# **Supplemental Report to the California Fish and Game Commission re:**

Options for Regulations in the North Coast Study Region Marine Protected Areas Initial Statement of Reasons



California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region Marine Protected Areas Project (09/27/2011) Options for Proposed Regulation in the North Coast Study Region Fish and Game Commission Meeting October 19-20, 2011 September 27, 2011 Page 2 of 17

### **BACKGROUND**

At the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) June 29-30, 2011 meeting in Stockton, the Commission authorized staff to publish notice to amend Section 632, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) regarding North Coast Study Region Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The proposed regulation is based on the Revised Round 3 Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group "Unified" MPA proposal (RNCP) and creates or modifies 19 MPAs, one state marine recreational management area (SMRMA), seven special closures, and includes sub-options at specific MPA geographies (Table 1). The purpose of this document is to provide an update and to solicit clarification and guidance from the Commission regarding several overarching issues for inclusion in the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR). There are four issues the Department of Fish and Game (Department) is seeking Commission guidance on to complete the ISOR that are linked to tribal take and a definition for shore fishing. Finally, the four issues are followed by two updates for the Commission.

### TRIBAL TAKE

Within the RNCP, the Commission chose Tribal Option 1 to provide for take by specific non-commercial tribal uses by federally recognized tribes under the following conditions:

- A factual record of historic and current uses can be established at specific MPA geographies, other than State Marine Reserves (SMRs), is submitted by the tribes
- Any tribal member taking living marine resources (finfish, invertebrates, or marine aquatic plants) would be required to possess the following:
  - A Federally recognized Tribal Identification Card and
  - A valid California Fishing License for persons 16 years of age or older when taking living marine resources except marine aquatic plants.
  - Any valid license, report card, tag, stamp, permit or entitlement required by Federal, State or local law to take, possess or transport living marine resources.
- All take must be consistent with existing regulations

#### Issue 1 – Documentation

The Commission directed the Department to develop regulatory text requiring tribal members of federally recognized tribes to possess applicable fishing licenses and tribal ID cards when taking living marine resources in an authorized MPA or marine managed area (MMA) except within state marine reserves (SMR).

**Recommendation:** Consider adding a general provision to Section 632(a), Title 14, CCR that defines requirements applying to all members of federally-recognized tribes for tribal take within authorized areas, with the following concepts:

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### Tribal Take

- For purposes of this regulation, "federally recognized tribe" means any tribe on the <u>List of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From the</u> <u>United States Bureau of Indian Affairs</u>, that is annually published in the Federal Register.
- Any member of a federally recognized tribe authorized to take living marine resources from area-specific take restrictions in subsection 632(b), when engaging in take within an authorized area shall:
  - (a) possess on his or her person, in his or her immediate possession, or where otherwise specifically required by law to be kept, any valid license, report card, tag, stamp, permit or any other entitlement that is required in the California Fish and Game Code, or required by other state, federal or local entities, in order to take living marine resources;
  - (b) possess a valid photo identification card issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
  - (c) display any of the items listed above upon demand to any peace officer.
- Members taking living marine resources under this provision are subject to current seasonal, bag, possession, gear and size limits in existing Fish and Game Code statutes and regulations of the Commission, except as otherwise provided for in subsection 632(b), or area or territorial limits.
- No member, while taking living marine resources pursuant to this section, may be assisted by any person who does not possess a valid tribal identification card and is properly licensed to take living marine resources.
- Nothing in the regulation is intended to conflict with, or supersede, any state or federal law regarding the take of protected, threatened or endangered species.

#### Issue 2 – Tribal Take in SMRMAs

The SMRMA designation has been used for proposed MPAs where waterfowl hunting may occur. The proposed regulation includes one SMRMA at South Humboldt Bay. Currently, the proposed regulations specify that no take of living marine resources is allowed, other than take of waterfowl, and therefore is characteristic of an SMR subtidally. The Commission decided to allow non-commercial tribal uses in SMCAs (not SMRs) by federally recognized tribes where a factual record of historic and current uses

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can be established. However, the Commission did not clarify whether this could be considered in the proposed South Humboldt Bay SMRMA.

