

State of California
Natural Resources Agency

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Draft Negative Declaration for
Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations

Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Sections 150.06 and 150.16

Rescinding of Select Commercial Groundfish Management Measures

Prepared by:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region

December 2025

This report has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970

State Clearinghouse #

Project Summary and Findings

The Project

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) proposes to amend commercial groundfish fishing regulations as set forth in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Project) through a certificate of compliance action to adopt the current emergency regulations. Current regulations, established by emergency rulemaking approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on August 21, 2025, rescinded the Commercial Groundfish Restriction Area (CGRA) and associated 20-fathom boundary line for commercial groundfish fisheries north of 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo). The emergency rulemaking also extended federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters north of 37° 07' N latitude.

The Findings

The Department finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

The completed initial study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the bases for this finding and the Department's determination that the Project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment, and that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the Department, that the Project may have significant effects on the environment. Therefore, no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The initial study concluded that the Project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, this Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

Basis of the Findings

This proposed negative declaration consists of:

- Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations
- Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form
- Explanation of the Responses to the Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

Project Description and Background Information on the Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish Fishing Regulations

Regulatory authority for groundfish fisheries is shared by state and federal governments. Current regulations establish season dates, depth restrictions, and recreational bag limits for these “federal” groundfish species. The regulations, which vary by species/groups and groundfish management area, are designed to keep harvests within federally-established limits.

Project Goals and Objectives

The goal of this Project is to adopt scientifically-based depth constraints and trip limits for the commercial fishery to provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of nearshore rockfish¹ and other groundfish stocks to ensure their continued existence. Additionally, this avoids unnecessary harm to commercial fishers, nearshore fisheries and local communities that rely upon them.

Background

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) works with 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 groundfish recreational and commercial fisheries, including off the coast of California, on a sustainable basis. One of the groundfish species, quillback rockfish, has driven extensive management actions taken recently.

Recent Regulatory Amendments and Conservation Efforts

Results of a 2021 quillback rockfish data-moderate stock assessment concluded that the population of quillback rockfish off California was in severe decline and estimated the population at only 14 percent of the unfished population. This data-moderate stock assessment utilized limited data sources and incorporated proxy data from other states. At the time, the 2021 stock assessment was deemed acceptable for use in federal management and NOAA Fisheries subsequently declared the California stock of quillback rockfish as overfished, and a rebuilding plan for the species was adopted by the PFMC.

At its November 2023 meeting, the PFMC recommended inseason changes to close the commercial nearshore fishery off California north of 36° N latitude (near Point Lopez). This change was recommended in order to limit the mortality of quillback because it was estimated that the federally specified harvest limits for the stock off California had been

¹ Nearshore Rockfish, which means the following species of rockfish: black rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*), black and yellow rockfish (*S. chrysomelas*), blue rockfish (*S. mystinus*), brown rockfish (*S. auriculatus*), calico rockfish (*S. dallii*), China rockfish (*S. nebulosus*), copper rockfish (*S. caurinus*), gopher rockfish (*S. carnatus*), grass rockfish (*S. rastrelliger*), kelp rockfish (*S. atrovirens*), olive rockfish (*S. serranoides*), quillback rockfish (*S. maliger*), treefish (*S. serripes*).

significantly exceeded in 2023 (88 Federal Register (FR) 67656, October 2, 2023).

At the time, California's regulations established trip limits for commercial take of groundfish, which includes both shallow nearshore rockfish and deeper nearshore rockfish, and California scorpionfish in state waters by incorporating federally established commercial groundfish regulations.

This resulted in effectively closing the state permitted commercial nearshore fishery – a restricted access fishery with limited participants – while permitting the commercial fishery for non-nearshore stocks (which does not limit the number of participants) to continue. In the absence of state action, mortality of quillback rockfish was likely to continue to occur, and the commercial nearshore fishery would remain closed. As a result, the Department undertook a series of emergency rulemakings.

