

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 8-9, 2023

**29A. MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE****Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting on March 14 and 16, 2023.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Previous Marine Resources Committee meeting   | Nov 17, 2022; San Diego       |
| • <b>Today consider approving agenda topics</b> | <b>Feb 8-9, 2023</b>          |
| • Next Marine Resources Committee meeting       | Mar 14 and 16, 2023; Monterey |

**Background**

The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan.

**Committee Work Plan**

Topics that have been referred by the Commission to MRC are displayed in a work plan for scheduling and tracking. The updated work plan is in Exhibit 1 and proposed changes are summarized below.

*Completed Topics*

There are two work plan topics for which MRC completed its task by providing a final recommendation to the Commission:

- *California Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan implementing regulations review*
- *Implementation of 365-day sport fishing license*

Staff requests that the Commission approve removing each topic from the work plan.

*General Updates*

- The topic *Aquaculture Program Planning (Aquaculture Action Plan)* is updated to read *Statewide Aquaculture Action Plan*, to mirror the plan under development through the California Ocean Protection Council's leadership.
- The topic *Aquaculture State Water Bottom Leases: Existing & Future Lease Considerations* is updated to read *Aquaculture State Water Bottom Leases: Existing Lease Requests & New Applications*, to improve clarity.

*New Topic*

*Commercial take of Pacific herring – lampara bait nets*: This rulemaking is currently included on the Commission's rulemaking timetable under "Schedule to be Determined." The rulemaking is being developed in response to regulation change petition 2020-015, which the Commission granted for consideration. The Department has developed proposed details following discussions with the petitioner and in April expects to ask the Commission to

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consider starting the rulemaking process in June 2023. Staff recommends referring this topic to MRC for an update and vetting at MRC's March 2023 meeting.

### ***Next Committee Meeting***

The next Committee meeting is scheduled as a two-part meeting on March 14 and March 16 in Monterey, with webinar and teleconference options. The MRC meeting schedule was modified in December to accommodate the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Day: Management Review Forum being hosted in Monterey on March 15 by the Department in partnership with the California Ocean Protection Council and the Commission.

All MRC meeting topics are proposed to be received and discussed on March 14, with the exception of the Department's *MPA Decadal Management Review* and the previous day's forum, which are proposed for discussion on March 16. Staff has conferred with Department regarding readiness of topics for discussion and potential recommendation or for a progress update only.

### ***March 14***

#### *Proposed Discussion Topics*

- Aquaculture public interest determination criteria for new lease applications and potential recommendation
- California halibut fishery bycatch evaluation (set gillnet gear) and potential recommendation
- Coastal fishing communities policy and potential recommendation
- Kelp:
  - Kelp restoration and recovery tracking – informational update; and
  - Kelp recovery and management plan development update

#### *Proposed Updates from Staff and Other Agencies (generally in written format)*

- Statewide aquaculture action plan development
- Aquaculture state water bottom leases: status of pending lease requests and new applications
- Lampara nets for commercial take of Pacific herring in Humboldt Bay rulemaking (pending referral)

### ***March 16***

#### *Proposed Discussion Topic: MPA network decadal management review and forum*

The second MRC meeting day provides an opportunity for focused discussion about the management review (received under Agenda Item 23, this meeting), to provide reflections on presentations and discussions from the previous day's forum, and to publicly explore next steps for continued review by and guidance from the Commission, beginning with its April 2023 meeting.

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The March 15 forum is intended to be a place for dialogue and information exchange, rather than formal public comment. On the other hand, the MRC meeting on March 16 is the first of likely several opportunities to engage in dialogue and provide input, whether in dialogue with MRC or through formal comment at future Commission meetings. Commission consideration of the review and adaptive management recommendations is anticipated to span over several meetings to inform potential future direction or action by the Commission.

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

**FGC staff:** Approve the MRC work plan as reflected in Exhibit 1, including any changes identified during today's meeting, and approve the draft agenda topics for the March 14 and 16 MRC meeting.

**Exhibits**

1. [MRC work plan, updated January 26, 2023](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the changes to the work plan and approves the topics for the March 14 and 16, 2023 Marine Resources Committee meeting, as discussed today.

# California Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Work Plan

Updated January 26, 2023

*Note: Proposed changes to topics/timing are shown in blue underscore or strike-out font*

TOPICS	CATEGORY	Nov 2022	Mar 2023	Jul 2023
<b>Planning Documents &amp; Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)</b>				
MLMA Master Plan for Fisheries – Implementation Updates	Plan Implementation	*		
Red Abalone FMP / Abalone Recovery Management Plan Update	FMP	X/R		
California Halibut Fishery Management Review	Management Review			
California Halibut Bycatch Evaluation for Fishery Management Review	Management Review	X	X/R	
Market Squid Fishery Management and FMP Review	Management/ FMP Review			
Kelp Recovery and Management Plan (KRMP) development	Management Plan		*	
Marine Protected Area Network 2022 Decadal Management Review	Management Review	X	X/R	
<b>Regulations</b>				
California Halibut Trawl Grounds Review	Commercial Take			
Kelp and Algae Commercial Harvest – Sea Palm ( <i>Postelsia</i> )	Commercial Take			
<u>Pacific herring: Use of lampara nets for commercial take in Humboldt Bay</u>			<u>X/R</u>	
<u>California Spiny Lobster FMP Implementing Regulations Review</u>	<u>Implementing Regulations</u>			
<u>Implementation of 365-Day Sport Fishing License</u>	<u>Recreational Take</u>			
<b>Marine Aquaculture</b>				
<u>Aquaculture Program Planning (Statewide Aquaculture Action Plan)</u>	Planning Document		*	<u>X</u>
Aquaculture State Water Bottom Leases: Existing Lease Requests & New Applications	Current Leases / Planning		*	
<i>Public Interest Determination Criteria</i> for New State Water Bottom Aquaculture Lease Applications	FGC Policy – New Leases	X/R	X/R	
Aquaculture Lease Best Management Practices Plans (Hold, TBD)	Regulatory			
<b>Emerging Management Issues</b>				
Kelp Restoration and Recovery Tracking	Kelp		X	
Invasive Non-native Kelp and Algae Species	Kelp / Invasive Species			
<b>Special Projects</b>				
California's Coastal Fishing Communities Project	MRC Special Project			
Coastal Fishing Communities Policy	FGC Policy	X	X/R	
Box Crab Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Research Project	EFP			

**Key:** **X** = Discussion scheduled **X/R** = Recommendation may be developed and may move to Commission

\* = Written agency update