

**Commissioners**  
**Michael Sutton**, President  
Monterey

**Jack Baylis**, Vice President  
Los Angeles

**Jim Kellogg**, Member  
Discovery Bay

**Richard Rogers**, Member  
Santa Barbara

**Jacque Hostler-Carmesin**, Member  
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

## Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

**Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director**  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4899  
(916) 653-5040 Fax  
[www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov)

February 4, 2015

Mr. Scott Zahl  
Cove Mussel Company  
P.O. Box 745  
Marshall, California 94940

Sent via email to [covemussel@gmail.com](mailto:covemussel@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Zahl:

As you know, at its December 3, 2014 meeting in Van Nuys the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) deferred action on your request to sublease a portion of Cove Mussel Company's Aquaculture Lease M-30-06 to Mr. Christopher Starbird pending a review of the process by which to consider the request. We have completed our review at this time.

Your current lease stipulates that "This lease is personal to the Lessee and shall not be transferred, assigned, hypothecated or subleased, either voluntarily or by operation of law, without prior approval of the Fish and Game Commission." As lessor and signatory to the lease, and representative for the Commission, I am positioned to consider approving your request; no further action by the Commission will be necessary.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has provided an evaluation of your request, and has found that Mr. Starbird is presently a registered aquaculturist, and that the proposed activities for the sublease area are entirely consistent with the provisions of the existing Cove Mussel Company lease. Based on these findings, I am granting you written approval to sublease as requested, under the following conditions: Cove Mussel Company remains responsible for compliance with all terms, conditions, and covenants of the lease and maintains liability for all portions of the lease bed; all transactions (including administrative, payment of fees, etc.) will continue to occur between the lessor and Cove Mussel Company only.

I will update the Commission on this approval at its February 11, 2015 meeting in Sacramento; the update will be provided under agenda item 21(A), staff report (see attached agenda). On the day of the meeting, you may view and listen to the meeting live from the Fish and Game Commission website at [www.fgc.ca.gov](http://www.fgc.ca.gov).

Scott Zahl  
February 4, 2015  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Ashcraft of my staff at 916.653.1803 or [Susan.Ashcraft@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:Susan.Ashcraft@fgc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sonke Mastrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director

Attachment

ec: Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
([Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov))  
Craig Shuman, Marine Region Manager, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
([Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov))  
Randy Lovell, State Aquaculture Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
([Randy.Lovell@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Randy.Lovell@wildlife.ca.gov))  
Kirsten Ramey, Marine Aquaculture Coordinator, California Department of Fish  
and Wildlife ([Kirsten.Ramey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kirsten.Ramey@wildlife.ca.gov))