**Request for Guidance:** Was it the Commission's intent to allow tribal take in the proposed SMRMA if a historic and current uses by federally recognized tribe(s) submittal is provided?

#### SHORE FISHING

## Issue 3 – Shore Fishing and Offshore Fishing

Take "from shore only" is currently proposed at Double Cone Rock SMCA (originally named Vizcaino) in the proposed regulation. Two existing MPAs outside of the study region also include take restricted to shore only. Due to confusion over the interpretation of what it means to "take from shore only", the Commission asked the Department to develop a general definition for take "originating from shore" that would apply to the proposed regulation as well as other MPAs coastwide that allow shore only fishing. Existing language in the groundfish regulations [Section 27.25(c)(3), Title 14, CCR] provides a basis for defining shore fishing and accompanying vessel and watercraft restrictions.

**Recommendation:** Using the example located in the groundfish regulations, consider adding a general provision to subsection 632(a), Title 14, CCR, that defines shore fishing, with the following concepts:

## **Shore Fishing:**

- Take from shore, or shore fishing, for purposes of this section, means take of living marine resources from shore, including beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore.
- No vessel, watercraft (motorized or non-motorized), or floating device may be used to assist in the take, transport or possession of species taken while shore fishing, unless specifically authorized in subsection 632(b).

### Issue 4 – Abalone Take Using Float Tubes

There are three MPAs coastwide, two existing in the North Central Coast and one proposed for the North Coast Study Region, which allow abalone take from shore only. Double Cone Rock SMCA proposes take of abalone and specific finfish from shore only, and selected offshore species requiring a vessel. However, abalone divers frequently use float tubes while taking abalone but the above definition of shore fishing may prohibit the use of float tubes.

**Request for Guidance:** Does the Commission want the no vessel or watercraft restriction to apply to the take of abalone with the understanding that float tubes will fall under this restriction? OR

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**Request for Guidance:** Does the Commission want to create an exemption for the use of float tubes or similar devices while shore fishing for abalone at specific MPAs?

### **ADDITIONAL UPDATES**

# List of federally-recognized tribes authorized to take in specified MPAs.

Following the September 2011 Commission meeting, Commission staff provided the Department with a list of tribes that may be authorized to take living marine resources in specific MPAs based on a record of historic and current uses submitted to the Commission. These tribes are identified in Table 1 below in 10 SMCAs, 1 SMRMA, and 1 SMR (Reading Rock Option B only).

# MPAs with existing activities regulated by other agencies.

Subsequent to the June 2011 Commission meeting, the Department identified that three MPAs have existing activities regulated by other agencies that may result in take incidental to those activities. This includes activities such as maintenance of existing artificial structures, operation and maintenance of existing facilities, maintenance dredging or other sediment management activities, and restoration activities. The Commission addressed similar existing activities in the south coast by crafting areaspecific allowances in regulation to make explicit that these regulated activities and operations are allowed to continue under current state, federal, and local permits, despite MPA designation. Therefore, the Department recommends that allowances be specified at the following proposed locations: South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area, Big River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area, and Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area. These are referenced in Table 1, although specific allowances will be crafted for the regulations text.

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Table 1. The Proposed Regulation for marine protected areas in the North Coast Study Region arranged geographically from north to south. [Science Advisory Team (SAT) assigned level of protection (LOP)].

MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP	
	PYRAMID POINT SMCA: INCLUDE BOUNDARY OPTIONS (1-2)				
Option 1: Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area	Southern boundary as described in the Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of surf smelt (§ 28.45) by DIP NET or HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  • Yurok • Elk Valley Rancheria • Tolowa Dee-ni' of the Smith River Rancheria • Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Low	
Option 2: Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area	Move southern boundary approximately 1/3 mile south to the northernmost tip of Prince Island.	Take as in Option 1.	Same as in Option 1.	Low	

MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	<ul> <li>The take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:</li> <li>The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.</li> <li>The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.</li> </ul>	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  • Yurok • Elk Valley Rancheria • Tolowa Dee-ni' of the Smith River Rancheria • Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Low
(NOTE		SMCA CLUSTER: INCLUDES NAME NG ROCK SMR WILL DETERMINE N	OPTION AT READING ROCK SMR IAME OPTION FOR READING ROCK SM	CA)
Option A: Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, surfsmelt by DIP NET and HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET and HAND.  The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, surfsmelt by DIP NET or HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  • Yurok • Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Low
Option B: Reading Rock Onshore State Marine Conservation	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, surfsmelt by DIP NET or	Same as in Option A.	Low

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MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Area		HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET, and HAND.  The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, surfsmelt by DIP NET or CAST NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.		
			GNATION / NAME AT READING ROCK SMIAME OPTION FOR READING ROCK SMI	
Option A: Reading Rock State Marine Reserve	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited		Very High
Option B: Reading Rock Offshore State Marine Conservation Area	Change Option 1 Reading Rock SMR to Reading Rock Offshore SMCA allowing tribal take	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except as authorized for federally recognized tribes.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  • Yurok • Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	Low
Samoa State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, surfsmelt by DIPNET and HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET and HAND.  The commercial take of	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  • Wiyot	Low

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MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
		salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, surfsmelt by DIP NET or HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.		
	SOUTH HUMB	OLDT BAY SMRMA: INCLUDEDS B	BOUNDARY OPTIONS (1-2)	
Option 1: South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Regulation	<ul> <li>Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:</li> <li>Recreational take of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).</li> </ul>	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations within this MPA:  • Wiyot  (See footnote 1)	Moderate Low
Option 2: South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area	Move northern boundary south to a prominent point of land on the west side of the bay. Extend the northern and southern boundaries east across the entire bay.	<ul> <li>Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:</li> <li>Recreational take of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).</li> </ul>	Same as in Option 1.	Moderate Low
South Cape Mendocino State Marine Reserve	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.		Very High
Mattole Canyon State Marine Reserve	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited		Very High
	SEA LIO	N GULCH SMR: INCLUDES BOUND	DARY OPTIONS (1-2)	
Option 1: Sea Lion Gulch State Marine	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited		Very High

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MPA Name & Designation Reserve	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Option 2: Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve	Move the northern boundary north approximately one mile to Punta Gorda Lighthouse (aligns with an offshore buoy) and move the southern boundary north approximately ½ mile to Cooskie Creek.	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.		Very High
Big Flat State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, and Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET, and HAND.  The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians Round Valley Indian Tribes Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Low

MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Option A: Double Cone Rock State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT the following may be taken recreationally from shore only:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET, and HAND, and the following may be taken from shore only: cabezon, rockfish by HOOK AND LINE; surfperch (family Embiotocidae) by HOOK AND LINE, HAND-HELD DIP NET, and HAWAIIN TYPE THROW NET; surf smelt by HAND HELD DIP NET and HAWAIIAN TYPE THROW NET; and abalone.  The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians Round Valley Indian Tribes Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Low
Option B: Double Cone Rock State Marine Conservation Area		Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of salmon by TROLLING, and Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET and HAND.	Same as in Option A.	Low

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MPA Name & Designation  Ten Mile State	Description of MPA Options  Proposed Regulation	Proposed Allowed Take     The commercial take of salmon by TROLL FISHING GEAR, and Dungeness crab by TRAP.  Take of all living marine resources	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Marine Reserve	Proposed Regulation	is prohibited.		very night
	TEN MIL	E BEACH SMCA: INCLUDES BOUN	DARY OPTIONS (1-2)	
Option 1: Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET, and HAND.  The commercial take of Dungeness crab by TRAP.	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians Round Valley Indian Tribes Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Low

