

COMMISSIONERS
1st Division
Larry Doss
2nd Division
Greg Dale
3rd Division
Stephen Kullmann
4th Division
Richard Marks
5th Division
Patrick Higgins

Humboldt Bay
Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
(707) 443-0801
P.O. Box 1030
Eureka, California 95502-1030



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Project Title: Humboldt Bay Mariculture Intertidal Pre-Permitting Project and Yeung Oyster Farm (SCH# 2017032068)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, as lead agency, has prepared the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Humboldt Bay Mariculture Intertidal Pre-Permitting Project and Yeung Oyster Farm for public review and comment pursuant to State of California Resources Code Section 21092 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15084. This notice is provided under CEQA Guidelines Section 15087. The DEIR is available for review at the locations listed at the bottom of this notice.

PROJECT LOCATION: North Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Humboldt Bay Intertidal Mariculture Pre-Permitting Project (Pre-Permitting Project) and Yeung Oyster Farm projects are proposed oyster farm projects in north Humboldt Bay. These projects propose the same culture methods and culture species. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (Harbor District) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for both projects. Due to similarities of these proposed projects, they are both assessed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). The goal and purpose of both projects is to allow for an expansion of commercial mariculture activities in Humboldt Bay, create jobs and improve the local economy, while also increasing local and sustainable seafood production.

The Project would increase production of Kumamoto oysters (*Crassostrea sikamea*) and Pacific oysters (*C. gigas*) in Humboldt Bay, California. Under the Project, approximately 136 acres of culture would be established in intertidal areas using methods that suspend cultured shellfish off the bay bottom. The regulatory structure of the Pre-Permitting portion of the Project is unique for Humboldt Bay, where permits are typically obtained and held by private shellfish growers. Specifically, under the Pre-Permitting Project, the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District) would obtain and hold the permits and lease the “pre-permitted” areas to private shellfish growers (“Lessees”). The Yeung Oyster Farm would pursue mariculture permits on a portion of their property, independently from the District.

PROJECT IMPACTS: The DEIR identifies potential significant effects in the following areas: cultural and archeological resources, biological resources, aesthetic and visual resources, air quality, and hydrology and water quality. Implementation of mitigation measures identified in the DEIR would reduce these potentially significant effects to a less than significant level.

COMMENT PERIOD: The DEIR and its appendices are available for the CEQA required 45-day public review and comment period from August 19 through October 5, 2020. Written **Comments must be received no later than 4 p.m. on October 5, 2020** (or, if applicable, within 45 days after your receipt of the NOA as indicated by certified mail, whichever is later). Submit written comments by mail or email to:

Humboldt Bay Harbor District
Attn: Adam Wagschal, Deputy Director
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501

Email: awagschal@humboldtbay.org

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the DEIR are available for review at the following location and on the Harbor District's website: www.humboldtbay.org:

Humboldt Bay Harbor District Office
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95501