

**PROPOSED FORAGE SPECIES RESOLUTION FOR MONTEREY BAY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

AT A MEETING OF THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL HELD AT PACIFIC
GROVE, CA, ON DECEMBER 13, 2012

RESOLUTION-FORAGE SPECIES POLICY SUPPORT

WHEREAS, The Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) recognizes the importance of forage species and their protection in the marine ecosystem, including wildlife and fisheries in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The SAC acknowledges their dual value as forage for dependent predators and as landings in sustainably managed fisheries.

WHEREAS, The Sanctuary Advisory Council commends federal fishery managers' efforts to develop a Fishery Ecosystem Plan, Integrated Ecosystem Assessment, and Annual State of the Ecosystem Report to strategically integrate ecosystem-based management principles into fishery management.

WHEREAS, The SAC supports the policies on forage species recently adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (attached).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Sanctuary Advisory Council encourages the MBNMS to identify opportunities to advance policies and scientific endeavors that help protect and understand the California Current forage species as appropriate with state and federal fishery management bodies.

Dated: _____ Sanctuary Advisory Council, NOAA Monterey Bay
National Marine Sanctuary

***Attachments: California Fish and Game Commission and Pacific Fishery
Management Council policies***

Attachment 1:

California Fish and Game Commission Policy on Forage Species

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

I. For purposes of California fisheries management, forage species are defined as species that contribute significantly to the diets of larger organisms during some part of their life history, thereby transferring energy and nutrients to higher trophic levels in the ecosystem.

II. The Commission recognizes the importance of forage species to the marine ecosystem off California's coast and envisions management of forage species that: optimizes their ecological, economic and social values; accounts for the benefits rendered by forage species to other species, fisheries, wildlife, and the overall ecosystem; and considers recreational and commercial fishing interests and other economic sectors.

III. The Commission intends to provide adequate protection for forage species through management goals that:

- Are precautionary and utilize the best available science in management decisions using clear and transparent methods;
- Identify and progressively incorporate Essential Fishery Information (EFI) needed for ecosystem-based management of forage species, including physical factors, oceanographic conditions, the effects of fishing on forage species' dependent predators, the availability of alternative prey, spatio-temporal foraging hotspots for predators, and existing management, including marine protected areas;
- Prevent the development of new or expanded forage fisheries until EFI is available and applied to ensure the sustainability of target forage species and protection of its benefits as prey; and
- Facilitate consistency in the management of forage species, integrate with existing Fishery Management Plans, and encourage cooperation and collaboration across jurisdictions and international boundaries in managing forage species.

Policy adopted unanimously by the California Fish and Game Commission on November 7, 2012 in Los Angeles, California.

Attachment 2:

Pacific Fishery Management Council: Agenda Item G.1.d Supplemental REVISED Final Council Action June 2012

It is the Council's intent to recognize the importance of forage fish to the marine ecosystem off our coast, and to provide adequate protection for forage fish. We declare that our objective is to prohibit the development of new directed fisheries on forage species that are not currently managed by our Council, or the States, until we have an adequate opportunity to assess the science relating to the fishery and any potential impacts to our existing fisheries and communities.

The Council directs the Ecosystem Plan Development Team (EPDT) to proceed with Option 2 as detailed in Agenda Item G.1.b, EPDT Report, and schedule a progress report on its work to update and revise the List of Fisheries (LOF), to be made to the Council as soon as possible after completion of the fishery ecosystem plan (FEP). The Council further directs that:

- A. Regarding the LOF, all Council advisory bodies shall be tasked with identifying fisheries and authorized gears for Federal fisheries operating in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off each state in the most specific and narrow terms possible, for incorporation into the updated List. This exercise shall be completed by the advisory bodies and provided to the EPDT as soon as possible after completion of the FEP.
- B. For state-managed fisheries, the states shall be responsible, through their EPDT representatives, for preparing the list of state-managed fisheries which have a nexus with Federal waters, for inclusion in the updated List.
- C. The EPDT's progress report shall include any analysis on the possible effectiveness of the LOF application process in meeting the goal of preventing development of non-existent fisheries.
- D. The report shall also include, to the extent possible, any new information or analysis regarding the application of Section 600.747 of the Federal rules, including whether there is a possibility of amending these regulations for the West Coast such that additional requirements and specifications regarding the Council's review of applications could be formally incorporated into Federal regulations.
- E. Regarding the Council's standards which would be used in assessing whether a proposed new fishery could compromise conservation and management measures within the West Coast EEZ, the EPDT progress report shall provide full detail of the proposed standards and process, in order to make the procedural and content requirements clear and transparent to both applicants and the public, consistent with the recommendations outlined in Option 2 of the EPDT Report.
- F. As soon as possible after completion of the FEP and upon receipt of the Progress Report, the Council shall review and provide guidance so that the standards (for assessing new fisheries) can be finalized for incorporation into the FEP.

After completion of the FEP, the Council will proceed to incorporate any needed protections into our current suite of Fishery Management Plans through an amendment process.

PFMC
06/24/12 3:57 p.m.