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MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities (See footnote 1)	SAT LOP
Option 2: Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area <sup>1</sup>	Change Option 1 by moving the southern boundary approximately 3/4 mile south to the mouth of Inglenook Creek.	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  The recreational take of Dungeness crab by TRAP, HOOP NET, and HAND.  The commercial take of Dungeness crab by TRAP.	Same as in Option 1.	Low
Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  • Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Hopland Band of Pomo Indians Pinoleville Pomo Nation Potter Valley Tribe Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians Round Valley Indian Tribes Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians	Low

MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve	Proposed Regulation  Proposed Regulation	Take of bull kelp and giant kelp is prohibited. All other take is allowed.  Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.		Low Very High
Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of bull kelp and giant kelp is prohibited. All other take is allowed:		Low
	BIG RIV	YER ESTUARY SMCA: INCLUDES T	AKE OPTIONS (A-B)	
Option A: Big River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Regulation	<ul> <li>Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:</li> <li>The recreational take of Dungeness crab by HOOP NET or HAND.</li> <li>Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).</li> </ul>	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:	Low

MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
			<ul> <li>Round Valley Indian Tribes</li> <li>Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians</li> <li>Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians</li> <li>(See footnote 1)</li> </ul>	
Option B: Big River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area <sup>1</sup>	Retain regulations proposed in the RNCP and adjust the MPA goals and objectives accordingly.	<ul> <li>Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:</li> <li>The recreational take of surfperch by HOOK AND LINE FROM SHORE, and Dungeness crab by HOOP NET and HAND.</li> <li>Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).</li> </ul>	Same as in Option A.	Low
Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	Take of bull kelp and giant kelp is prohibited. All other take is allowed.		Low
	NAVARRO	RIVER ESTUARY SMCA: INCLUDE	S TAKE OPTIONS (A-B)	
Option A: Navarro River State Marine Conservation Area	Proposed Regulation	The take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  • Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	The following tribes may be authorized to non-commercial take of living marine resources pursuant to existing regulations:  Cahto Tribe of Laytonville Rancheria Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	Low

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MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
Option B: Navarro River State Marine Conservation Area	Adds the recreational take of salmon in the MPA.	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:  • The recreational take of salmon by HOOK AND LINE (see section 7.50 for specific regulations).	<ul> <li>Pinoleville Pomo Nation</li> <li>Potter Valley Tribe</li> <li>Redwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians</li> <li>Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians</li> <li>Round Valley Indian Tribes</li> <li>Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians</li> <li>Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians</li> <li>Same as Option A.</li> </ul>	Low
		Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)		
	_	SPECIAL CLOSURES		
Seal Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around Seal Rock, year round		
Castle Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around Castle Rock, year round		

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MPA Name & Designation	Description of MPA Options	Proposed Allowed Take	Other Proposed Regulated Activities	SAT LOP
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around False Klamath Rock, March 1 – August 31		
Sugarloaf Island Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around Sugarloaf Island, year round		
Steamboat Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around Steamboat Rock, March 1 – August 31		
Rockport Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around Rockport Rock, March 1 – August 31		
Vizcaino Rock Special Closure	Proposed Regulation	300 ft closure around 'seaward' side of Vizcaino Rock, March 1 – August 31		

Existing activities that may result in take, but are regulated by other agencies, have been identified as occurring at this location. Take incidental to existing activities that are regulated by other agencies, pursuant to current state, federal or local permits, is authorized. Activities to be specified. This includes activities such as maintenance of existing artificial structures, operation and maintenance of existing facilities, maintenance dredging or other sediment management activities, and restoration activities. Area-specific allowances will be included to allow permitted activities and operations, pursuant to required state, federal, or local permits, or as authorized by the Department.