



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

March 1, 2019

**NOTICE OF CONTINUATION OF THE
CALIFORNIA SEA URCHIN COMMISSION
AS A JOINT DIVER-HANDLER COMMISSION**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) held a public hearing on November 19, 2018 in Sacramento, California to consider the continuation of the California Sea Urchin Commission (Commission) as a diver-handler commission. A hearing is required under the Commission Law to be conducted every five years to provide an opportunity for sea urchin divers and other interested parties to comment on the usefulness and effectiveness of the Commission.

Based on the testimony and evidence received during the hearing process, the Department found that a substantial question existed among sea urchin divers and handlers as to whether the Commission should be continued. Therefore, the Department conducted a referendum of divers and handlers to determine whether the California Sea Urchin Commission is to continue as a diver-handler commission for the next five years. The referendum voting period was December 17, 2018 through February 15, 2019.

The results of the referendum were as follows: out of a list of 163 eligible divers, 93 submitted valid ballots and of those submitting ballots, 75 voted in favor of continuance, representing an approval of 80.6% of those voting in the referendum, with those voting in favor representing 83% of the volume voted; and out of a list of 17 eligible handlers, 10 submitted valid ballots and of those submitting ballots, 9 voted in favor of continuance, representing an approval of 90% of those voting in the referendum, with those voting in favor representing 99.3% of the volume voted. Based on this vote of approval, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has authorized the Commission to operate for another five years as a joint diver-handler commission.



Notice of Continuation
March 1, 2019
Page Two

The California Sea Urchin Commission is a State marketing program authorized to conduct promotion and public relations, scientific research, governmental affairs, and educational activities relating to California's sea urchin industry. These activities are funded by mandatory assessments levied upon all commercial sea urchin divers and handlers in the state.

If you have questions regarding this notice or the Commission's activities, please contact David Goldenberg, Executive Director of the California Sea Urchin Commission, at (916) 933-7054 or Ben Kardokus with the Department's Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch