

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MRC

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

- (A) Review work plan agenda topics, priorities, and timeline
- (B) Potential new agenda topics for Commission consideration

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Commission approved MRC agenda and work plan October 11-12, 2023
- **Today's discussion** **November 16, 2023; MRC**
- Next MRC meeting March 14, 2024: MRC

Background

MRC topics are referred by the Commission and scheduled as appropriate; referred topics and their schedule are shown in the MRC work plan (Exhibit 1). MRC has placed emphasis on issues of imminent regulatory or management importance; thus, scheduling current topics and considering new topics for MRC review requires planning relative to existing workload and timing considerations.

(A) MRC Work Plan and Timeline

Topics anticipated to be proposed for the March 2024 MRC meeting are shown in the March column of the work plan in Exhibit 1. Note that Commission staff will assess the readiness of topics and may propose changes to the March 2024 MRC agenda at the Commission's February 2024 meeting. Staff welcomes guidance from MRC regarding scheduling specific topics identified in the work plan.

One topic is identified by Commission staff for potential removal from the MRC work plan:

- *Invasive non-native kelp and algae species*

This topic was referred to MRC in October 2020 for an informational discussion based on a request from stakeholders. As this discussion was held in November 2020, staff seeks an MRC recommendation to the Commission to remove the topic from the work plan.

(B) Discuss and Recommend New MRC Topics

Today is an opportunity to identify any potential new agenda topics to recommend to the Commission for referral to MRC.

One new topic is proposed for potential referral to MRC:

- *Recreational crab trap gear options and separate commercial passenger fishing vessel validation resulting from previous regulation change petitions*

In June 2023, the Commission acted on two petitions requesting to make several adjustments to recreational crab trap and trap validation provisions adopted by the Commission in 2021 to help minimize marine life entanglements. The Commission

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granted a request add a trap validation for commercial passenger fishing vessels, while denying proposed gear changes (e.g., trailer buoys); however, the Commission requested that the Department work with members of the recreational crab fishery on potential management options related to gear changes to address their concerns and further minimize marine life entanglements. The Department is prepared to bring an update on outreach and potential management options to an MRC meeting; they offer March 2024 as suitable timing for scheduling the discussion.

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

Review the list of topics identified for the March 2024 MRC meeting and determine if the list of topics for discussion or an update should be revised. Advance a recommendation to remove the *invasive non-native kelp and algae species* topic and add *trap validation for commercial passenger fishing vessels and recreational crab trap gear options* as a topic for vetting in March, as reflected in Exhibit 1. Provide direction on any other additions or removals.

Exhibits

1. [MRC work plan, updated October 31, 2023](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Marine Resources Committee recommends that the Commission approve the changes to the Committee work plan as proposed by staff in Exhibit 1, and the following additional changes:_____.

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

Updated October 31, 2023

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

Topics	Category	Jul 2023	Nov 2023	Mar 2024
Planning Documents and Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)				
MLMA Master Plan for fisheries – implementation updates	Plan Implementation			
Red abalone recovery plan (north coast)	Management Plan	*	X	
California halibut fishery management review	Management Review			X
California halibut bycatch evaluation for fishery management review – set gill net	Management Review	X/R	X/R	
Market squid fishery management and FMP review	Management/ FMP Review	*	*	X
Kelp recovery and management plan (KRMP) development	Management Plan		X	
Marine protected area network 2022 decadal management review	Management Review	X/R	*	*
Regulations				
California halibut trawl grounds review	Commercial Take			X
Kelp and algae commercial harvest – sea palm (<i>Postelsia</i>)	Commercial Take			
Petition 2023-04: Commercial sea urchin fishing north of San Luis Obispo/Monterey county line	Commercial Take			X
<u>Recreational crab trap gear options and trap validation for commercial passenger fishing vessels</u>	<u>Recreational Take</u>			<u>*</u> <u>–</u>
Marine Aquaculture				
Statewide aquaculture action plan	Planning Document	*		
Aquaculture state water bottom leases: Status of existing leaseholder requests	Current Leases			*
Aquaculture state water bottom leases: Applications for new leases	Lease Applications		*	X
Aquaculture lease best management practices plans (Hold, TBD)	Regulatory			
Informational Topics / Emerging Management Issues				
Kelp restoration and recovery tracking	Kelp		X	
<u>Invasive non-native kelp and algae species</u>	<u>Kelp / Invasive Species</u>			
Special Projects				
Coastal Fishing Communities Project	MRC Special Project			
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 or verbal agency update