

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

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

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact Name: Colby Hause

Email: colby.hause@wildlife.ca.gov Phone Number: 916-902-9204

Project Location: See Attachment A

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

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.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Project would have less than significant impacts on Biological Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Public Services at Santa Cruz Wharf, Monterey Harbor, and Pillar Point Harbor and surrounding areas, as set forth in detail in the environmental checklist, and no impacts to other resource areas. This Project has taken steps to reduce potential for straying through lowered acclimation times (0-5 days). Therefore, any potential cumulative effects resulting from Project activities will have less than significant impacts based on the best available data. Additionally, CDFW has taken steps to establish standardized monitoring protocols and coordination across agencies in coastal watersheds where salmonid monitoring occurs to collect data on any potential impacts of coastal-released Chinook salmon.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The primary concern raised by agencies or the public pertains to the potential for Central Valley (CV) hatchery-raised salmon released at coastal sites to stray into nearby coastal streams and negatively impact native populations of threatened or endangered salmon and steelhead. CDFW determined possible impacts include (1) competition for resources with endangered salmon and steelhead (2) stock hybridization and (3) establishment of an out-of-basin spawning population of CV fall-run Chinook salmon in coastal streams where the species does not naturally occur. However, the Department has determined that it is unlikely that these three concerns would result in any significant effects, either directly or indirectly, which is detailed in the Initial Study.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Attachment A: Project Location

Project Location 1

City: Santa Cruz
County: Santa Cruz

Project Location 2

City: Monterey
County: Monterey

Project Location 3

City: Half Moon Bay
County: San Mateo