

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 6-7, 2017

14. NON-MARINE NON-REGULATORY REQUESTS**Today's Item**Information Action

This is a standing agenda item for FGC to act on non-regulatory requests from the public that are non-marine in nature. For this meeting:

- (A) Action on non-regulatory requests received at the Oct 2017 meeting.
- (B) Update on pending non-regulatory requests referred to FGC staff or DFW for review.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

(A)

- FGC receipt of requests Oct 11-12, 2017; Atascadero
- **Today's action on requests** Dec 6-7, 2017; San Diego

(B)

N/A

Background

FGC provides direction regarding requests from the public received by mail and email and during public forum at the previous FGC meeting. Public requests for non-regulatory action follow a two-meeting cycle to ensure proper review and consideration.

- (A) **Non-regulatory requests.** Non-regulatory requests scheduled for consideration today were received at the Oct 2017 meeting in one of three ways: (1) submitted by the comment deadline and published as tables in the meeting binder, (2) submitted by the late comment deadline and delivered at the meeting, or (3) received during public forum.

Today, two non-regulatory requests received at the Oct 2017 meeting are scheduled for action. Exhibit A1 summarizes and contains staff recommendations for each request; see individual request in Exhibit A2.

- (B) **Pending non-regulatory requests.** This item is an opportunity for staff to provide a recommendation on non-regulatory requests that were scheduled for action at a previous meeting and referred by FGC to staff or DFW for further review. No items are scheduled for action today.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

- (A) Adopt staff recommendations for non-regulatory requests to (1) deny; (2) grant; or (3) refer to committee, staff or DFW for further evaluation or information-gathering. See Exhibit A1 for staff recommendations.

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Exhibits

- A1. [FGC table of non-marine non-regulatory requests received through Oct 12, 2017](#)
- A2. [Email from Steve McCormick regarding bag limits for mallards, dated Sep 18, 2017](#)

Motion/Direction

- (A) Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendation for actions on October 2017 non-regulatory requests.

OR

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for actions on October 2017 non-regulatory requests, except for item(s) _____ for which the action is _____.

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
DECISION LIST FOR NON-MARINE NON-REGULATORY REQUESTS FOR ACTION THROUGH OCT 12, 2017
 Revised 11-20-2017

FGC - California Fish and Game Commission DFW - California Department of Fish and Wildlife WRC - Wildlife Resources Committee MRC - Marine Resources Committee

Date Received	Name of Petitioner	Subject of Request	Short Description	FGC Decision	Staff Recommendation
9/18/2017	Steve McCormick	Waterfowl hunting	Requests reduction in daily bag limit for mallards to no more than three birds	RECEIPT: 10/11-12/2017 ACTION: Scheduled: 12/6-7/2017	DENY; regulation change requests must be submitted using FGC's regulation change petition form, FGC-1. Note that bag limits for mallards will be evaluated during consideration of annual waterfowl regulations for the 2018-19 season; petitioner is encouraged to submit his comments during the public comment period for this rulemaking if he wishes the proposal to be effective for the 2018-19 season.
10/12/2017	Marsha Hanscom Ballona Institute	Ecological Reserves	Requests FGC work with legislature to create an exception to current speed limit laws to reduce road-related wildlife mortality on roads crossing Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve	RECEIPT: 10/11-12/2017 ACTION: Scheduled: 12/6-7/2017	Deny; wildlife mortality due to automobile strikes is not unique to this area and necessitates a comprehensive, statewide solution. Road-related wildlife mortality and potential management strategies are already being discussed and addressed between DFW and other state and local agencies. FGC does not have staff capacity to address single-site issues through legislative solutions.

Steve McCormick

Los Altos, CA 94022

Date: September 18, 2017

Members, California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth St. Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to urge the Commission to reduce the daily bag limit for mallards beginning with the 2018/19 season, given the perilously diminished breeding population in California, after years of steady decline.

The 2017 California Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey conducted by DFW reveals that "the total breeding population of ducks in the survey area was down 28% below the long-term average. Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were down 42% below the long-term average." Further in the Survey it is reported that: The most notable decrease [in mallard populations] occurred in the Sacramento Valley stratum, where the population was estimated at a record low 31,000, *73% below the long-term average* [emphasis mine]."

This downward trend in breeding populations of mallards is very alarming. The Fall 2017 issue of the magazine of the California Waterfowl Association, reporting on the survey, observes, "The mallard count matters because about 70 percent of the mallards we kill are California mallards." Elsewhere the article notes: "reduced nesting and brooding habitat is more than likely the driving force" behind the downward trend in mallards.

Clearly, hunting pressure -- esp. early in the season, before migrating birds arrive -- is contributing significantly to the downward trend. As the Survey reveals, the decline is especially precipitous in the Sacramento Valley. Which is not surprising, given that more ducks are shot at in the Valley than anywhere else in the state. In any event, if indeed there is reduced nesting and brooding, and we're shooting so many of a *diminishing number* mallards, a seven-bird limit is wholly unjustifiable.

I have been a passionate waterfowl hunter since I began hunting ducks in California in the 1960's. I am also a passionate conservationist, having spent over thirty years working in the sector, mostly with The Nature Conservancy. I worked closely with the Department over many years to help create several refuges and hunting areas. As a hunter and a conservationist, I ask you to do the right thing: reduce the daily take of mallards to no more than three birds. If we don't do so, we run the very real risk of getting to where we are with pintails: one male per day.

Sincerely,

