

STAFF SUMMARY FOR APRIL 13-14, 2016

13. FORAGE SPECIES**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

DFW presentation re: Federal regulations to protect unmanaged forage species

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Receive petition (denied) Dec 9-10, 2015; San Diego
- **Today's DFW Presentation** **Apr 13-14, 2016; Santa Rosa**

Background

In Mar 2015, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) took final action on the Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 1 (CEBA 1) to prohibit the future development of directed commercial fisheries for certain forage fish species in Federal marine waters until the Council can assess potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the greater marine ecosystem. The action recognizes the importance of forage fish to the marine ecosystem off the West Coast, and provides adequate protection for forage fish by prohibiting directed commercial fishing for certain forage fish species while continuing to allow incidental catch of those species. Last month, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approved CEBA 1, and the final rule is scheduled to publish in the coming weeks.

At the Dec 2015 meeting in San Diego, FGC denied a petition by the Ocean Conservancy and others to consider a rulemaking process to establish conformance regulations in state waters because the authority for this change rests with DFW. FGC, in support of a recommendation from the Marine Resources Committee, requested that DFW provide an overview of the actions taken by PFMC and approved by NMFS, and to outline DFW's next steps to conform to federal action. Marine Region staff will present the requested overview today (Exhibit 1),

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

1. [DFW presentation](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)



Update on Federal Actions to Protect Unmanaged Forage Fish



California Fish and Game Commission Meeting

April 13, 2016

Santa Rosa

Deb Wilson-Vandenberg
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region



Overview

- Shared Ecosystem Component Species
- Timeline of Federal Events
- Next Steps



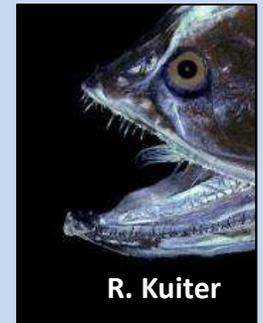


Shared Ecosystem Component Species

- Round and Thread herring
- Mesopelagic fishes (Myctophids or lanternfish)
- Pacific sandlance
- Pacific saury
- Silversides
- Osmerid (“true”) smelts
- Pelagic squids (not Humboldt squid)



Round Herring, Etrumeus teres. Photo courtesy John Snow.



R. Kuitert



Alaskafisheries.noaa



J. Harding/NOAA



CDFW



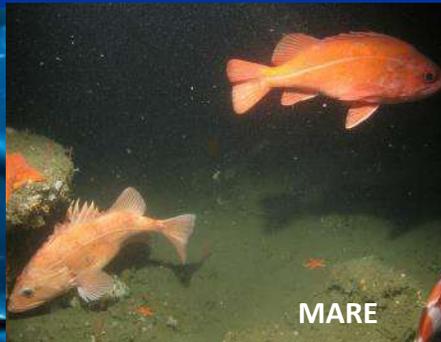
NOAA Fisheries



CDFW



Shared Ecosystem Component Species



- Important for Fishery Management Plan Species
- Important for Birds, Marine Mammals, People

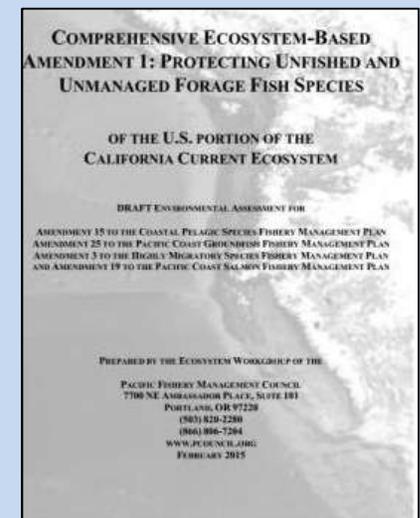




Federal Actions Timeline



- April 2013 – Adopted Fishery Ecosystem Plan
 - Began Forage Fish Initiative
- April 2014 – Adopted Purpose and Need Statement
- March 2015 – Adopted language for Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment (CEBA – 1)
- September 2015 – Finalized regulatory language
- March 2, 2016 – NMFS approved CEBA –1
- Spring 2016 – Final rule publishes





Next Steps

- CDFW Director's authority to conform state regulations (FGC Section 7652)
- Exploring consistencies with existing State activities





For More Information

- http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/D2a_SUP_NMFS_Rpt_forage_SEPT_2015BB.pdf
- http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/ecosystem/ceba1_ea_final_march2016.pdf



Thank You and Questions?



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