- February 12, 2024: emergency regulations adding section 35.00 (defining the 20-fathom boundary line), amending section 150.06 (establishing the commercial California Groundfish Restriction Area (CGRA)) and amending section 150.16 (generally prohibiting take of non-nearshore groundfish stocks and establishing trip limits for state permitted nearshore groundfish species) along with minor amendments to section 189 were approved. The 20-fathom boundary line, GRCA and prohibition on the take of non-nearshore groundfish stocks were implemented north of 36° N latitude.
- March 2024: the PPMC recommended changing the southern boundary of the area impacted by the federal constraints from 36° N latitude to 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo). The NMFS implemented this change on April 1, 2024.
- August 13, 2024: with the first readoption of the emergency regulations, the Department amended sections 150.06 and 150.16 to establish the southern boundary of the 20-fathom boundary line and CGRA at 37° 07' N latitude.
- November 13, 2024: these regulations, as modified, were readopted to allow for sufficient time to complete a standard rulemaking.
- March 17, 2025: a standard certificate of compliance rulemaking was adopted, permanently establishing the regulations, as modified.

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.

The 2025 assessment indicates a substantially higher allowable harvest limit than the current allowable harvest limit. For example, the new stock assessment estimates an Overfishing Limit, which is the estimate of the amount that can be caught without risking

depletion of the stock, of 13.52 metric tons (mt), a significant increase from the 1.50 mt set in federal regulations based on the 2021 data-moderate assessment

In response to the draft quillback rockfish stock assessment, the Department proposed emergency regulations which rescinded constraints on the commercial groundfish fishery implemented to protect quillback rockfish. These emergency regulations were approved by OAL and became effective on August 21, 2025.

The proposed regulatory amendments, that make permanent the existing emergency regulations for the commercial groundfish fisheries, will:

- 1) remove the Commercial Groundfish Restriction Area (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.

Project Location

The proposed regulatory amendments affect California State Waters from the California/Oregon Border to 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo) from east of San Francisco Bay northward to Crescent City (Figure 1).

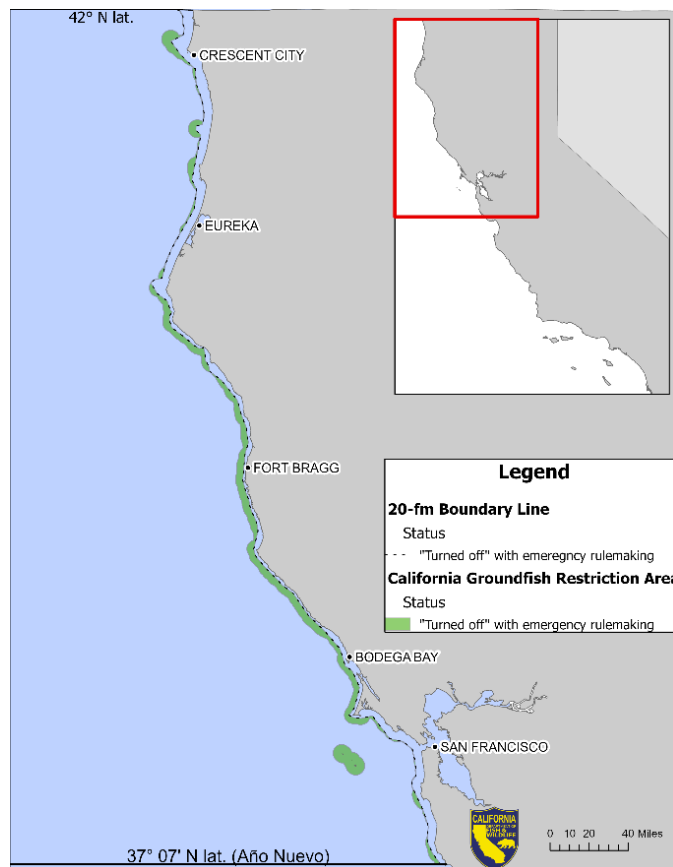


Figure 1. Map of the Project area and emergency regulations, effective August 21, 2025, which rescinded application of or “turned off” the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line north of 37° 07' N latitude.

