

Kelp Restoration & Management Plan Community Working Group

Meeting #4 Agenda

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm PST

Meeting Goals

- Discuss and gather community feedback on giant kelp and bull kelp harvesting practices, regulations, and management strategies.
- Explore perspectives on current regulations, including species-specific and regional considerations.
- Identify priorities for policy development and next steps for sustainable giant kelp and bull kelp harvest management.

Welcome, Introductions and Community Building

Confirm meeting goals and intentions and walk through the agenda.

Kelp Restoration and Management Plan Updates

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to provide updates on the Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) process, future Community Working Group (CWG) meetings, connections with Tribal engagement efforts and the Science Advisory Committee (SAC), updates from Fish and Game Commission (FGC) committees, OPC, etc.

Kelp Harvesting Practices

CDFW to provide a brief presentation on current giant kelp and bull kelp harvest practices in California. Discussion on community perspectives and concerns surrounding kelp harvesting, including commercial, recreational, and Tribal subsistence practices. Explore harvest practices and the sustainability of harvest practices.

• Discussion Questions

- Share your community's experiences with giant kelp and bull kelp harvesting in your area. Do you feel current practices are sustainable and minimize environmental impacts? Are there kelp harvesting methods that should be promoted or restricted based on environmental impact or community priorities?
- Should there be limits on Tribal, commercial, and/or recreational giant kelp and bull kelp harvest? If so, what could that look like (e.g., trip limits, annual limits, spatial limits, license limits, seasonal closures, etc.)?
- Should Tribal and recreational harvesters follow the same regulations as commercial harvesters (e.g., license requirements, reporting requirements, harvest methods, limitations, closures, etc.)?

Kelp Harvest Management

CDFW to provide a brief presentation on current giant kelp and bull kelp harvest regulations or management strategies, followed by an interactive discussion. Key topics will include the effectiveness of various commercial and recreational kelp harvest management strategies, their application, and their

impact on the environment and communities. Explore the role of communities in managing and monitoring kelp beds.

- **Discussion Questions**

- What are some successful regulations or management strategies for commercial and recreational giant kelp and bull kelp harvesting, and where have they been effectively implemented?
- How do current giant kelp and bull kelp harvest regulations or management strategies align with your community's practices and needs? If they do not, what changes would you suggest?
- How have recent temporary commercial bull kelp harvest limits in Del Norte and Humboldt counties and closures in Mendocino and Sonoma counties affected your community, and what impacts—positive or negative—do you foresee with any potential future closures?
- What role can your community play in managing and monitoring kelp harvest beds? Could community-based monitoring or co-management help protect kelp resources?

Looking Ahead and Adjourn

Strategic Earth, in partnership with CDFW and OPC, will review key takeaways, actionable next steps, and opportunities for continued CWG communication and engagement.

Available Resources

- [Key Regulations and an Overview of Considerations on Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Harvest in California](#)
- [Community Survey on Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Recreational Harvest Practices](#)
- [Giant Kelp and Bull Kelp Enhanced Status Report](#) - Please note that the information available online does not reflect temporary amendments to bull kelp regulations and the current status of Administrative Kelp Beds.