

State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: January 20, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Subject: **Consent Item for the February 11-12, 2015, Fish and Game Commission Meeting: The Cultured Abalone Farm, LLC Kelp Harvest Plan**

In accordance with the revised 2014 regulations for mechanical harvesters of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) [Sections 165(c)(6) and 165.5(b)(2), Title 14, California Code of Regulations], The Cultured Abalone Farm, LLC, submitted a kelp harvest plan (KHP) for leasable beds (beds which are available for harvest by all commercial kelp harvesters until an exclusive lease is obtained) and open beds (beds which are available for harvest by all commercial kelp harvesters and cannot be leased). Specific beds described within the KHP are leasable beds 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31, 32 and open beds 18, 23, 25, and 28 located in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The KHP included additional information for their existing leased beds (26 and 208 in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, respectively) to bring them in compliance with the revised 2014 regulations.

The Department has reviewed the KHP and determined that it meets the standards necessary for a KHP and recommends the Fish and Game Commission approve the plan for a five-year period.

A second commercial harvester, The Abalone Farm, Inc., has also requested to harvest in beds 20, 21, 23, 25, and 28 in their submitted KHP. Current regulations allow harvest in these beds by multiple harvesters.

If you have any questions or to request additional information, please contact Mr. Stephen Wertz, Senior Environmental Scientist, by telephone at (562) 342-7184.

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