

California Fish and Game Commission Tribal Committee Co-management Vision and Definition Statements

October 10, 2017

Background

The Tribal Committee (TC) of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) serves as a venue for tribal entities to have a forum to address fish and wildlife concerns with State officials. TC recently began conversations around developing a shared vision and definition statement regarding co-management of California's fish and wildlife resources.

The Commission and tribal governments may have concurrent or overlapping jurisdictions related to fish and wildlife. The Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) have consultation policies for working with California Native American Tribes to promote sustainable management of natural resources of mutual interest. Furthering mutual understanding of how co-management can occur presents opportunities for consultation and potential for policy collaboration between California Native American Tribes and the Commission.

Since February 2017, TC has been working with tribal entities to develop a shared vision and definition of co-management that reflects a mutual understanding between the Commission and tribal entities; several iterations were developed between February and the June 2017 TC meeting. At its June 2017 meeting, the Commission directed staff to develop a conference call with tribal entities across the state to gauge interest in and solicit input on the subject of developing, and the potential content of co-management vision and definition statements.

The tribal conference call occurred in early September 2017, during which tribal members in attendance decided to convene a subsequent tribal caucus call (without Commission or DFW staff participation) to confer and provide feedback on the most recent versions of the draft vision statement and definition of co-management. The tribal caucus call occurred in early October 2017.

Participants in the tribal caucus call mutually endorsed minor changes to the draft vision statement and draft definition (see below), and are planning to present them during the TC meeting on October 10, 2017; changes from the previous iterations edits are underlined and deletions in ~~strikeout~~.

Draft FGC **vision statement** as of June 20, 2017:

The vision of the Commission is to engage in a collaborative effort between sovereigns to achieve mutually agreed upon and compatible management objectives to govern, protect, conserve, enhance, and restore fish and wildlife.

The draft tribal caucus iteration from October 2, 2017 incorporates a revision to read as:

The vision of the Commission is to engage in a collaborative effort between sovereigns to achieve mutually agreed upon and compatible management objectives to govern, protect, conserve, enhance, restore and to provide access to healthy fish and wildlife.

Draft FGC **definition** as of June 2017:

A collaborative effort to develop an agreement in which two or more sovereigns negotiate, define, and allocate amongst themselves a fair sharing of the management functions, entitlements and responsibilities for a given territory, area or set of natural resources.

The draft tribal caucus iteration from October 2 reads as:

A collaborative effort to develop an agreement in which two or more sovereigns mutually negotiate, define, and allocate amongst themselves the fair sharing of the management functions, entitlements and responsibilities for a given territory, area or set of natural resources.

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