



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

**C-6**

For the meeting of: March 28, 2017

Date: March 23, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn

Subject: Request from Fish & Game Commission to forward a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the Coast Seafood Project

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Boards of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the letter and forward to the US Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Humboldt County Fish & Game Commission.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: The Humboldt County Fish & Game Commission is requesting that the Board of Supervisors forward a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers asking that during the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) review process of the Coast Seafood project, resource agency comments be fully addressed in revisions to the RDEIR before it is certified and that all impacts be fully mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetland habitats or recreational opportunities.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter from Fish & Game Commission dated March 23, 2017 and proposed letter to US Army Corps of Engineers.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature 

**REVIEW:**

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF ITEM:**

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes  
Nays  
Abstain  
Absent

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board**

Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission  
Post Office Box 922  
Ferndale, CA 95536

Phone: 707-786-4902  
Email: [hcfyac@gmail.com](mailto:hcfyac@gmail.com)

---

March 23, 2017

H.C. Board of Supervisors  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka CA 95536

Re: Coast Seafoods Corps ID: SPN-2002-26912N

Dear Supervisors:

During the March 21, 2017 meeting the Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission meeting made the following motion: (Furber/Grunert) "Send a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to recommend that comments from resource agencies be fully addressed in revisions to the RDEIR before it is certified and that all impacts be fully mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetland habitats or recreational opportunities. We support the development of additional alternatives that minimize impacts to Humboldt Bay eelgrass beds, an important biological resource identified in the Humboldt Bay Area Plan, and consolidate operations to allow greater use for recreational users." The motion passed unanimously.

If the Supervisors are interested in more information on this topic:

1. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Public Notice Coast Seafoods Company, Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture, Permit Renewal and Expansion Project (Corps ID: SPN-2002-26912N) is now available for viewing on U.S. Corp of Engineers' website:  
<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>
2. Coast Seafoods public notice went out March 6, 2017 and will be available for public comment for 30 days. Therefore, all public notice comments must be received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by or before April 6, 2017.
3. We, the Fish and Game Advisory Commission, since we have been declared to be part of the process, are advising the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to send this letter to Kacey Sirkin of the U.S. Corps of Engineers by or before April 6, 2017.
4. All references to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning this matter MUST have the following information referenced to it: Subject: Coast Seafoods Corps ID: **SPN-2002-26912N**

The Commission also recommended this draft letter and respectfully asks that you send it to the Ms. L. Kasey Sirkin, Lead Biologist; US Army COE; 601 Startare Dr.; Eureka CA 95502; [LK.sirkin@usace.army.mil](mailto:LK.sirkin@usace.army.mil). Comments are needed by April 6.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ John Clark

John Clark  
Chairman

File: Correspondence  
Oysters – Black Brant





BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111  
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501    PHONE: (707) 445-7266

March 28, 2017

Ms. L. Kasey Sirkin, Lead Biologist  
US Army COE  
601 Startare Dr.  
Eureka CA 95502

Subject: Coast Seafoods Corps ID: SPN-2002-26912N

Dear Ms. L. Kasey Sirkin:

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Fish & Game Advisory Commission (Commission). The Commission has reviewed the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) and has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the Commission go on record with comments.

The Commission has reviewed the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) that describes the potential impacts of the Coast Seafoods Company Humboldt Bay Shellfish Aquaculture Permit Renewal and Expansion Project (Project). The Commission has also reviewed comments from the various resource agencies on the Initial Study, Notice of Preparation, and DEIR, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Coastal Commission, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, Humboldt State University Professors, and waterfowl hunters.

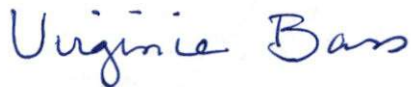
The Commission is concerned the RDEIR again does not fully avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts of the Project as proposed, especially impacts to protected wetland habitats, migrating shorebirds, waterfowl and recreational users. The Commission is particularly concerned that the size and scale of the Project will significantly impact ecological as well as economically important components of north Humboldt Bay. Given the number of acres and the layout of the Project, the Commission is concerned the Project will reduce the carrying capacity of the habitat essential for recreational and commercial fisheries such as Dungeness crab and Chinook salmon.

In addition, the layout of the proposed Project includes areas covered in aquaculture gear spread out over 41 acres that would otherwise be available as habitat and as areas for recreational uses such as waterfowl hunting, bird watching, kayaking, fishing, boating and sailing. Also, Resource Agencies, such as CDFW, have repeatedly requested the Project be reduced in scale and modified to incorporate buffers between new development and sensitive habitats such as eelgrass beds.

Moreover, given the extensive comments received from waterfowl hunters regarding the Project, the Commission is concerned additional aquaculture gear will further impact our unique and economically important scull brant hunting community.

The Commission recommends that comments from resource agencies be fully addressed in revisions to the RDEIR before it is certified and that all impacts be fully mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetland habitats or recreational opportunities. The Commission supports the development of additional alternatives that minimize impacts to Humboldt Bay eelgrass beds, an important biological resource identified in the Humboldt Bay Area Plan, and consolidate operations to allow greater use for recreational users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Virginia Bass, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

VB:kh