

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR JULY 21, 2016

5. PACIFIC HERRING FMP**Today's Item****Information** **Direction**

Receive DFW update on planning process to develop a Pacific herring fishery management plan.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Receive DFW update on FMP contract Mar 21, 2016; MRC, Los Alamitos
- **Today receive update on FMP process Jul 21, 2016; MRC, Petaluma**

Background

A critically important forage species in California and the west coast, FGC annually adopts commercial herring regulations to establish fishing quotas, pursuant to Section 163, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. Quotas are proposed based on herring spawning population size estimates from DFW surveys. At the Mar 2016MRC meeting, DFW provided an overview of the 2015-16 herring fishery, and implications for possible regulation changes this fall.

FGC and DFW have identified Pacific herring as a priority fishery for developing an FMP as mandated in the Marine Life Management Act. For over two years, a collaborative working group of herring fleet leaders, staff from conservation non-governmental organizations, and DFW staff, has been developing a vision and concepts for an FMP. A contract manager was recently hired to assist with FMP development. Today, DFW will introduce contracted project manager Sarah Valencia and provide updates on the status of FMP development, stock assessment peer review, and tribal consultation processes.

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