

Red Sea Urchin Fishery Social & Economic Resilience Workshop

Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster Declaration

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Executive Director
California Sea Urchin Commission
February 9, 2024



Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster

2014 Warm Water
Blob and 2015 El
Nino



- May 17, 2017 CSUC Requests Chuck Bonham's assistance to obtain Gubernatorial disaster declaration
- June 27, 2017 CSUC coordinates 17 Congressional Members to petition Gov Jerry Brown
- September 5, 2017 Lt. Gov Gavin Newsom sends disaster request to Wilbur Ross, Sec of Commerce for 2016
- Northern CA 5-year average down 77%
- Orange County down 93%
- San Diego down 48%

Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster

- September 24, 2018 Secretary Ross declines disaster request because the 2011-2015 state avg is 15% loss and the minimum loss must exceed 35%
- In consultation we learn NMFS believes the CA SU industry is managed as one
- February 28, 2019 Governor Gavin Newsom affirms CA SU is managed as two distinct Management Zones, and No CA experience 76% and 78% loss
- October 30, 2019 Secretary Wilbur Ross finds 2016 and 2017 meet the federal requirements for disaster



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your letter requesting a determination of a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster. Your request relates to the impacts to the 2016 and 2017 Northern California red sea urchin fishery resulting from unfavorable ocean conditions, among other factors, beyond the control of fishery managers that reduced biomass and access to the fishery in 2016 and 2017.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service evaluated information from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to assess whether a commercial fishery failure occurred due to a fishery resource disaster. After reviewing the information, I have found that the request for a commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster for the 2016 and 2017 Northern California red sea urchin fishery meets the requirements under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

This determination now makes this fishery eligible for fishery disaster assistance. The 2019 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriation (PL 116-6) included \$15 million for fishery disasters, and the 2019 Supplemental Disaster Appropriations (PL 116-20) included \$150 million for fishery disaster assistance. The Department of Commerce will determine an allocation of funds for this fishery disaster and provide the State of California information regarding the award process and requirements for these funds.

If you have any further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross
Wilbur Ross

Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster

- March 18, 2020 NMFS allocates \$3.3 million
- May 1, 2020 Chuck Bonham provides Spend Plan 79% to divers and processors, 20% mitigation and 1% to PSMC
- Pre Proposal RFP issued October 11, 2021, Full Proposal due Jan 14, 2022
- Kelp Forest Restoration
- Marketing
- Recruitment Studies
- Socio Economic Assessments
- 16 Pre Proposals Submitted
- 8 Full Proposals Requested
- 5 Full Proposals Funded

Request for Proposals:

Research on Kelp Restoration in California Urchin Fisheries



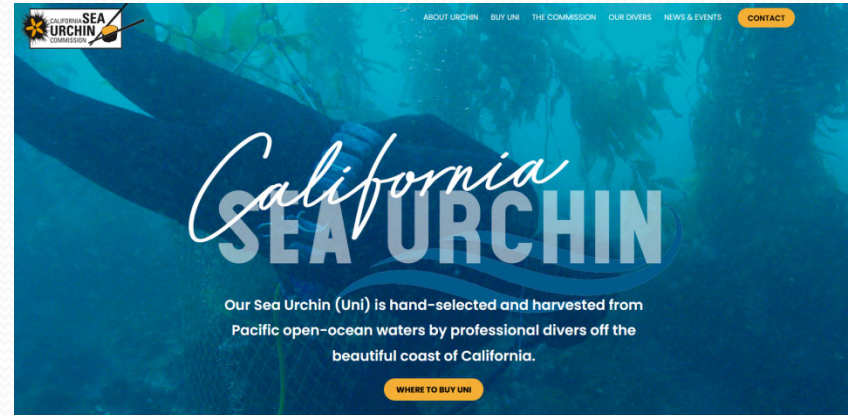
Issue Date: October 11, 2021

Deadline for Pre-Proposal Submissions: November 19, 2021

Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster

Projects funded:

- OST - Red Sea Urchin Fishery Social & Economic Resilience
- CSUC – Developing Uni Appellation Marketing Regions and Alternative Uses for Purple Urchins
- Dave Colker – CSUC Website Rebuild for Marketing & Outreach
- Greater Farallones Association – Restoration of Kelp Forest Habitat
- Fishbio Kelp Reef Duster Reseeding Bull Kelp Project



Overview of 2016, 2017 Red Urchin Fishery Disaster

Status of 2018-2019 Request?

- February 25, 2022 Gov Gavin Newsom requests 2018 and 2019 81% and 88%
- Held up on effort to qualify Southern California
- Last request, no more loss remaining
- April 25, 2022 Chuck Bonham provides additional data on 2018 and 2019
- October 6, 2023 NMFS approves Disaster request
- NOAA allocated \$1.6 million January 29, 2024

NMFS requests additional data

