



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Director's Office
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
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June 17, 2019

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE PACIFIC HERRING FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REGULATORY AMENDMENTS PROJECT

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*). The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), with assistance from CDFW, is providing this formal notice as the project lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDFW, assisting the Commission under its certified regulatory program, has prepared the attached FMP and Environmental Document (see Section 781.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations). The public comment period for this Notice of Availability (NOA) is from June 17, 2019 through August 1, 2019. Comments may be provided by email to the Commission at fgc@fgc.ca.gov, or by letter to the following address:

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

Pacific Herring is a natural resource currently managed by CDFW under the Commission's annual rulemaking process. The existing Pacific Herring fishery is closely regulated through a catch quota system, limited entry permits, seasons, gear restrictions, closed fishing areas, and landings requirements. The Pacific Herring FMP, if adopted, will serve as the framework to manage the commercial and recreational fishery for Pacific Herring in accordance with Fish and Game Code sections 8550-8559, and 7078. Amendments to existing regulations, if adopted, will implement the FMP pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 7072, 7075, and 7080-7088.

The project to be described is commercial and recreational fishing as an element of CDFW's Pacific Herring management program. The locations of the project are San Francisco Bay, Tomales Bay, Humboldt Bay and Crescent City Harbor. Pacific Herring are harvested primarily for their roe (eggs) during the months of January through March (spawning season) using small mesh gill nets to take whole fish. Minor fisheries are also conducted for roe on kelp, human consumption and bait purposes.