Environmental Setting

Regulatory authority for groundfish, including nearshore rockfish, are shared jointly between state and federal governments. Federal regulations are developed through the PFM process and apply in federal waters (3 to 200 n mi); state regulations are developed by the Department and apply in state waters (0 to 3 n mi). Federal management of groundfish occurs on a biennial cycle, with inseason modifications within a cycle if new information becomes available which warrants changes.

Groundfish species occur in state and federal waters, with mortality for most species occurring in both jurisdictional water areas. Due to the trans-boundary nature of these stocks, environmental impacts occurring in both state and federal waters were evaluated in the [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) of Amendment 33 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Management Plan, 2025-26 Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures](#) during the federal regulatory process.

Project Description

The proposed regulations serves the general welfare by restoring commercial groundfish fishery opportunities for important target species that were restricted in state waters, while also complimenting changes to federal regulations regarding the commercial take of groundfish north of 37° 07' N latitude.

The purpose of the proposed Project is to restore commercial groundfish fishing access in state waters based upon updated scientific stock assessment information for the quillback rockfish stock off California.

Schedule

The proposed regulatory amendments described below will become effective upon OAL approval.

Proposed Changes

The proposed regulations would make permanent the emergency regulations that amended sections 150.06, and 150.16 to remove the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line, as well as to extend federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters north of 37° 07' N latitude. Prior to implementation of the emergency regulations, the commercial nearshore groundfish fishery was constrained to within the 20-fathom boundary line and the take, retention and possession of non-nearshore groundfish stocks was prohibited. Based upon new scientific information, the previous constraints placed upon the commercial groundfish fishery are no longer warranted. Permanent adoption of the emergency regulations is needed to avoid unnecessary harm to commercial groundfish fishers, nearshore fishery and coastal communities that rely upon them.

Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project Title:

Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish Regulations, Section 150.06 and 150.16, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Rescinding of Select Groundfish Management Measures

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Andre Klein, groundfish@wildlife.ca.gov

4. Project Location:

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

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Region
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr., Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

6. General Plan designation: N/A

7. Zoning: N/A

8. Description of Project:

Adopt scientifically based depth constraints and trip limits for the commercial fishery providing for the maintenance of sufficient populations of nearshore rockfish and other groundfish stocks to ensure their continued existence by making the current emergency regulations permanent. The removal of depth constraints and extending federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters, avoids unnecessary harm to commercial groundfish fishery, nearshore fishery and the local communities that rely upon them.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: The coastline of California and state waters off the coast of California.

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required: None

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.31?

No.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ☐ Aesthetics
- ☐ Agriculture and Forestry
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Biological Resources
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Geology/Soils
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Land Use/Planning
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Population/ Housing
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☐ Utilities/Service Systems
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ **I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.**
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Date

Title

Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
I. Aesthetics. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
II. Agriculture And Forestry Resources. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
III. Air Quality. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Result in any other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
IV. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LTS	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
V. Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VI. Energy. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
VII. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
IX. Hazards And Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
X. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of pollution runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XI. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
XII. Mineral Resources. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIII. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIV. Population and Housing.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
XV. Public Services.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVI. Recreation.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVII. Transportation. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Less Than Significant with Mitigation (LTSM)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTS)	No Impact (NI)
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
XX. Wildfire. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

XXI. Mandatory Findings Of Significance.

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI

Explanation of Responses to Initial Study Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

- a) The Project will not have an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- b) The Project will not damage scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- c) The Project will not substantially degrade, in nonurbanized areas, the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.
- d) The Project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or modification of any buildings or structures.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

- a) The Project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes and occurs in marine waters.
- b) The Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes and occurs in marine waters.
- c) The Project will not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timber zoned Timberland Production. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes and occurs in marine waters.
- d) There will be no loss of forest land and the Project will not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes and occurs in marine waters.
- e) The Project will not involve other changes in the existing environment, which due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural

use. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes and occurs in marine waters.

