

## Summary

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**Meeting dates:** February 10 – 11, 2017

**Agenda item:** Briefing – Public Process to Extend the Current Standard for Surf Smelt Spawning Beach Occupancy from the current 305 meters to a distance of 1267 meters

**Presenter(s):** Randi Thurston, Habitat Program

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**Background summary:**

The Department is proposing to extend the current surf smelt spawning beach occupancy standard from the current 305 meters to a distance of 1267 meters based on the findings of a scientific study (Quinn et al, 2012).

Extending the occupancy standard does not require a change to the hydraulic code rules. However, the Department, as well as local, federal and other state agencies, uses the occupancy standard to identify beaches to protect during construction of shoreline armoring, overwater structures (dock, piers and floats) and other related activities. For this reason, the Department is going to provide a forum for the public and other government agencies to comment on the proposed extension using the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPS) process before any change to the occupancy standard is made.

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**Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:**

None, briefing only

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

The HPA Program Citizen Advisory Group unanimously recommended the Department move forward with the proposed extension of the current surf smelt spawning beach occupancy standard from the current 305 meters to a distance of 1267 meters.

Marine contractors/consultants received a briefing about the proposal from Dr. Quinn at an HPA Listening Session held last Spring. They didn't voice major concerns about the proposal though they did ask for more flexibility to work within all work windows. Because the listening session wasn't well attended, staff has also reached out to marine contractors individually to ensure they know about their opportunity to comment during the SEPA process.

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**Action requested:**

None, briefing only

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Justification for Commission action:**

N/A

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**Communications Plan:**

N/A

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