

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish regulations, Rescinding of Select Commercial Groundfish Management Measures, Title 14, Sections 150.06 & 150.16, California Code of Regulations

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact Person: Andre Klein

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Phone: (831) 241-1830

City: Monterey

County: Monterey

Zip: 93940

Project Location: California State Coastal Waters from the California/Oregon Border to 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo).

City/Nearest Community: coastal waters

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____

Waterways: N. California Coastal waters

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP
 Early Cons
 Neg Dec
 Mit Neg Dec

Draft EIR
 Supplemental/Subsequent EIR
 (Prior SCH No.) _____
 Other: _____

NEPA: NOI
 EA
 Draft EIS
 FONSI

Other: Joint Document
 Final Document
 Other: _____

Local Action Type:

n/a General Plan Update	n/a Specific Plan	n/a Rezone	n/a Annexation
n/a General Plan Amendment	n/a Master Plan	n/a Prezone	n/a Redevelopment
n/a General Plan Element	n/a Planned Unit Development	n/a Use Permit	n/a Coastal Permit
n/a Community Plan	n/a Site Plan	n/a Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	n/a Other: _____

Development Type:

n/a Residential: Units _____	Acres _____	n/a Transportation: Type _____
n/a Office: Sq.ft. _____	Acres _____	n/a Mining: Mineral _____
n/a Commercial: Sq.ft. _____	Acres _____	n/a Power: Type _____ MW _____
n/a Industrial: Sq.ft. _____	Acres _____	n/a Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
n/a Educational: _____		n/a Hazardous Waste: Type _____
n/a Recreational: _____		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Commercial groundfish fishing regulations
n/a Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____		

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual	n/a Fiscal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks	n/a Vegetation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land	n/a Flood Plain/Flooding	n/a Schools/Universities	n/a Water Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	n/a Forest Land/Fire Hazard	n/a Septic Systems	n/a Water Supply/Groundwater
n/a Archeological/Historical	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic	n/a Sewer Capacity	n/a Wetland/Riparian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals	n/a Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	n/a Growth Inducement
n/a Coastal Zone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	n/a Solid Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use
n/a Drainage/Absorption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance	n/a Toxic/Hazardous	n/a Cumulative Effects
n/a Economic/Jobs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Cultural, Energy GHG, Fishing, Wildfire, Trib

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Regulatory authority for the commercial groundfish fisheries is shared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and federal government, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the states of Oregon and Washington, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to manage West Coast and California groundfish recreational and commercial fisheries, on a sustainable basis. State regulations vary by species/groups and groundfish management area, and are designed to keep harvests within federally-established limits. One of the groundfish species, quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*), has driven extensive management actions taken recently. Results of a 2021 quillback rockfish data-moderate stock assessment concluded that the population of quillback rockfish off California was in severe decline. The Department adopted emergency regulations that defined the 20-fathom boundary line, and established the commercial California Groundfish Restriction Area (CGRA) and put those in place long-term in early 2025.

On June 9, 2025, a draft stock assessment for quillback rockfish off California became available. This new, more robust assessment considered all available data sources, including newly available California-specific life history information, and did not rely on proxy data from other states as the 2021 data-moderate assessment had. The 2025 assessment results indicate that the California quillback stock is healthy and not overfished, a major reversal from the 2021 data-moderate stock assessment.

In response to the draft quillback rockfish stock assessment, the Department adopted emergency regulations which rescinded the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line for commercial groundfish fisheries north of 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo) put in place in early 2025 as a result of the 2021 stock assessment and became effective on August 21, 2025. The emergency rulemaking also extended federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters north of 37° 07' N latitude.

For this Project, the Department proposes to amend commercial groundfish fishing regulations as set forth in Sections 150.06 and 150.16 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations through a certificate of compliance action to make permanent these emergency regulations currently in place, including:

1. rescind the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line north of 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo, San Mateo County); and,
2. extend federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters.

[continued on next page]

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

	Air Resources Board		Office of Historic Preservation
X	Boating & Waterways, Department of California Emergency Management Agency	X	Office of Public School Construction
	California Highway Patrol		Parks & Recreation, Department of
	Caltrans District #		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics		Public Utilities Commission
X	Caltrans Planning	X	Regional WQCB #
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	X	Resources Agency
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
X	Coastal Commission	X	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Colorado River Board		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of Corrections, Department of		San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Delta Protection Commission	X	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Education, Department of	X	State Lands Commission
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
X	Fish & Game Region #7	X	SWRCB: Water Quality
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		SWRCB: Water Rights
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	General Services, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Health Services, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	Housing & Community Development		Other: Fish and Wildlife Dept. of (Headquarters)
X	Native American Heritage Commission		Other:

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 30, 2026 Ending Date March 16, 2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: n/a Applicant: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ Date: _____

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.