III. Air Quality

- a) The Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- b) The Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Such an impact will not occur because the Project involves no ongoing sources of air pollution.
- c) The Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not increase pollutant concentrations.
- d) The Project will not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Such an impact will not occur because activities will occur in state marine waters and not around a substantial number of people.

IV. Biological Resources

Groundfish are managed jointly, both by the state and federal governments biennially. The PFMC and NMFS only have the authority to implement fishery management regulations in federal waters. The State of California has discretion to implement management complementary to federal action, or other management actions, in its state waters. The PFMC/NMFS analysis of the effects of groundfish management measures incorporates cumulative mortality in both federal and state waters from all sources of fishing mortality. Impacts for the adopted biennial management measures as analyzed in the PFMC/NMFS process must remain within the federally established harvest specifications to meet Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation Act requirements. All impacts associated with this Project are evaluated in the federal Environmental Assessment (EA) of Amendment 33 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Management Plan, 2025-26 Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures, which the Department has used pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15063(a)(2) (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations).

The purpose of the project is to:

- 1) remove the Commercial Groundfish Restriction Area (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. Future groundfish harvest associated with the Project is not expected to be appreciably different than those analyzed during the biennial process. The proposed regulatory changes under the Project have been analyzed in the EA and are projected to keep mortality of groundfish species within allowable limits. The Project is therefore anticipated to have a net negligible effect on managed fish.

The potential impact of the proposed regulations therefore is Less than Significant:

- a) The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the Department, NMFS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on Federal threatened or endangered species and/or their critical habitat beyond those effects considered in current Biological Opinions for the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery. Potential effects to species listed under the Endangered Species Act are discussed in Sections 4.2 and 5.3.2 of the EA.

- b) The Project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities identified in local or regional plans, policies and regulations, or by the Department or the USFWS. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alternation, or land use changes.
- c) The Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- d) The Project will not substantially interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- e) The Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not result in any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- f) The Project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

V. Cultural Resources

- a) The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work or work permanently modifying any existing structure or resource and thus no potential to affect historical resources.

- b) The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect archaeological resources.
- c) The Project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. There is no ground disturbing work and thus no potential to affect human remains.

VI. Energy

- a) The Project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operations. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not use energy resources and does not involve construction.
- b) The Project will not affect nor obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. There is no activity in any plan areas for renewable energy or energy efficiency and thus no potential impact.

VII. Geology and Soils

- a i) The Project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the state geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a ii) The Project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a iii) The Project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction or create any structures for human habitation.
- a iv) The Project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, ground disturbing work, or the creation of any structures for human habitation.
- b) The Project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- c) The Project will not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable and potentially result in on- or off- site landslides, lateral

spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve ground disturbing work.

- d) The Project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- e) The Project will not create any sources of wastewater requiring a septic system. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve ground disturbing work.
- f) The Project will not indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve or indirectly result in any ground disturbing work.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- a) The Project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. Vessel types, vessel trips, duration of trip and number of participants fluctuate from year to year. However, the Project does not regulate individual fishermen's decisions as to how far to travel or what engines to use. Additionally, the Project will not involve construction, land alteration, or land use changes. By returning to pre-2024 standards, the Project would be consistent with historical averages to date and as such would have no impact with respect to generation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Constraining regulations implemented to protect quillback rockfish from February 2024 to August 2025, necessitated that nearshore fishery participants could not combine nearshore and other groundfish targets primarily encountered in federal waters (e.g., sablefish) into a single trip. Because federal regulations prohibited the take and possession of nearshore groundfish, while state regulations prohibited take and possession of non-nearshore groundfish (except for purposes of continuous transit), such targets were pursued during separate trips.

