from CDFW to Interviewees

Dear _____,

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department's) Marine Region, with support from the California Ocean Protection Council and Resources Legacy Fund, is initiating an effort to review California Market Squid Fishery Management.

In support of this effort, the Department is initiating a series of discussions to inform the development of a stakeholder process to help evaluate market squid fishery management and provide recommendations on potential management changes. This stakeholder process will include a Squid Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC), to be comprised of key stakeholders representing a range of interests. SFAC nominations and appointments by the Department will occur in a separate phase after these initial discussions have been completed. The discussions will generate information that will, among other objectives:

- Gauge the potential interest of key stakeholders in participating in the SFAC.
- Provide insight on the interests and constituencies that should be represented on the SFAC.
- Develop a roadmap for SFAC deliberations and inform the development of a charge, meeting protocols, timeline and gameplan for the SFAC's work.
- Help to identify information needs and priority topics to structure the SFAC's work and deliberations.
- Take stock of the recent performance of market squid fishery management and consider opportunities to strengthen fishery performance especially in the face of a changing climate.

Please see the attached project description for more detail. A consulting firm, CONCUR Inc., has been contracted to conduct the interviews and to facilitate the SFAC with guidance from a small steering committee of Department staff:

- Briana Brady (Department, Coastal Pelagic Species Project Supervisor)
- Katie Grady (Department, Squid Fishery Environmental Scientist)
- Julia Coates (Department, Fishery Analytics and Modelling Specialist)

Based on your past input and engagement, you have been identified as a knowledgeable stakeholder, participant, or observer of fisheries management policy in California. Accordingly, CONCUR will contact you to schedule a discussion to help plan for the SFAC. The initial outreach by CONCUR will begin

in mid-February, and discussions will be scheduled through March 2022. These discussions may occur by telephone or a videoconferencing platform.

All discussions will be confidential between you and CONCUR representatives. Your name will not be associated with your statements and input. CONCUR will develop a short summary of interview findings to share with the SFAC when convened.

We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity to provide candid and meaningful input to the Department on this important management review of one of the largest and most valuable fisheries in California.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Katie Grady (katie.grady@wildlife.ca.gov) with the Department or the CONCUR team Scott McCreary (scott@concurinc.net) or Debbie Schechter (debbie@dschechter.com). The CONCUR team will be contacting you within the next one to three weeks to set a time for your discussion.

Sincerely,

John Ugoretz

Environmental Program Manager
Pelagic Fisheries and Ecosystem Program
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
~~(805) 568-1226 (e)~~ Teleworking, please use cell
(562) 338-3068 (c)



Squid fishery advisory committee overview

APPENDIX B
Stakeholder Interview Guide

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW INSTRUMENT

Squid Fishery Advisory Committee

February 3, 2022

[Note: CONCUR will use this instrument to guide its interviews. We aim to cover all of these questions with each respondent. We will maintain flexibility in the sequence of questions and extent of follow-up “probes” we pose, depending on the tone and flow of the conversation. We will be flexible in the phrasing of these questions. Experience shows that we may refine these questions over the course of the interviews.]

Introduction:

- As part of the anticipated review of California Market Squid Fishery management, CONCUR has been asked to conduct preparatory interviews to help inform formation of a Squid Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC).
- The purpose of this Advisory Committee is to review and discuss potential changes to California Market Squid Fishery management with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This includes helping to inform scientific analyses with CDFW and research staff. Decisions on what, if any, management changes are necessary will occur after the Advisory Committee process. Some objectives are to:
 - Evaluate experience with existing management and areas for potential improvement
 - Discuss changes in the squid fishery since the implementation of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) in 2005
 - Discuss future needs to adapt to the effects of climate change
 - Consider various petitions for squid regulation changes referred to the CDFW
 - Support collection and synthesis of scientific information to guide and assess management approaches
 - Review existing data monitoring programs to facilitate the inclusion of modernized data collection processes into fishery management
 - Support outreach and clear communication to constituent groups
- CONCUR is an environmental mediation firm specializing in environmental policy analysis and multistakeholder collaborative processes on fisheries, marine resources, and other natural resource issues. Our role in the project is to provide neutral facilitation and stakeholder process design services. Our past experience includes work on fishery management and ocean resources conservation in California and nationally.
- CDFW’s Marine Region Manager, Dr. Craig Shuman, will appoint the SFAC. The aim is to recruit a stakeholder body that is representative of California’s diverse marine interests yet small enough to enable efficient deliberations. We estimate approximately 15 to 20 members will be selected. Nominations are anticipated to be solicited in the spring of 2022. The Advisory Committee is expected to convene its initial meeting in the summer of 2022.
- The Stakeholder Interviews we are conducting have several purposes. They will help to clarify and better understand the issues and interests, anticipate potential areas of agreement and divergence, and provide any available information about the anticipated process. They will also help identify additional stakeholders and will help inform the selection of SFAC members. Additionally, we will use the interview findings to help us prepare for the Advisory Committee meetings.

