

**TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission  
Notice of Emergency Regulatory Action**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 203.1, 205(c), 219, 220, 240, 1590, 1591, 2860, 2861 and 6850 of the Fish and Game Code, and Sections 36725(a) and 36725(e) of the Public Resources Code, and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 200, 202, 203.1, 205(c), 219, 220, 240, 1580, 1583, 2861, 5521, 6653, 8420(e), and 8500 of the Fish and Game Code, and Sections 36700(e), 36710(e), 36725(a) and 36725(e) of the Public Resources Code, proposes to amend Section 632, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve and Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area.

**Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview**

A. Laws Related to the Emergency Regulation

The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA, Stats. 1998, ch. 1052) created a broad programmatic framework for managing fisheries through a variety of conservation measures, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999, ch. 1015) established a programmatic framework for designating such MPAs in the form of a statewide network. AB 2800 (Stats. 2000, ch. 385) enacted the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA), among other things, to standardize the designation of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), which include MPAs. The overriding goal of these acts is to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of California's marine resources. Unlike previous laws, which focused on individual species, the acts focus on maintaining the health of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in order to sustain resources.

The MLPA requires that the Commission adopt a Marine Life Protection Program that, in part, contains an improved marine reserve (now state marine reserve) component [Fish and Game Code (FGC) subsection 2853(c)(1)] and protects the natural diversity of marine life and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems [FGC subsection 2853(b)(1)]. This protection may help provide sustainable resources as well as enhance functioning ecosystems that provide benefits to both consumptive and non-consumptive user groups. The program may include MPAs with various levels of protection, from no take of any kind to those that allow for specified commercial and recreational activities, provided that these activities are consistent with the objectives of the area and the goals and guidelines of the MLPA.

On August 5, 2009, the Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations to implement MPAs for California's north central coast, defined as state waters between Alder Creek, near Point Arena (Mendocino County) and Pigeon Point (San Mateo County), including the Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve (SMR) in which take of all living marine resources is prohibited. These regulations became effective May 1, 2010.

B. Effect of the Emergency Action

This amendment of Section 632 will establish the Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). The general boundaries of the SMCA will be from the mean high tide line to a line that approximates a distance of 1000 feet offshore, and from the northern boundary of the existing Stewarts Point SMR to just below Rocky Point, approximately four miles south. All

commercial take of living marine resources will be prohibited. The recreational take of marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish by hook and line, surf smelt by beach net, and species authorized in Section 28.80 (including surf smelt) by hand-held dip net will be authorized consistent with other applicable law.

The proposed SMCA would leave three miles of coastline in SMR status, which meets the minimum science guidelines for coastal protection of nearshore habitats.

### **C. Policy Statement Overview**

The objective of this emergency regulation is to create the Stewarts Point SMCA and to allow specified recreational take of living marine resources within the SMCA.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format are attached to this notice. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

### **Section 240 Finding**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Commission by FGC Section 240, and for the reasons set forth in the attached Statement of Facts Constituting Need for Emergency Action, the Commission expressly finds that the adoption of this regulation is necessary for the immediate preservation of the health and safety and general welfare. The Commission specifically finds that the amendment of this regulation will avoid serious harm to the health and safety and general welfare of the Kashia people by allowing them to take living marine resources for subsistence purposes.

### **Public Comments on Proposed Emergency Regulations**

Government Code section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), the adopting agency provide a notice of the proposed emergency action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulatory action with the agency. After submission of the proposed emergency to OAL, OAL shall allow interested persons five calendar days to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations as set forth in Government Code section 11349.6.

In order to be considered, public comments on proposed emergency regulations must be submitted in writing to the Office of Administrative Law, 300 Capitol Mall, Room 1250, Sacramento, CA 95814; AND to the Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, or via fax to (916) 653-5040 or via e-mail to [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov). Comments must identify the emergency topic and may address the finding of emergency, the standards set forth in sections 11346.1 and 11349.1 of the Government Code and Section 240 of the Fish and Game Code. Comments must be received within five calendar days of filing of the emergency regulations. Please refer to OAL's website ([www.oal.ca.gov](http://www.oal.ca.gov)) to determine the date on which the regulations are filed with OAL.

### **Impact of Regulatory Action**

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the emergency regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:  
None.
- (b) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:  
None.
- (c) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:  
None.
- (d) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code:  
None.
- (e) Effect on Housing Costs:  
None.

### **Effect on Small Business**

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

### **Consideration of Alternatives**

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: June 30, 2010

Jon K. Fischer  
Deputy Executive Director