

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: Proposed Amendments to Sections 5.75(c) and (d), and 27.85(c), Striped Bass Harvest Limits

Lead Agency: California Fish and Game Commission

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Project Location: Inland anadromous and marine waters

City

County

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

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) proposes to amend Sections 5.75(c) and (d), and 27.85(c) related to striped bass harvest limits for sport fishing for the 2026 season and onward. Currently, any striped bass 18 inches or greater may be harvested within anadromous and marine waters north of Point Conception with a daily bag limit of two fish. The proposed regulation change would impose a "slot limit" within these waters whereby only striped bass from 18 to 30 inches total length would be available for harvest in the sport fishery, with no proposed change to the bag limit or season.

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

The initial study and the Commission's review of the project showed that the project will not have any significant or potentially significant effects on the environment and therefore no alternatives or mitigation measures are proposed to avoid or reduce any significant effects on the environment.

The project will not have a significant effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Therefore, a negative declaration is filed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21080, subdivision (c).

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

During the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in which this project was noticed, there was discussion among the Commissioners and Department staff regarding the impact of striped bass predation on native salmonids. The discussion lead to questions about the degree of impact and what level of evidence is necessary to make a decision on this rulemaking. To date, the Department has conducted a literature and data review of 24 published documents that focused on striped bass diet, foraging, behavior, and predation. The Department found there is insufficient evidence to determine that a 30 inch harvest size limit will have population level impacts to native salmonids.

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

California Department of Fish and Wildlife