

Memorandum

Date: October 25, 2024

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To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Regional Manager

Subject: Agenda Item 2 A and B, Marine Protected Area Regulations Change Petitions-Evaluation Process

At its February 14-15, 2024 meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) referred 20 Marine Protected Area (MPA) petitions to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for review, evaluation, and recommendation. CDFW developed a draft [3-phase approach](#) to evaluate MPA petitions that was supported by the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and approved by CFGF in April. CDFW completed Phase 1, which involved sorting the petitions into two bins, Bin 1, which are “near-term” petitions where CDFW had enough information to evaluate the petition and make a recommendation, and Bin 2, petitions that are longer-term because there is a need for policy guidance, additional data or information, and/or resources to support evaluation. CDFW presented the draft proposed binning of petitions for tribal and public input and discussion at the July 17 MRC meeting. Five petitions were sorted into Bin 1 and the remaining 15 were sorted into Bin 2. MRC supported the [draft outcomes from binning](#), which were subsequently approved by CFGF in August. CFGF requested that CDFW bring draft recommendations on Bin 1 actions to the November 2024 MRC meeting.

In response to the CFGF’s request in August 2024, CDFW prepared [draft recommendations](#) for each Bin 1 petition action (attachment 1) evaluated against the applicable metrics in CFGF’s approved [petition evaluation framework](#) (see attachment 6, page 232 of CFGF meeting materials) for consideration by MRC at the November 6-7, 2024 meeting. Bin 1 petitions are split into their individual actions, and CDFW has provided recommendations for each action and brief justifications on how they do or do not meet the petition evaluation framework. CDFW will also provide an update on progress with sorting Bin 2 petitions into actions and scoring them against the Bin 1 criteria.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager, at (805) 568-1246.

Attachment 1: Draft CDFW recommendations on Bin 1 petition actions

Attachment 2: Marine Protected Area Petition Evaluation Status and Next Steps Power Point

ec: Jenn Eckerle, Deputy Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy
Natural Resources Agency

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Stephen Wertz, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
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