

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 7-8, 2019

**22. OFFSHORE MARINE AQUACULTURE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT****Today's Item**Information Direction 

Receive draft programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) for offshore aquaculture that evaluates a proposed regulatory framework governing future offshore marine aquaculture in California.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- FGC referral to MRC Apr 18-19, 2018; Ventura
- PEIR overview Nov 14, 2018; MRC, Sacramento
- PEIR update Mar 20, 2019; MRC, Sacramento
- **Receive draft PEIR Aug 7-8, 2019; Sacramento**

**Background**

FGC has authority to lease state water bottoms for the purposes of conducting aquaculture in marine waters of the state (Section 15400 and 15405, Fish and Game Code). Accordingly, shellfish aquaculture and seaweed culture are currently conducted on 17 active leases across the state; currently there is no commercial offshore marine finfish aquaculture practiced in California.

Fish and Game Code Section 15008 directs DFW to prepare and submit a programmatic environmental impact report for offshore marine aquaculture (aquaculture PEIR) to FGC. The aquaculture PEIR is intended to provide an analysis of existing and potential impacts of coastal marine aquaculture to the state and identifies potentially feasible measures and alternatives to address potential impacts. Detailed background on the development of the aquaculture PEIR was provided in the Nov 14, 2018 MRC staff summary (Exhibit 1). Overviews and highlights have been given to the MRC since 2018, when it was referred by FGC.

Today, DFW will recommend that receipt of the aquaculture PEIR be rescheduled to a future meeting.

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

**FGC staff:** Reschedule receipt of the aquaculture PEIR to a future meeting.

**DFW:** Reschedule receipt of the aquaculture PEIR to a future meeting.

**Exhibits**

1. [Staff summary for Agenda Item 7, Nov 14, 2018 MRC meeting \(for background only\)](#)

**Motion (N/A)**

**COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

For Background Only

**7. OFFSHORE MARINE AQUACULTURE****Today's Item****Information** **Direction** 

Receive DFW overview of a programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) that will evaluate a proposed regulatory framework governing future offshore marine aquaculture in California.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- FGC referral to MRC Apr 18-19, 2018; Ventura
- **Today's overview of PEIR** **Nov 14, 2108; MRC, Sacramento**

**Background**

FGC has authority to lease state water bottoms for purposes of conducting aquaculture in marine waters of the state (Section 15400 and 15405, Fish and Game Code). Accordingly, shellfish aquaculture and seaweed culture are currently conducted on 17 active leases across the state; currently there is no commercial offshore marine finfish aquaculture practiced in California.

While FGC is authorized to issue leases for finfish aquaculture, the Fish and Game Code prescribes that FGC may not do so until it considers how it will address specific concerns, identified in statute, within a new regulatory framework using the analysis of a PEIR. The statute also directs DFW, in consultation with the Aquaculture Development Committee (established through Fish and Game Code Section 15700), to complete the PEIR for existing and potential commercial aquaculture operations if certain funding conditions are met.

The aquaculture PEIR has been envisioned and worked on periodically over the course of more than 10 years, but there is currently a renewed focus on bringing the analysis to completion. In light of the renewed focus, DFW will provide an update on activities, progress, and status of the PEIR for marine aquaculture; this will include a projected timeline that reflects work accomplished and milestones that lie ahead in the near future.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**