

Notice of Intent to Adopt Negative Declaration

Lead Agency:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Subject:

Notice of Intent to adopt negative declaration pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act, Article 6, Section 15074

Project Title:

Chinook Salmon Coastal Releases at Santa Cruz Wharf, Monterey Harbor, and Pillar Point Harbor

Project Locations:

1. Santa Cruz Wharf (Santa Cruz County) (36.958751°, -122.017397°)
2. Monterey Harbor (Monterey County) (36.605514°, -121.889288°)
3. Pillar Point Harbor (San Mateo County) (37.501274°, -122.482717°)

Project Description:

The Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project (MBSTP) proposes to release up to 160,000 juvenile hatchery-origin (HO) Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FRCS) into Monterey Bay from the Santa Cruz Wharf and up to 160,000 juvenile HO CV FRCS into Monterey Bay at the Monterey Harbor each spring annually for 5 years (2025-2029). The Coastside Fishing Club (CFC) proposes to release up to 750,000 juvenile juvenile HO CV FRCS into Pillar Point Harbor each spring annually for 5 years (2025-2029). For all Project years, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff would tag juvenile hatchery salmon with a coded wire tag and mark with an adipose fin-clip at a rate of 100% of the total number of released fish at Santa Cruz Wharf and Monterey Harbor, and a rate of 25% of the total number of released fish at Pillar Point Harbor. All Project fish would be evaluated by a CDFW Fish Health pathologist and certified to be disease-free prior to leaving the hatchery. The Project's objective is to enhance local sport and commercial salmon fisheries. Released

smolts will feed and grow along the coast and be available for harvest as adults in one to three years

Document Availability:

The Initial Study will be available for review on Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 here:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=229691>

Questions and public comments can be directed to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fisheries Branch
Attention: Colby Hause
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Determination:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife finds that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment. The completed Initial Study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the basis for this finding, and CDFW's determination that no significant effect on the environment would occur as a result of Project implementation, and there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before CDFW, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment (see Initial Study and Environmental Checklist). Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080, subd. (c)(1).

The Initial Study concluded that the Project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and public services. The Project would have no impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire.