

Memorandum

Date: November 15, 2024

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

From: Craig Shuman, D. Env.
Marine Region

Subject: **Agenda Item for December 11-12, 2024, Fish and Game Commission Meeting**
Re: White Seabass Fishery Management Plan 2022-2023 Annual Review Report

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) receive the White Seabass Fishery Management Plan (WSFMP) 2022-2023 Annual Review Report at its December 2024 meeting.

The Department met with the White Seabass Scientific and Constituent Advisory Panel (WSSCAP) in October 2024 to review fishery information and to consider if current management measures were providing adequate protection for the white seabass resource. To determine if management measures need to be recommended, the WSSCAP reviewed the points of concern established in the WSFMP, including criteria-based evaluation of the white seabass fisheries and social and economic information related to the fisheries. Additionally, the Department presented results from a collaborative study with the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research on white seabass length at maturity. Study results indicates that white seabass mature at a size larger than previously understood and may not be allowing females the opportunity to reproduce at least once before being available to the fishery.

Recognizing that it has been over 20 years since the WSFMP was adopted and there are new management tools and data available, the Department is initiating discussions with the WSSCAP, California Tribes, and other interested stakeholders to discuss potential changes to the management framework for white seabass.

If you have any questions on this item, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager, at (805) 568-1246 or R7RegionalMgr@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission
November 15, 2024
Page 2

Kirsten Ramey, Environmental Program Manager
Marine Region

Valerie Taylor, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Marine Region

Dianna Porzio, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
Marine Region