- We would like to interview you because CDFW has identified you as a knowledgeable stakeholder associated with the squid fishery.
- We anticipate that this interview will take approximately 45 minutes.
- Issues and ideas from the interviews will be summarized in a concise Stakeholder Assessment Memorandum that will be shared with CDFW and presented and discussed at the first SFAC meeting.
- All interviews are confidential: comments will not be attributed to specific individuals or organizations.
- Do you have any questions for us before we begin?

Your Background:

1. In brief, please tell us a little about your professional background
 - a. What is your relationship to marine/ocean resources, including any position or responsibilities relative to the California market squid fishery?
 - b. How closely have you tracked implementation of current squid fishery management including the FMP?
 - c. Have you tracked other fishery management or marine resource planning efforts for the state of California?
 - d. Have you worked with other fisheries?

Your Interests:

2. What are your [your organization's] interests in the market squid fishery? Who else's interests (if any) do you represent?

[Probe] Provide more detail on familiarity with California coast geography and geographic emphasis, detail on role in the fishery or conservation perspective. Examples/background:

- *Sector by "ownership/access" – permit holder, employed vessel operator, employed crew, etc.*
- *Sector by vessel/permit type – seine/round-haul vessel, brail vessel, lightboat*
- *Sector by main/base port for vessel – most likely Monterey, Ventura, or Los Angeles complex; or North Coast for the small-access interest*
- *Involvement in other fisheries? CPS finfish (i.e., sardine/ anchovy/ mackerel) permit? Vessel goes to OR to fish squid? Vessel goes to Alaska in summer for salmon/herring/etc.? Seine for tuna in Southern California?*

Issues to be addressed and challenges:

3. In your view, what are the substantive issues, key challenges, and potential barriers that will need to be addressed in order to modernize management to ensure a biologically and economically sustainable squid fishery that is inclusive and responsive to fishing community needs and climate change?

Probe about the following issues if they are not brought up by the interviewee: How important are the following issues and why?

- *Access to the fishery*

- **Timing** of closures - does the current weekend closure allow for enough spawning?
- Thoughts on **regional** differences in spawning habitat, fishing behavior, fishing operations, or the squid stock generally (behavior, product quality, size, bycatch, etc.)
- Effects of **gear** interactions on habitat, egg beds, and spawning potential
- Value or effect of **lighting** (LED lights vs. filament, submerged lights, fishing during the daytime)
- Thoughts on the paper logbook program as a tool to collect effort data and the potential of **electronic monitoring** (native phone application, solar logger, etc.)

- a. What opportunities do you see?
- b. If good science exists in the study area but some uncertainty exists due to the dynamics of the ocean environment, how should the issue of scientific uncertainty be addressed by the Advisory Committee?
- c. What process issues, challenges, or opportunities do you see (e.g., decision-making, collaboration, conflict)?

Participation and scheduling.

4. Given the intention of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to convene an Advisory Committee, would you be interested to participate?

Our understanding is that the Advisory Committee will begin meeting in the second half of 2022 and will use a mix of online platform and selected in person meetings. We anticipate holding approximately one meeting a month over about 10 months, with potential meetings online as well as in-person in major port locations.

- a. If appointed, do you anticipate being able to attend all of these meetings?
[Probe] We want to be sure you are comfortable with the extensive time commitment expected of SFAC members. Besides meetings, this effort involves significant time reviewing documents and outreach to colleagues. Can you comment on your availability for this level of effort?

Attributes of Interviewee: *(These questions will be asked of interviewees who express interest in serving on the Advisory Committee.)*

5. Advisory Recruitment. CDFW has identified a couple of attributes that are important for potential Advisory Committee members to possess. [Review these.] Please comment on the extent to which you possess these qualities:

- a. Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on marine resources of the California Coast specific to the California market squid stock and fishery
- b. Willing and able to work collaboratively and to seek to integrate varied interests

[Probe] Can you describe a specific example where you had to work collaboratively in a resource dialogue or public with an individual who had interests and a knowledge base different from yours and how that played out?

[Probe] Can you tell us how others active in discussing the Squid management review may perceive you?

[Probe] Please describe your experience working in collaborative processes or public policy arena

c. How would you characterize your communication network with peers and colleagues?

[Probe] Can you tell us what stakeholder groups you represent or regularly work with and how (e.g.,? phone, meetings, email) you communicate?

[Probe] Are there any other groups you would see yourself needing to reach out to communicate with if you were appointed to the SFAC?

Ground rules

6. We are preparing draft ground rules for the Advisory Committee that will cover areas such as Participation, Representation, Information Sharing, and Expectation for Communication with Colleagues to help ensure productive meetings. Do you have any specific suggestions about constructive Groundrules to support the Advisory Committee's deliberations? What would help make the meetings effective?

Other Comments, Questions, or Advice

7. What other stakeholders do you recommend that we reach out to regarding the Squid Management review process and the Advisory Committee?

8. Do you have any other questions, comments, or advice for us? You are welcome to send us any additional thoughts by email (scott@concurinc.net).

