# Notice of Intent to Adopt Negative Declaration

Lead Agency: California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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Subject:  
Notice of Intent to adopt negative declaration pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act, Article 6, Section 15074

## Project Title:

Chinook Salmon Coastal Release in Monterey Harbor

## Project Location:

Monterey County, Monterey Harbor (36.605514°, -121.889288°)

## Project Description:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) Mokelumne River Hatchery (MOK) would deliver 160,000 Central Valley fall-run Chinook Salmon (CV FRCS) smolts to the Project location for direct release (if possible) at the end of Municipal Wharf #2 in Monterey Harbor in 2020 and again in 2021. MBSTP is implementing this project. CDFW would deliver MOK CV FRCS smolts to Monterey Harbor in mid-May of 2020 and 2021. Exact dates and times would be scheduled as the time draws near and are dependent on fish size, growth rates, and environmental conditions in Monterey Harbor and Monterey Bay. All smolts would be transported in a single trip each year, using 2-4 fish transport trucks (dependent upon loading density/fish size). Water in transport trucks would be salted prior to on-loading fish to initiate smoltification and aid in acclimation to the marine environment. MBSTP would provide a ‘tender’ vessel (12-20’ outboard) on the water at the discharge point to assist with the discharge hose and any other operational logistics. Additional release methods may be used if conditions do not allow for direct discharge from transport trucks including: temporary (no greater than 48 hours) net barge holding, release at the base of the Coast Guard Pier, and (in case of emergency only) transfer to the Santa Cruz Harbor or Wharf (36.964136°, -122.001816°). The Project’s objective is to enhance the commercial and recreational salmon ocean fishery.

## Location and Custodian of the Negative Declaration Document:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Fisheries Branch  
<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=177368>  
Attention: Ryon Kurth, [Ryon.Kurth@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Ryon.Kurth@wildlife.ca.gov)  
Office: 916-376-1723

## Determination:

CDFW finds that the Project would not have significant effect on the environment.  
The completed Initial Study, attached to this negative declaration, documents the bases for this finding, and CDFW’s determination that no evidence of a significant effect on the environment would occur as a result of Project implementation, and there is no evidence, in light of the record before CDFW, that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment (see Initial Study and environmental checklist). Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resource Code Section 21080, subd. (c)(1).

The Initial Study concluded that the Project would have less than significant impacts to biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and public services. The Project would have no impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire.

Negative Declaration:  
A copy of the Negative Declaration, Initial Study, and supporting documents can be found on the Department’s web site at <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=177368>  
  
Comments on the Negative Declaration will be received from February 18, 2020 through April 3, 2020.