State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: November ~~14~~ 20, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the December 3, 2014 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Regarding Title 14 Amendments of Recreational Fishing Regulations for Federal Groundfish and Associated Species for Consistency with Federal Rules for 2015 and 2016**

The attached Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons is being submitted to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to show no additional regulatory changes have been made since the public notice of the Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and two public comments were received in support of the proposed changes.

The regulatory changes proposed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) provide consistency with Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) recommendations for the 2015 and 2016 recreational groundfish regulations and will bring State law into conformance with federal law for groundfish and other federally-managed species:

- Extend the season length in the Mendocino, San Francisco, and Central management areas;
- Increase the allowable depth in the Southern Management Area;
- Increase the bag limit for lingcod from two to three fish;
- Correct the scientific name for soupfin shark;
- Re-define the species included in "skates" and "other fish" species groups to reflect additions to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; and
- Change references to "rattail" to the correct name of "grenadier".

In addition, the proposed regulations change reference to Drake's Estero Bay to the proper name of Drake's Bay; repeal subsection 27.35(b)(3) relating to the Cordell Bank Closure Area; and correct spelling errors, simplify and clarify the regulations.

Adoption of the actions proposed in the ISOR will allow the Commission to amend State recreational groundfish regulations to timely conform to those taking effect in federal ocean waters.

Originally the federal regulations were expected to be in place on January 1, 2015, but recent developments may result in the federal effective date being delayed until March 1, 2015 or later. The Department will provide an update at the December meeting.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Craig Shuman, Regional Manager of the Marine Region at (805) 568-1246 or by email at craig.shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachments

ec: Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov

Craig Shuman, Manager
Marine Region (Region 7)
Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov

Marci Yaremko, Program Manager
State and Federal Fisheries, Marine Region (Region 7)
Marci.Yaremko@wildlife.ca.gov

Joanna Grebel, Senior Environmental Scientist
Marine Region (Region 7)
Joanna.Grebel@wildlife.ca.gov

Andrew Klein, Environmental Scientist
Marine Region (Region 7)
Andrew.Klein@wildlife.ca.gov

Craig Martz, Program Manager
Regulations Unit, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Craig.Martz@wildlife.ca.gov

Scott Barrow, Senior Environmental Scientist
Regulations Unit, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Scott.Barrow@wildlife.ca.gov