

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBURARY 8-9, 2017

28. MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEE**Today's Item**Information Action

Review tasks referred to the Marine Resources Committee (MRC), review potential agenda topics for the Mar 23, 2017 MRC meeting, and consider new topics for MRC review.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| • Most recent MRC meeting | Nov 15, 2016; Los Alamitos |
| • Today approve draft Mar MRC topics | Feb 8-9, 2017; Rohnert Park |
| • Next MRC meeting | Mar 23, 2017; San Clemente |

Background

MRC generally meets three times per year to discuss topics referred by FGC, and provides a summary and recommendations to FGC after each meeting. FGC directs committee work. This agenda item is to review topics referred by FGC to MRC for evaluation, provide guidance as to the content of the next MRC agenda, and identify any new topics to refer to MRC

MRC Work Plan and Draft Timeline

Scheduled and draft agenda topics already referred to MRC are shown in the MRC work plan (Exhibit 1) in the “Mar – San Clemente” column, and are for FGC review and consideration today. Two topics previously referred to MRC—status of the sea cucumber fishery and aquaculture best management practices—are now ready for discussion and are tentatively scheduled for Mar 2017 and Jul 2017, respectively.

New Topics

One new emerging management topic—offshore wind stakeholder engagement—is proposed for discussion in Mar 2017.

Significant Public Comments

1. A request to add an agenda item at the Mar MRC meeting to discuss possible regulatory options for abalone to test management ideas, with specific options in mind, for possible inclusion in the Abalone FMP.

Recommendation

1. Approve draft agenda topics for the Mar 23, 2017 MRC meeting
 - DFW updates
 - Update to the Marine Life Management Act Master Plan for Fisheries
 - Abalone Fishery Management Plan/Abalone Recovery Management Plan
 - Kelp and algae harvest management and regulations review
 - Annual sportfish regulations
 - Status of the sea cucumber fishery

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- Nearshore fishery permit structure review
- Special project updates
 - Fisheries Bycatch Workgroup
 - California's Fishing Communities Project
- 2. Approve new work plan topic
 - U.S. Bureau of Ocean Management: California Offshore Energy

Exhibits

1. [MRC work plan and draft agenda topics for Mar 23, 2017 meeting](#)
2. [Josh Russo letter regarding Abalone Regulatory Action 2018, dated Jan, 26, 2017](#)

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the draft agenda topics for the March 23, 2017 Marine Resources Committee meeting and approves the new topic for referral as recommended by staff.

Marine Resources Committee (MRC) 2016-17 Draft Work Plan: Scheduled topics and timeline for items referred to MRC from the Fish and Game Commission
(Updated for Feb 2017 FGC meeting)

Topic	Type	2016	2017		
		NOV 15	MAR 23	JUL 20	NOV 9
		Los Alamitos	San Clemente	Petaluma	Marina
Management Plans					
Update to MLMA Master Plan- Fisheries	MP update (MLMA)	X	X	X	X
Abalone FMP / ARMP update	FMP development	X	X	X	X
Herring FMP Updates	FMP development	X	X		
Regulatory					
Annual Sportfish Regulations	Annual		X		
Kelp and Algae Harvest Management Review	DFW project	X	X		
Nearshore Fishery Structure Review	Referral for review	X/R	X/R		
Sea cucumber fishery status and update	Referral for review		X		
Aquaculture - Best Management Practices	DFW project			X/R	
Emerging Management Issues					
California's Fishing Communities	MRC project	X	X		
Offshore Wind Stakeholder Engagement	FGC Participation		X		
Informational / Special Topics					
Marine Debris and Plastic Pollution	Informational	X			
Special Projects					
Pier and Jetty Fishing Review	Special FGC project	X			
Fisheries Bycatch Workgroup	MRC workgroup	X	X	X	

KEY: X Discussion scheduled R Recommendation to FGC anticipated

California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

January 26, 2017

RE: Abalone Regulatory Action, 2018

Esteemed Commissioners:

I am requesting an agenda item at the MRC meeting in March to discuss possible regulatory options.

Since your vote on emergency action under the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) at the December 2016 meeting, I have been working with the Department on regulatory actions that would replace the emergency action for the 2018 season if conditions don't improve or reverse.

The new management plan we are also working on will supersede the regulatory action, so this gives us a unique opportunity to use this period to test some management ideas in a real world environment.

One option we have been discussing is using a tier system for card sales. This would allow more control and flexibility in management while also giving us something closer to real time information on fishing activity during the season. We have a few ideas of how to design the tiers and would like an opportunity to discuss what we want to accomplish and how to make them work.

Another option we have developed is to reopen Fort Ross at a reduced daily limit. This would require setting aside the guidance of the ARMP. The idea of site-level regulations has come up in the past and has raised questions of how enforceable those regulations would be or whether they are too confusing to sportsmen. Since the closure of Fort Ross in 2014, the question of enforcing site-level regulations has been answered. The question of how a reduced daily limit at a single site would affect effort shift remains. This could be a very powerful tool in the new management plan.

Our hope is that we can use the regulatory action as a trial period for these ideas to better understand their values and shortcomings for possible inclusion in the FMP. This is a unique opportunity to amend, refine, or discard these management tools based on how they actually work in the field when we draft the next management plan.

Please place discussion of the abalone regulatory action for 2018 on the March MRC agenda.

Sincerely,



Joshua Russo
President, Watermen's Alliance
Board Member, Sonoma County Abalone Network
CA DFW North Coast RAAC Representative