This combined effect compelled fishers to forgo the common practice of combining nearshore and non-nearshore groundfish targets on occasions when it fit their fishing strategy. This likely resulted in inefficiencies and, potentially, an increase in GHG when compared to the pre-2024 baseline. However, it is speculative to know what an individual fisher's strategy may have been on any given day during this period and therefore difficult to quantify.

Continued management of the fishery at the same level of intensity, as is the case with the Project, does not entail measures substantially affecting GHG emissions due to fishing, because it is not expected to substantially change the scale, intensity, or degree of fishing. External factors (e.g., fuel price, market conditions, oceanographic changes affecting the location of the target groundfish, etc.) are likely to have much greater influence on GHG emissions.

As a result, the Project would be returning to pre-2024 baseline standards and

consistent with historical averages. Additionally, there is no evidence that 2024 to date changed the level of fishing intensity for groundfish as a whole so as to affect GHG emissions. Therefore, the Project is not expected to generate GHG emissions that will have a significant impact on the environment.

- b) The Project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG. The Project is expected to result in a small amount of GHG via the use of fuel in vehicles used to transport anglers to and from the designated fishing areas, but does not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation reducing the emissions of GHG.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- a) The Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The Project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- b) The Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The Project will not involve the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
- c) The Project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The Project will not involve the transport, use, or emission of any hazardous materials.
- d) The Project will not be located on any site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- e) The Project will not be located within an airport land use plan area.
- f) The Project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- g) The Project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a) The Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, water use, or water discharge.
- b) The Project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. The Project will not involve

any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

- c i) The Project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site because the Project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c ii) The Project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site because the Project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iii) The Project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm-water drainage systems, or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff because the Project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- c iv) The Project will not impede or redirect flood flows because the Project will not involve any construction or land alteration.
- d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, the Project would not risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation because the Project would not involve any construction or land alteration.
- e) The Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or groundwater use.

XI. Land Use and Planning

- a) The Project will not physically divide an established community. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The Project will not cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XII. Mineral Resources

- a) The Project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.
- b) The Project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XIII. Noise

- a) The Project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The Project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land, and its implementation will not generate noise levels in excess of agency standards.
- b) The Project will not result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. The Project will not involve construction or physical alteration of land.
- c) The Project will not be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. Population and Housing

- a) The Project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Such an impact will not occur because the Project will not construct any new homes, businesses, roads, or other human infrastructure.
- b) The Project will not displace any existing people or housing and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

XV. Public Services

- a) The Project will not have any significant environmental impacts associated with new or physically altered governmental facilities. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or land use changes.

XVI. Recreation

- a) The Project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.
- b) The Project does not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XVII. Transportation

- a) The Project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- b) The Project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), which pertains to vehicle miles traveled. The amount and distance of vehicle miles traveled by recreational anglers should not change substantially under the proposed regulations.

- c) The Project will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses with equipment. The Project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.
- d) The Project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The Project involves no land use or transportation system modifications.

XVIII. Tribal and Cultural Resources

- a) The Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.
- a i) The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). The Project does not involve ground disturbing work and does not have the potential to affect tribal cultural resources.
- a ii) The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. The Project does not involve ground disturbing work and does not have the potential to affect tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

- a) The Project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. The Project does not involve any construction or land alteration.
- b) The Project requires no new water supplies.
- c) The Project will not produce wastewater.
- d) The Project will not generate solid waste. Thus, the Project will be in compliance with state and local standards for solid waste.
- e) The Project will not create solid waste. Thus, the Project will be in compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. Wildfire

- a) The Project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

- b) The Project will not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors.
- c) The Project will not require the installation or maintenance of any infrastructure.
- d) The Project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

XXI. Mandatory Findings and Significance

- a) The Project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The Project is consistent with the Department's mission to manage California's diverse fisheries resources for their ecological value, their use and for the public's enjoyment.
- b) The Project does not have adverse impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Cumulative adverse impacts will not occur because there are no potential adverse impacts due to Project implementation.
- c) The Project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly. The Project will not involve any construction, land alteration, or the creation of new infrastructure.