

## Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

**11B. Marine Resources Committee (MRC)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting to be held July 16, 2026.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- Previous MRC meeting March 12, 2026; MRC
- **Today, consider approving next MRC meeting agenda topics** **June 17-18, 2026**
- Next MRC meeting July 16, 2026; MRC

**Background**

MRC works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan (Exhibit 1).

**Committee Work Plan**

Topics referred by the Commission to MRC are displayed in a work plan for scheduling and tracking. The updated work plan is provided as Exhibit 1, which includes proposed updates to timing of several topics. As requested by the Commission in April, a review of the box crab experimental fishing permit program (an MRC work plan topic since 2022) has been scheduled for the November 2026 MRC meeting, with a revised focus on project outcomes.

**Proposed New Topics**

The work plan includes two potential new topics, related to take of pismo clam and take of tidal invertebrates.

## 1. Recreational Take of Pismo Clam

This topic was referred to MRC in April 2026, when it took action on Petition 2025-14 (to reduce take of Pismo clam) and granted it *in concept* for further Department evaluation and potential rulemaking. The Commission requested that the Department provide MRC with an update, management options, and a proposed timeline in November 2026.

## 2. Recreational Take of Tidal Invertebrates

The Department requests that this regulatory topic be referred to MRC to allow for an initial topic overview in November 2026. The Department would then return to MRC at a future meeting with regulatory options for discussion and vetting.

**Next Committee Meeting**

The next committee meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026 in Sacramento, with public remote participation options via webinar and phone. Staff has conferred with the Department on the readiness of various proposed topics for July.

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*Discussion Topics*

In addition to standing agenda items (i.e., general public comment, agency updates, next meetings, work plan review), three discussion topics are proposed for the next MRC meeting:

1. *Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) Development* – Department update and discussion.
2. *White Seabass Fishery Management Review* – Department update, discussion, and potential recommendation.
3. *Commercial Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery Management, Phase 2* – Department update and discussion.

Staff recommends deferring the timing of four topics previously slated for the July agenda:

- *CA Halibut Review Bycatch Evaluation for Trawl Gear; Nearshore Groundfish Management Process; and Barred Sand Bass Working Group*

Additional time is needed for the Department to make further progress on these three topics before they are brought back to MRC. California Halibut Bycatch and Nearshore Groundfish Management topics: The Department recommends scheduling for November 2026. Barred Sand Bass Working Group topic: The Department requests postponing the next update and discussion to a future meeting in 2027, when additional working group outcomes, 2026 fishing season information, and stock assessment progress will be available.

- *Coastal Fishing Communities Project*

Following the Commission's adoption of a new policy in 2024 — grounded in ten staff recommendations developed through the [2016-2018 Coastal Fishing Communities Meetings](#) — it directed staff to next identify priority areas of focus among those original recommendations. After MRC discussion in November 2025, the Commission directed staff in December to develop next-step options to advance the work. Discussion and potential committee action were initially scheduled for March 2026, and later moved to July due to ongoing staff focus on the Commission priority to support the MPA petitions process. As the MPA petition focus has continued, staff requests postponing this topic to a future meeting to support preparation for a more productive discussion.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Approve the changes to the work plan as proposed in Exhibit 1. Approve the draft agenda topics for the July 16, 2026 meeting.

**Exhibits**

1. [MRC work plan](#), updated June 10, 2026

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**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the changes to the work plan and approves the topics for the July 16, 2026 Marine Resources Committee meeting, as discussed today.

# California Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Work Plan

*Updated June 10, 2026*

*Note: Proposed changes to topics/timing are shown in blue underscore or ~~strike-out~~ font.*

Topics	Category	Mar 2026	Jul 2026	Nov 2026
<b>Planning Documents, Fishery Management Plans (FMP)</b>				
MLMA Master Plan for Fisheries – Implementation Updates	Plan Implementation			
Red Abalone Restoration Plan (statewide) Development	Restoration Plan			
CA Halibut Review – Bycatch Evaluation for Trawl Gear	Management Review	X	<u>X</u>	X
Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) Development	Restoration/ Management Plan		X	
White Seabass Fishery Management Review	Management Review	X	<u>X/R</u>	
<b>Regulations</b>				
Commercial Coonstripe Shrimp Fishery Management, Phase 2	Commercial Take		X	<u>X/R</u>
Recreational Use of Hand-Held Harpoons and Flying Gaffs to Assist Anglers with Landing Tuna <sup>1</sup>	Recreational Take	X/R <sup>1</sup>		
Method of Determining Recreational Legal Size	Recreational Take	*1		
<u>Recreational Take of Pismo Clam<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Recreational Take</u>			<u>X</u>
<u>Tidal Invertebrates Regulations</u>	<u>Recreational Take</u>			<u>*</u> <u>-</u>
<b>Marine Aquaculture and State Water Bottom Leases</b>				
Statewide Aquaculture Action Plan	Planning Document	X		
Status of Existing Leases and Leaseholder Requests	Current Leases	X		
Applications for New Leases - San Andreas Shellfish Company (Tomales Bay)	Lease Applications			
Lease Best Management Practices Plans (Hold, TBD)	Leases – Regulatory	X/R		
<b>Special Projects, Informational Topics, and Emerging Management Issues</b>				
Coastal Fishing Communities Project	MRC Project		<u>X/R</u>	<u>X/R</u>
Kelp Restoration and Recovery Tracking	Kelp			
Barred Sand Bass Working Group	Informal Advisory Body		<u>X</u>	
Nearshore Groundfish Management Process	State/Federal Fisheries		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
<b>Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Program</b>				
Box Crab Exploratory Fishing EFP – <u>Project Outcomes</u>	EFP			<u>X</u>
Pop-Up Gear in State-Managed Fisheries EFP	EFP			

Key: X = Discussion X/R = Recommendation and may move to Commission \* = Written or oral agency update

1 - This topic was completed and moved to the Commission; topic will be removed from MRC Work Plan.

2 - Source: Petition 2025-14 (Pismo clam), granted in April 2026 for further consideration; Commission requested Department to bring update, options, and timeline to MRC.