

Chapter 5. MITIGATION

The regulatory actions proposed in this document are self-mitigating. The only alternatives to regulating the take of kelp would be to allow harvest without restriction or to prohibit consumptive uses of these resources. Unrestricted harvest could be detrimental to the kelp resources given the lack of regulatory safeguards. Prohibiting consumptive use of kelp is not warranted given the effectiveness of existing safeguards.

The proposed project is also self-mitigating because it provides for a more conservative set of safeguards than are provided under the existing regulatory framework. The existing regulatory framework and suggested modifications are designed to assure that harvesting will be maintained at a level that is below the population's sustained yield capabilities. These provisions allow for the conservation and maintenance of giant and bull kelp populations, provide a benefit to society through consumptive and non-consumptive use, and minimize indirect impacts on associated species to a level that is considered to be less than significant.