

Memorandum

Date: January 12, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: **Submission of Amended Initial Statement of Reasons to Amend Recreational Fishing Regulations for Federal Groundfish and Associated Species for 2015 and 2016.**

On June 24, 2014, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) took final action regarding recreational fishing regulations for federally-managed groundfish species for the 2015-2016 management cycle. The Commission authorized publication of its notice of intent to consider amendment of recreational fishing regulations for federally-managed groundfish species at its August 6, 2014 meeting. The Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) in support of this notice was filed with the Office of Administrative Law and the notice appeared in the California Regulatory Notice Register on August 22, 2014.

On November 19, 2014, further recommendations were made by the Council to stay within allowable limits for some species. On December 3, 2014, the Department explained the rationale behind the Council's recommendations and recommended that the Commission defer action on this rulemaking. The Commission approved continuing the agenda item to the February 11, 2015 meeting.

The Department's Amended ISOR, which is attached, proposes regulatory changes needed to align state regulations with federal regulations expected to be in effect for 2015 and 2016. The Amended ISOR contains additional recommendations to reduce the season length for California scorpionfish and establish a sub-bag limit for black rockfish.

Because the additional regulations are sufficiently related to those originally proposed, a 15-day public comment period is needed. The Amended ISOR must be transmitted by January 20, 2015 in order to allow the comment period to be completed prior to the February 11, 2015 Commission meeting.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager of the Marine Region at (805) 568-1246 or by email at craig.shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachments

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