CA Department of Fish & Wildlife – Marine Region
Sea Grant Fellowship Opportunity #2
State Fisheries Management Program

Host Location
California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Marine Region
619 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Supervisor and Point of Contact for Prospective Fellows and Finalists
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Position Description
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) Marine Region is responsible for protecting and managing California’s marine resources under the authority of statutes and regulations created by the State Legislature, the Fish and Game Commission, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The region accomplishes its mission through implementation of six programs, including the State Fisheries Management Program.

State Fisheries Management Program
Projects within the State Fisheries Management Program provide for diverse and sustainable finfish and invertebrate fishing (recreational and commercial), conservation of native aquatic fauna, conservation and management of California’s estuaries, other non-consumptive public uses, and associated economic benefits to the State. Managed species are those for which there is no federal or state/federal Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Marine Life Management Act Master Plan Update
The goals of the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA), which became law on January 1, 1999, are to ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of California’s living marine resources for all the state’s citizens. The MLMA has defined FMPs as the primary tool for sustainable fisheries management. Due to the large number of marine fisheries in California, and the considerable time and effort involved in the preparation of FMPs, it is important to establish guidelines and set priorities. In 2001, the CDFW developed the MLMA Master Plan (Master Plan) to specify the process and resources needed to prepare, adopt, and implement FMPs for sport and commercial marine fisheries managed by the state. The Master Plan is intended to serve as a guide for the development of future FMPs by prioritizing over 375 species of fish, invertebrates plants, and algae that are managed by the state. The plan describes the requirements and specific contents of an FMP and the tasks required of technical, enforcement, and administrative staffs to achieve a successful FMP. It describes CDFW’s research, monitoring, and data collection activities and identifies and prioritizes future research needs. The Master Plan ensures the opportunity for meaningful constituent
involvement in the development of FMPs and presents a process for periodic review and amendment to the plan itself. The CDFW has prioritized an update of the MLMA Master Plan to address current management needs, and to incorporate recent advances in fisheries management.

The Sea Grant fellow will have an opportunity to assist CDFW staff and outside contractors with the beginning stages of updating the Marine Life Management Act Master Plan: *A Guide for the Development of Fishery Management Plans*. The review process will involve close coordination with Marine Region senior staff to coordinate scientific input, plan and host meetings and workshops, and organize presentations to the Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee.

**An Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Plan for Pacific Herring**

The Aquaculture and Bay Management Project (ABMP) is one of four projects within the State Managed Fisheries Program. ABMP focuses much of its research on the bays of California, striving for ecosystem-based management through collaboration with universities, agencies, businesses, the conservation community, public stakeholders and fishermen. Primary responsibilities of ABMP staff include monitoring, assessment, and management of the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program, the marine aquaculture industry, California’s Pacific herring fisheries, and the state’s bay and estuarine ecosystems.

The Pacific herring fishery was the subject of management review and vulnerability analysis by the State of California and in 2012, ABMP staff and manager, herring industry leaders, and the environmental community began working together to develop a vision and plan for a Pacific herring FMP. As the FMP efforts gets underway, ABMP staff will be actively hosting Town Hall meetings, compiling data, posting progress on the project’s website, and coordinating with other state agencies on issues related to the FMP, among other responsibilities. Additionally, there is ongoing work by an independent contractor to develop a San Francisco Bay Pacific herring stock assessment model. The Sea Grant fellow will work closely with ABMP staff on Pacific herring to: 1) Assist with the ongoing monitoring and management of the fishery to provide critical information for establishing fishery quotas and for informing the FMP, 2) Help coordinate and participate in the Director’s Herring Advisory Committee meeting, 3) Manage the early stages of the FMP development process, and 4) Participate in the stock assessment peer review process.

Through these opportunities, the fellow will work closely with CDFW staff, researchers, contractors, the fishing industry, other resource managers, the environmental community, and the public. The fellow will gain valuable experience in preparing for and participating in public meetings, identifying fishery information needs, and assessing and monitoring a critical forage species that occupies the state’s bay and estuarine ecosystems.