

CHAPTER 7 CONSULTATION

An integral part of all the Department's fisheries management programs is consultation with other agencies, qualified professionals in the fisheries management field, and interested individuals. To this end, Department staff involved with fisheries management are continually in contact with other agencies and professional biologists involved with all aspects of fisheries management.

The Department's fisheries management staff works closely with local commercial harvesters, recreational user groups, and with State, Federal, and local agencies with land and water management interests that can affect or be affected by the harvest of kelp resources in State waters.

In addition to maintaining close informal contact with personnel from other agencies involved with fisheries and wildlife management, Department personnel also maintain formal contact with personnel representing fisheries management agencies, universities, and the private sector by attending professional fisheries management workshops, conferences, and seminars. Such activities provide for regular, up-to-date interchange of ideas and findings between Department personnel and other professionals.

Prior to preparing this environmental document, the Department issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP). The notice was provided to individuals and organizations that have expressed prior interest in Commission regulatory actions. The NOP was also submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to appropriate responsible and trustee agencies for their input and comments.

Every effort has been made to consider relevant issues brought fourth in response to the NOP in this environmental document, including the development of alternatives to the proposed project.