APPENDIX C
Table of Interviewees

SQUID FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Interviewee	Affiliation	Interview Date	Notes
Anonymous	Vessel crew	2/23/2022	Requested anonymity in process
Caitlin Allen Akselrud	AFSC NOAA	2/22/2022	
Jamie Ashley	Live Bait Vessel Operator	3/4/2022	joint interview: Jamie and Richie Ashley
Richie Ashley	Brail/Light Boat Operator	3/4/2022	joint interview: Jamie and Richie Ashley
Brian Bailie	CDFW Marine Enforcement	2/22/2022	joint interview: CDFW Marine Enforcement
John Barry	Vessel Operator	2/25/2022	
Ken Bates	Fisherman – North Coast	3/4/2022	
Lyall Bellquist	The Nature Conservancy	4/14/2022	
Joe Cappuccio	Del Mar Seafoods	2/23/2022	
David Crabbe	Light Boat Operator	4/21/2022	
Mike Conroy	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Assoc.	3/1/2022	
Emmanis Dorval	SWFSC NOAA	2/22/2022	
Ken Franke	Spot Fishing Association of California	4/13/2022	
Karen Grimmer	NOAA Marine Sanctuaries	5/2/2022	joint interview: NOAA Marine Sanctuaries
Neil Guglielmo	Vessel Operator	2/25/2022	
Corbin Hanson	Vessel Operator	3/1/2022	
Greg Helms	The Ocean Conservancy	3/2/2022	
Scott Hockett	Fisherman	2/23/2022	joint interview: Hockett & Yoakum
Nick Jurlin	Vessel Operator	3/16/2022	
Ryan Kapp	Vessel Operator	3/8/2022	
Jason Kraus	CDFW Marine Enforcement	2/22/2022	joint interview: CDFW Marine Enforcement
Daniel Lengning	CDFW Marine Enforcement	2/22/2022	joint interview: CDFW Marine Enforcement
Porter McHenry	Vessel Operator	2/28/2022	
Paul Michel	NOAA Marine Sanctuaries	5/2/2022	joint interview: NOAA Marine Sanctuaries
Chris Mobley	NOAA Marine Sanctuaries	5/2/2022	joint interview: NOAA Marine Sanctuaries
Steve Munch	UCSC/NOAA	2/24/2022	
Tom Noto	Vessel Operator	2/28/2022	
Diane Pleschner-Steele	California Wetfish Producers Association	3/3/2022	
Geoff Shester	Oceana	3/2/2022	
Vince Torre	Cal Marine	3/16/2022	
Joel Van Noord	California Wetfish Producers Association	3/2/2022	
Joe Villareal	Vessel Operator	4/12/2022	
Anna Weinstein	Audubon	3/16/2022	
Dan Yoakum	Fisherman	2/23/2022	joint interview: Hockett & Yoakum
Robert Zuanich	Silver Bay Seafoods	2/28/2022	

California Fish and Game Commission
Staff Update on Coastal Fishing Communities Policy Development
for July 14, 2022 Marine Resources Committee meeting
July 8, 2022

- The Coastal Fishing Communities Project is a Commission initiative to more directly recognize coastal fishing community goals, and the impact that different options for pursuing conservation and utilization goals in fisheries management decisions may have on those communities.
- As part of this initiative, in April 2021 the Commission gave staff direction to develop a new policy on coastal fishing communities based on MRC recommendation; the Commission directed staff to work with stakeholders to develop a draft policy.
- At its March 2022 meeting, the MRC received an overview of drafting efforts and materials, including an initial draft policy and outcomes from a February public-drafting workshop (available at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=199387&inline>).
- Based on guidance received at the March 2022 MRC meeting, staff took steps to prepare for a second policy-drafting workshop to build on the input shared at the first workshop. Preparation entailed integrating public input from the first workshop into the initial staff draft policy to develop a revised draft policy, and determining a second workshop date.
- Commission staff scheduled a second policy drafting workshop to solicit input on a revised draft policy for June 22, 2022. Staff shared the revised draft policy with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), and workshop participants who had recommended specific changes, for feedback on revisions and outstanding issues. Several concerns and questions were raised by Department staff and an academic partner; staff realized the potential benefit of exploring these concerns further and addressing them in the draft policy text before distributing and workshopping a new version of the draft policy. Prior to the second workshop date, Commission staff notified the public that the workshop was being postponed and would be rescheduled once a revised draft policy was ready to distribute for review.
- Staff is currently considering how to incorporate feedback from multiple sources, while keeping the effort moving forward. Staff received important feedback that the policy includes many details that may be more appropriate for an implementation plan; however, feedback from the first workshop also makes it clear that stakeholders would like to see the Commission support many key aspects of the initial draft policy. Commission staff is evaluating which parts of the policy may be better suited to an implementation plan and developing a

higher-level vision and policy draft for considering coastal fishing communities' needs. To do this, staff is seeking to expand the small project team to include outside ocean policy and fishing community experts and partners so that Commission staff can create a durable draft policy and implementation plan for coastal fishing communities.

- Staff's goal is to keep progress on track through an adjusted process: staff anticipates working with this small project team through the summer and hosting a second policy drafting workshop in the Fall, leading to a staff recommendation for the MRC in November.
- The coastal fishing communities policy remains a top priority for Commission staff; staff welcomes your feedback on the plan.