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Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
fgc@fgc.ca.gov
www.fgc.ca.gov

December 20, 2021

RE: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FOR THE PINK (OCEAN) SHRIMP, *PANDALUS JORDANI*, FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (SCH# 2021100056)

To Interested Parties:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is making available a draft environmental document (ED) for public review. To assist the Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prepared a draft ED in compliance with CEQA and the Commission's Certified Regulatory Program (see generally CEQA Guidelines, Section 15132 and Section 15252; California Code Regs., Title. 14, Section 781.5) to provide the public, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies with information about the proposed Pink (Ocean) Shrimp, *Pandalus jordani*, Fishery Management Plan (FMP), potential environmental effects of the FMP, and reasonable alternatives to the proposed FMP framework. Commission staff reviewed the draft ED prepared by CDFW and determined that it reflects the independent judgment of the Commission. The Commission hereby invites comments on the adequacy and completeness of environmental analysis in the draft FMP/ED.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The proposed project would establish a management framework for the California pink shrimp commercial trawl fishery through an FMP. The range of this fishery is limited by a combination of biological and regulatory factors. Pink shrimp are found at depths shallower than 1,200 ft (~360 m) in sandy mud habitat (Dahlstrom 1973). Shrimp trawling is currently prohibited inside state waters (sections 8833, 8835, 8836, and 8842, California Fish and Game Code); it is also subject to exclusion from the federal Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCA; 50 Code of Federal Regulations sections 660.11, 660.12, and 660.79). Figure 1 represents the project's areas of potential effects by incorporating the maximum depth where pink shrimp occurs, the limit of the state jurisdiction, and existing EFHCAs. While this area spans the coast of California, California's pink shrimp fishery predominately occurs north of Point Conception with landing occurring at ports within Del Norte, Humboldt, and San Luis Obispo counties.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: The draft FMP/ED evaluated the potential effects on biological resources and concluded that impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

DOCUMENT REVIEW AND COMMENT: The FMP/ED is available for a 45-day public review and comment period, which begins on December 20, 2021, and ends on February 3, 2022.

The draft FMP/ED and supporting documents are available for download on CDFW's website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Invertebrates/Shrimp-Prawn>.

Printed copies of the draft FMP/ED are available for review during business hours at the Commission's office located at 715 P Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Please call the Commission at (916) 653-4899 at least one business day prior to arrival. Printed copies are also available for review during regular business hours at county libraries in Del Norte, Humboldt, and San Luis Obispo counties (listed below).

- Crescent City Main Library, 190 Price Mall, Crescent City, CA 95531
- Eureka Main Library, 1313 3rd Street, Eureka, CA 95501
- San Luis Obispo Library, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Comments may be sent via email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or mailed to the following address:

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

PUBLIC MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: This item will be considered for adoption at the Commission meeting on April 20-21, 2022. See <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings/2022> for more information.

Sincerely,



Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission

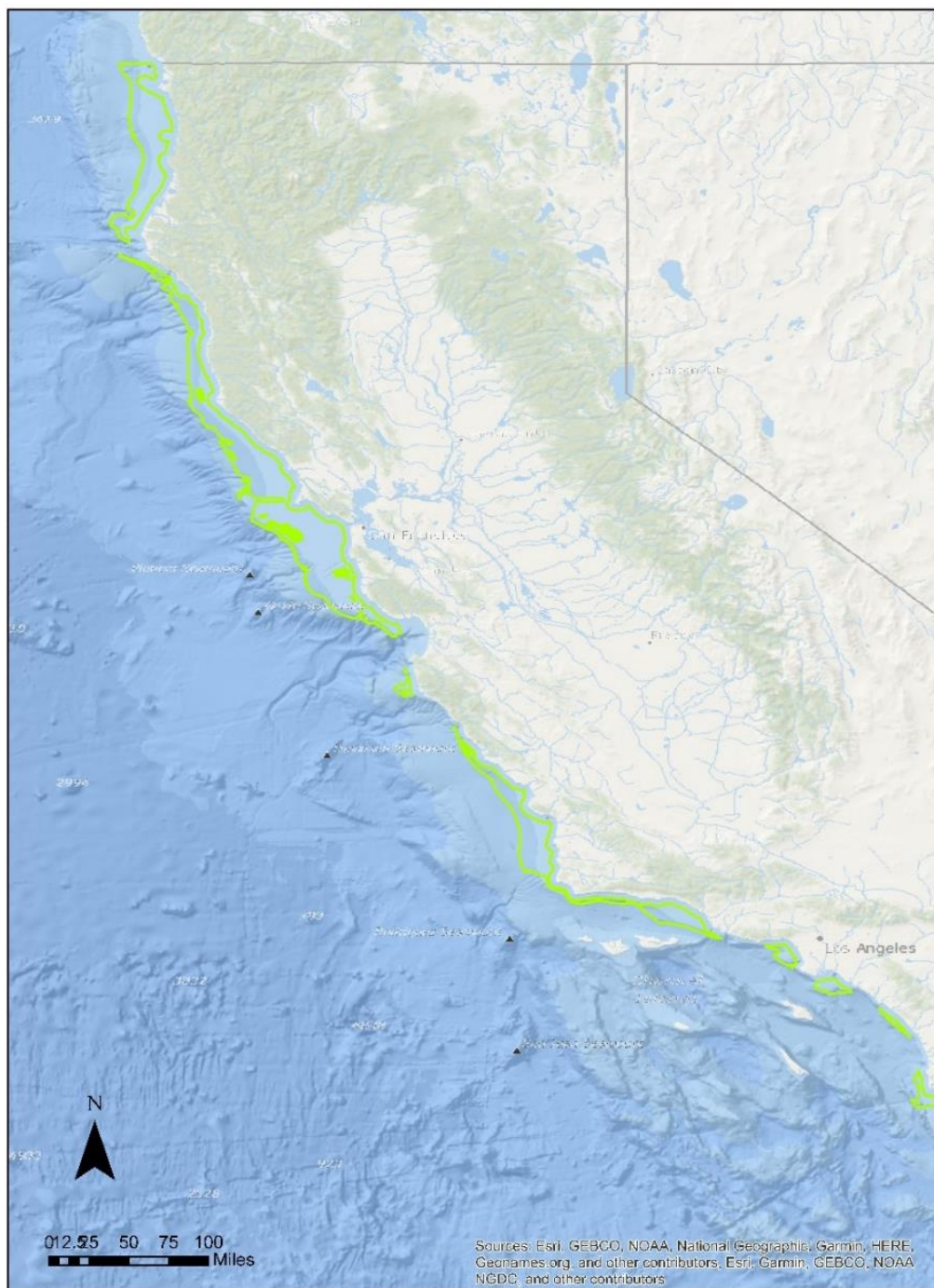


Figure 1. Project Area (Area outside of state jurisdiction and less than 360-meter depth off California Coast; bounded by green line with solid green areas denoting federal conservation areas where bottom trawling is prohibited.)