

Forage Policy Implementation Overview

An update on two focus areas where stakeholders are working to help implement the California Forage Policy

1. Progress in Collaborative Herring Process

Proposal Collaborators:

Conservation NGOs, Directors Herring Advisory Committee, Department of Fish & Wildlife



2. Initial Proposal on Unmanaged Forage Fish

Project Collaborators:

Pew Charitable Trusts, CA Wetfish Producers Assn, Oceana, EarthJustice, Ocean Conservancy, NRDC



Update on Path Forward for Herring

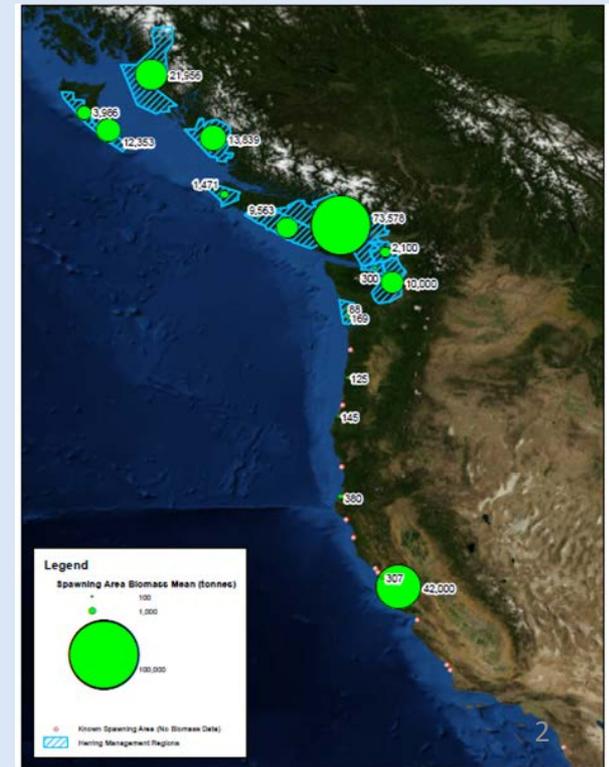
Collaborative interest in Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

Shared goals for an FMP:

- Move existing fishery towards ecosystem goals of forage policy
- Shared NGO/CDFW/Industry support to memorialize existing precautionary management
- Possible model for streamlined FMP creation and funding via public private partnership

Moving forward:

- Project and fundraising plans established by industry, NGO and Department



Protecting Unmanaged Forage Species

- Forage Species Policy states:

“Prevent the development of new or expanded forage fisheries until EFI is available and applied to ensure the sustainability of target forage species and protect its benefits as prey.”

- Recommend use of Emerging Fisheries Policy as mechanism to implement

Protecting Unmanaged Forage Species Under Emerging Fisheries

CDFW declares list of unmanaged forage species to be “Emerging Fisheries”



Commission acts under Emerging Fisheries provisions to:

- Prohibit new directed fisheries; set caps on existing incidental catch and artisanal landings for each species
- Define experimental fishing process for New Forage Fishery, consisting of 4 steps:

When New Forage Fishery is Proposed:

1. Commission reviews available EFI and considers experimental fishing



2. Research plan approved by the Commission



3. Experimental fishing begins, gathers EFI



4. Research, Fishing, and EFI combine to form FMP

Request for MRC Guidance

1. Draft Proposal on Unmanaged Forage Fish

Our request:

- MRC guidance on approach
- Seek input and advice from DFW, MRC, & staff
- MRC request FGC consideration moving forward



2. Progress in Collaborative Herring Process

Our request:

- Support for continued planning toward an FMP

