



April 27, 2020

Dr. Craig Shuman
Regional Manager
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
20 Lower Ragsdale Dr, Suite 100
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Craig,

The California Sea Urchin Commission (CSUC) appreciates the efforts the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Department) has taken to assist the sea urchin industry interpret the requirements of 2016-17 Federal Fishery Disaster designation. The Invertebrate Program staff has provided exceptional leadership to industry representatives, divers and processors in explaining the complexity of crafting a responsive and equitable spend plan. On April 17 the Invertebrate Program staff held a public Webex meeting to review the disaster declaration and a proposed allocation of funding options including direct payment to divers, processors and mitigation categories. Public comments were taken during the meeting. The CSUC held a follow up public Zoom meeting on April 22 to provide further guidance to program staff.

The CSUC Board voted as an industry to recommend a modification to the Department's initial proposal. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt the following spend plan allocation:

To reduce the Mitigation Allocation from 30% to 20%. Increase the Direct Payments for divers and processors from 69% to 79% with the split between divers at 66% and processors 34%. The CSUC supports the Department's recommendation that all participants must have held a commercial diving or business license in 2016 or 2017, and to create a tiered diver reimbursement plan based on pounds landed between 2011 and 2015, with a requirement that they landed a minimum of 1,000 pounds within that time frame. In addition, the processors must have purchased a minimum of 1,000 pounds between 2011 and 2015 to qualify. Finally, all landings had to be made in ports north of San Luis/Monterey County line.

The CSUC Board discussed the mitigation options and recommends that it include marketing/economic development; buyback and kelp restoration activities that are disbursed under a competitive process administered by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Goldenberg".

David J. Goldenberg
Executive Director

cc: Joanna Greble
Sonke Mastrup
Derek Stein