

Attachment to Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Project Description

The proposed project is the adoption of a fishery management plan (FMP) for Pacific herring fishing under the State's jurisdiction. The project includes both commercial and recreational fishing as an element of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Pacific herring management program. Herring are primarily harvested commercially for their roe (eggs) during the months of January through March (spawning season) using small-mesh, set gill nets to take whole fish.

Minor fisheries are also conducted for roe on kelp, human consumption, and bait purposes. Once an FMP is adopted, regulations implementing the FMP and the State's policies for managing the commercial and recreational take of Pacific herring will be considered for inclusion in the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The proposed project includes recommendations for continuation, amendment, or change to an existing body of regulations (sections 27.60, 163, 163.5, and 164, Title 14, CCR). The recommendations are based on fishery modeling, biological assessments of existing stock conditions, and comments received from an FMP steering committee (composed of fishery representatives and members of the conservation community), interested individuals, commercial fishermen, and from the Department Director's Herring Advisory Committee.

The Pacific herring FMP would further refine and implement the long-term management objectives as well as meet requirements for fisheries management under the Marine Life Management Act. The FMP would serve as the framework to manage the commercial and recreational fisheries for Pacific herring in accordance with Fish and Game Code (sections 8850-8559, and 7078). Amendments to existing regulations, if adopted, will implement the FMP pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 7072, 7075, and 7080-7088.

Project Location

The project is located within state waters in coastal northern and central California, including San Francisco Bay, Tomales Bay, Humboldt Bay, and Crescent City Harbor, encompassing seven counties: San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Humboldt, and Del Norte.