

# Kelp Restoration & Management Plan Community Working Group (CWG)

## Meeting #2 Agenda

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

2:00pm - 6:00pm PST

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Meeting Goals

- Verify the CWG's schedule and anticipated discussion topics for upcoming meetings in 2024-25, and ensure shared understanding around the process for communication between the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) and the CWG.
- Discuss the community's priorities and considerations around kelp ecosystem management, including restoration, harvest, and healthy ecosystems.
- Across sectors, identify what each group considers the key characteristics of healthy, functioning kelp forests.

### Welcome, Introductions, and Community Building

*Opportunity to meet new CWG members, confirm meeting goals and intentions, and walk through the agenda.*

### CWG Work Schedule for 2024-25

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to present an overview of anticipated discussion topics during meetings 2-5. Confirm tentative meeting schedule, including connections between CWG activities and the SAC, updates to FGC committees, OPC, etc.

### Ecosystem-Based Management

*CDFW will introduce the concepts around Ecosystem-Based Management, as described in the MLMA Master Plan, and initial considerations for kelp forest ecosystems. The CWG will provide perspectives on healthy, functioning kelp forest ecosystems and how those key elements or features might be supported or maintained.*

### Potential Discussion Questions

- When you and your community envision a healthy kelp forest, what does it look like? How might it differ between giant and bull kelp forest ecosystems?
  - What are the features of the kelp itself?
  - What are the features of the other ecosystem aspects, such as other species, processes, human elements, and the broader ocean regime?
  - What is present? What is absent?
- What are your communities' thoughts on maintaining a healthy kelp forest? What must be considered (e.g., harvest activities, water quality, changing ocean conditions, cultural connections)?

### Available Resources

- [MLMA Master Plan Ch. 6 EBM Objectives](#)
- [Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Enhanced Status Report](#)

## Kelp Harvest

*In small groups, CWG members will be invited to share their experiences and insights on sustainable harvest. Groups will report out a summary of the discussion in plenary, and the information exchanged will help inform future CWG conversations.*

### Potential Discussion Questions

- What are some considerations, potential benefits, and potential impacts of harvest on your community and the kelp forest ecosystem? What are the species-specific considerations, if any?
- What does a successful harvest season look like to you and your community? Does this differ for giant kelp and bull kelp?
- What does sustainable kelp harvest look like to you and your community? Does this differ for giant kelp and bull kelp?

### Available Resources

- California Code of Regulations, [Title 14, Sections 165 Commercial Harvesting of Kelp and Other Aquatic Plants](#) and [165.5 Lease of Kelp Beds for Exclusive Harvest of Macrocystis and Nereocystis](#).
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections [30.00 Non-Commercial Use of Marine Plants](#) and [30.10 Non-Commercial Use of Marine Plants, Prohibited Species](#).
- [Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Enhanced Status Report: Section 2; Section 3](#)
- [Kelp and Other Marine Algae CDFW webpages](#)
- [Bull Kelp Working Group Areas of Agreement and Divergence](#)
- [Blog Post about Bull Kelp Regulation Changes](#)

## Kelp Restoration

*In small groups, CWG members will be invited to share their priorities for successful kelp restoration. Groups will report in plenary, and information exchanged will help inform future CWG conversations.*

### Potential Discussion Questions

- What specific kelp restoration goals and outcomes are most important to your community? How might those differ for giant and bull kelp forest ecosystems?
- Under what scenarios or conditions does your community feel restoration activities should be considered or warranted, if any?
- What signs of success or optimism has your community observed about giant kelp and/or bull kelp restoration efforts/techniques?
- Has your community expressed concerns or risks associated with kelp restoration efforts/techniques? How might those concerns or risks be addressed?

### Available Resources

- [Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Enhanced Status Report](#)
- [Kelp and Other Marine Algae CDFW webpages](#)
- [November 2023 CDFW and OPC Report: Status of Research and Monitoring, Restoration Efforts and Developing Management Strategies for Kelp Canopy Forming Species in California](#)
- [Sonoma-Mendocino Bull Kelp Recovery Plan](#)

- [Interim Action Plan for Protecting and Restoring California's Kelp Forests](#)

## Looking Ahead and Adjourn

*CDFW will review a high-level overview of the upcoming CWG meeting and opportunities for continued communication and engagement.*