

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #**Project Title:** Proposed Amendments to Commercial Groundfish regulations, Rescinding of Select Commercial Groundfish Management Measures, Title 14, Sections 150.06 & 150.16, California Code of Regulations

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact Person: Andre Klein

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Phone: (831) 241-1830

City: Monterey

County: Monterey

Zip: 93940

Project Location: Statewide

City/Nearest Community: California State Coastal Waters

Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____° ____' ____" N / ____° ____' ____" W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: N. California Coastal waters

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP

Draft EIR

NEPA: NOI

Other: Joint Document

Early Cons

Supplemental/Subsequent EIR

EA

Final Document

☒ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) _____

Draft EIS

Other: _____

Mit Neg Dec

Other: _____

FONSI

Local Action Type:

n/a General Plan Update

n/a Specific Plan

n/a Rezone

n/a Annexation

n/a General Plan Amendment

n/a Master Plan

n/a Prezone

n/a Redevelopment

n/a General Plan Element

n/a Planned Unit Development

n/a Use Permit

n/a Coastal Permit

n/a Community Plan

n/a Site Plan

n/a Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) n/a Other: _____

Development Type:

n/a Residential: Units _____ Acres _____

n/a Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

n/a Transportation: Type _____

n/a Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

n/a Mining: Mineral _____

n/a Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____

n/a Power: Type _____ MW _____

n/a Educational: _____

n/a Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____

n/a Recreational: _____

n/a Hazardous Waste: Type _____

n/a Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ ☒ Other: Commercial groundfish fishing regulations**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual

n/a Fiscal

☒ Recreation/Parks

n/a Vegetation

☒ Agricultural Land

n/a Flood Plain/Flooding

n/a Schools/Universities

n/a Water Quality

☒ Air Quality

n/a Forest Land/Fire Hazard

n/a Septic Systems

n/a Water Supply/Groundwater

n/a Archeological/Historical

☒ Geologic/Seismic

n/a Sewer Capacity

n/a Wetland/Riparian

☒ Biological Resources☒ Minerals

n/a Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

n/a Growth Inducement

n/a Coastal Zone

☒ Noise

n/a Solid Waste

☒ Land Use

n/a Drainage/Absorption

☒ Population/Housing Balance

n/a Toxic/Hazardous

n/a Cumulative Effects

n/a Economic/Jobs

☒ Public Services/Facilities☒ Traffic/Circulation☒ Other: Cultural, Energy GHG, Fishing, Wildfire, Trib**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:****Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

Regulatory authority for the commercial groundfish fisheries is shared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and federal government, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the states of Oregon and Washington, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to manage West Coast and California groundfish recreational and commercial fisheries, on a sustainable basis. State regulations vary by species/groups and groundfish management area, and are designed to keep harvests within federally-established limits. One of the groundfish species, quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*), has driven extensive management actions taken recently. Results of a 2021 quillback rockfish data-moderate stock assessment concluded that the population of quillback rockfish off California was in severe decline. The Department adopted emergency regulations that defined the 20-fathom boundary line, and established the commercial California Groundfish Restriction Area (CGRA) and put those in place long-term in early 2025.

On June 9, 2025, a draft stock assessment for quillback rockfish off California became available. This new, more robust assessment considered all available data sources, including newly available California-specific life history information, and did not rely on proxy data from other states as the 2021 data-moderate assessment had. The 2025 assessment results indicate that the California quillback stock is healthy and not overfished, a major reversal from the 2021 data-moderate stock assessment.

In response to the draft quillback rockfish stock assessment, the Department adopted emergency regulations which rescinded the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line for commercial groundfish fisheries north of 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo) put in place in early 2025 as a result of the 2021 stock assessment and became effective on August 21, 2025. The emergency rulemaking also extended federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters north of 37° 07' N latitude.

For this Project, the Department proposes to amend commercial groundfish fishing regulations as set forth in Sections 150.06 and 150.16 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations through a certificate of compliance action to make permanent these emergency regulations currently in place, including:

1. rescind the CGRA and associated 20-fathom boundary line north of 37° 07' N latitude (Año Nuevo, San Mateo County); and,
2. extend federal trip limits for non-nearshore groundfish stocks into state waters.

[continued on next page]

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

	Air Resources Board		Office of Historic Preservation
X	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
	Caltrans District #		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics		Regional WQCB #
X	Caltrans Planning	X	Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	X	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
X	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of	X	State Lands Commission
X	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of	X	SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # 7		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of	X	Other: Fish and Wildlife Dept. of (Headquarters)
	Health Services, Department of		Other:
	Housing & Community Development		
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 30, 2026 Ending Date March 16, 2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: n/a Applicant: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____ Phone: _____
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: January 29, 2026

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.