

Committee Staff Summary for November 6-7, 2024 MRC

10. Staff and Agency Updates**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive updates from staff and other agencies, including the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the Department.

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

This is a standing agenda item for staff and agencies to provide an update on marine-related activities of interest. Members of the public will have an opportunity to share their thoughts and questions, although the level of in-meeting discussion will be at the discretion of the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) co-chairs.

A. OPC

OPC staff will provide an update on topics of interest to MRC.

B. Department**I. Law Enforcement Division (LED)**

LED will provide an update on recent law enforcement cases.

II. Marine Region

Marine Region staff will provide updates on various work plan topics, including:

- a. Kelp recovery and management plan development

C. Commission Staff**I. Coastal Fishing Communities Policy – Initial Implementation Steps**

Since the July 2024 MRC meeting, the Commission's Sea Grant state fellow has been preparing updates for the Commission's Coastal Fishing Communities [Project webpage](#), up through adoption of the policy in April 2024. She is developing an ArcGIS StoryMap as a stakeholder education and engagement tool and is conducting outreach to coastal fishing community members, fisheries stakeholders, and partners directly (Exhibit 1) to invite them to help explore implementation of the new Coastal Fishing Communities Policy.

II. California Sea Grant 2025 State Fellowship

Commission staff are pleased to announce the selection of our 2025-2026 California Sea Grant state fellow, Caroline Newell! In September 2024, Caroline received her master of science degree in ecology through her work at the Center for Watershed Science at the University of California, Davis. She earned her bachelors of science in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology in 2019. And, she is a hunter and angler excited to participate in the Commission's important work. Staff looks forward to introducing Caroline at the March 2025 MRC meeting after she begins her fellowship in early 2025.

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Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits

1. [Letter from Commission staff to stakeholders](#) regarding Coastal Fishing Communities policy update and initial implementation steps, dated August 9, 2024

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

From: Rossi, Devon-Contractor@FGC <Devon.Rossi@FGC.ca.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 9, 2024 02:23 PM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Cc: Ashcraft, Susan@FGC <Susan.Ashcraft@fgc.ca.gov>; Miller-Henson, Melissa@FGC <Melissa.Miller-Henson@fgc.ca.gov>; Rogers, Kimberly@fgc <Kimberly.Rogers@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: Coastal Fishing Communities Policy adopted by the Commission and next steps

Dear coastal fishing communities members, California fisheries stakeholders, and partners,

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) Coastal Fishing Communities Project. It is with delight we share that, at its February 14-15, 2024 meeting, the Commission adopted the [Coastal Fishing Communities Policy](#). We are incredibly grateful for the significant effort you have dedicated to this project over time; your feedback has been invaluable in shaping the policy, and your perspectives and engagement will be crucial as we seek to advance the policy's goals.

We are committed to exploring implementation of the policy's goals, spearheaded by Devon Rossi, our new 2024-2025 California Sea Grant State Fellow. While there is no specific timeline for the implementation phase yet, we would love to hear from you if you are interested in participating. We encourage you to reach out to Devon Rossi (devon.rossi@fgc.ca.gov) with any input. Your continued engagement is integral to the policy's success.

Additional fishing communities informational resource:

We also want to bring to your attention a recently-released website – [FishingCommunities.net](#) – developed by partners in response to informational needs your communities previously identified and highlighted through the Commission's project. [FishingCommunities.net](#) is “...an informational resource for stakeholders, managers, and the public. The website presents profiles of the history, economics, and culture of California's fishing communities with information, data, and interactive charts for thirteen of the state's principal fishing ports.”

The website includes text and data from port profile reports written by Lauren Drakopoulos (Cornell University) and Carrie Pomeroy (California Sea Grant) for Resources Legacy Fund based on analysis of data provided by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The website is currently a “Public Review Version”, and authors are inviting input from community members (via email at contact@fishingcommunities.net) in recognition that input from community members helps to shape and improve this site.

We look forward to continuing our work together to better support California’s coastal fishing communities by implementing the goals of the Commission’s new Coastal Fishing Communities Policy.

Best,

Kimi Rogers and Devon Rossi

Devon Rossi (she/her) | California Sea Grant State Fellow

California Fish and Game Commission

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