

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: March 20, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: **Agenda Item for the April 8-9, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Request to Amend Sections 28.20 and 28.95, Title 14, CCR**

The attached Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons, Request to Amend Sections 28.20 and 28.95, Title 14, CCR, Pacific Halibut, is being submitted to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to show that 28 public comments have been received to date and no additional regulatory changes have been made since the public notice of the Initial Statement of Reasons.

In light of the need to hold catches in 2015 to a federal quota established by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), there is a need to shorten the 2015 recreational fishing season more than what is in current regulation. The Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) proposed regulations will implement a recreational quota management approach to ensure that California does not exceed its federal Pacific halibut quota. The Department held a public meeting on February 4 to solicit input on the 2015 season. After considering the public input received and a need to balance competing interests, the Department recommended the following season dates to NMFS for the 2015 season: May 1 to 15, June 1 to 15, July 1 to 15, August 1 to 15, and September 1 to October 31. These dates would be open to fishing until the quota has been taken, or until October 31, whichever comes first, at which time the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the year.

The NMFS final regulations are expected to be effective and available prior to the Commission's April adoption hearing in Santa Rosa.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Melanie Parker, Environmental Scientist, Marine Region, at (831) 649-2814, or Melanie.Parker@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachment

ec: Department of Fish and Wildlife

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