

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 11-12, 2019

28. MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive summary from Nov 5, 2019 MRC meeting and consider adopting MRC recommendations. Receive update on MRC work plan. Discuss and consider approving new topics to address at a future committee meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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|---|------------------------------------|
| • Most recent MRC meeting | Nov 5, 2019; MRC, Sacramento |
| • Today consider approving MRC recommendations | Dec 11-12, 2019; Sacramento |
| • Next MRC meeting | Mar 17, 2020; MRC, Santa Rosa |

Background

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

MRC Meeting Summary

The MRC met on Nov 5, 2019 and discussed:

- Experimental Fishing Permit Program, Phase II
- MLMA master plan for fisheries implementation
- Kelp and algae commercial harvest regulations
- Kelp restoration and recovery efforts
- Red abalone fishery management plan development
- Whale and turtle protections in managing the recreational Dungeness crab fishery
- Coastal Fishing Communities Project

The Nov 5 meeting summary will be distributed at today's meeting and posted to the website.

Update on Action Related to Coastal Fishing Communities Project

In Aug 2019, FGC approved an MRC recommendation to direct staff to post the final draft staff report synthesizing outcomes from coastal fishing communities public meetings held in 2017-2018, and to work with stakeholders to develop a definition of coastal fishing community. At its Nov 2019 meeting, MRC accepted the final report as posted on the new project webpage (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Committees/Marine/Coastal-Fishing-Communities-Project>). In addition, staff introduced a collaboratively-developed draft definition for "*coastal fishing community*" crafted through a stakeholder work session. Consistent with FGC direction, MRC has adopted a draft working definition that will be used for the Coastal Fishing Communities Project as the project moves forward (see Exhibit 2, Agenda Item 10).

MRC Recommendations

Based on the Nov 5, 2019 meeting discussion, MRC developed four recommendations for FGC consideration.

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1. *Marine Life Management Act (MLMA) master plan implementation:* (a) Support the species prioritization as developed by DFW and moving forward to the next steps in the process; (b) encourage DFW to complete ecological risk assessment (ERA) analyses [the second analytical tool used to inform prioritization] for the remaining invertebrate fisheries as soon as feasible to integrate into prioritization; and (c) schedule a discussion about the species prioritization list at the Dec 2019 FGC meeting under the DFW Marine Region update. *(Due to time-sensitive considerations for actions related to this recommendation, President Sklar, under his authority, approved the addition of this topic to the Dec 2019 meeting – see Agenda Item 32, this meeting.)*
2. *Commercial kelp and algae harvest management:* Schedule the commercial kelp and algae harvest management rulemaking for notice in Jun 2020 and potential adoption in Aug, to be preceded by DFW presentation of detailed proposals to the Tribal Committee and MRC in Jan and Mar 2020, respectively.
3. *Recreational Dungeness crab:* (a) Request that DFW return to FGC at its Dec 2019 meeting with a suite of options for whale and turtle protections to be analyzed for potential regulatory actions that may include part or all of the fishery management proposals DFW presented to MRC; and (b) support scheduling a rulemaking on a timeline commencing with notice in Apr 2020. *(Due to time-sensitive considerations for actions related to this recommendation, President Sklar, under his authority, approved the addition of this topic to the Dec 2019 meeting – see Agenda Item 30, this meeting.)*
4. *Future agenda items:* Remove the referred subject of “commercial fisheries not under Commission authority” from the MRC work plan, based upon follow up with stakeholders and commercial fishing representatives.

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

FGC staff: Approve MRC recommendations 2 and 4 under this agenda item; consider recommendation 1 under Agenda Item 32 (this meeting); and consider recommendation 3 under Agenda Item 30 (this meeting).

Exhibits

1. [MRC work plan](#), updated Nov 27, 2019
2. WRC meeting summary for Nov 5, 2019 (to be posted no later than Dec 12, 2019)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves recommendation #2, concerning commercial kelp and algae harvest management, and recommendation #4, concerning removal of a referred topic from the committee work plan, from the November 5, 2019 Marine Resources Committee meeting as proposed.

OR

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves recommendation #2 and #4 from the November 5, 2019 Marine Resources Committee meeting as proposed, except _____.

Marine Resources Committee (MRC) 2019/2020 Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for
Items Referred to MRC from California Fish and Game Commission
 Updated December 5, 2019

Topic	Category	2019	2020	
		NOV	MAR	JUL
		Sacramento	Monterey Area	San Clemente
Planning Documents				
MLMA Master Plan for Fisheries - Implementation Updates	Master Plan Implementation	X	X	X
Abalone FMP / ARMP Update	FMP	X	X/R	
Aquaculture Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)	Programmatic Plan			X
Regulations				
Herring Eggs on Kelp	DFW Project/ Rulemaking	X		
Experimental Fisheries Permit Phase II	DFW Project/ Rulemaking	X	X	
Aquaculture Lease Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan Requirements	DFW-FGC Project/ Rulemaking			
Kelp & Algae Commercial Harvest	DFW Project/ Rulemaking	X	X/R	
Spiny Lobster FMP implementing regulations: review effectiveness of program (<i>added Feb 2019; timing TBD</i>)	Regulatory review			
Emerging/Developing Management Issues				
Kelp Restoration and Recovery		X	X	X
Aquaculture State Water Bottom Leases: Existing and future lease considerations	Lease Management Review		X	
Cowcod Recovery (<i>added Oct 2019</i>)			X	
Special Projects				
Fisheries Bycatch Workgroup	MRC workgroup			
California's Coastal Fishing Communities	MRC project	X	X	
Informational / External Topics of Interest				
Whale and Turtle Protections in the Management of the Dungeness Crab Fisheries		X	X	

KEY: X Discussion scheduled X/R Recommendation developed and moved to FGC