

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2020

**22. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (WRC)****Today's Item**Information Action 

Receive summary from the Jan 16, 2020 WRC meeting and potentially approve WRC recommendation. Receive update on WRC work plan and timeline. Discuss and potentially approve new topics for WRC review. Discuss and confirm current agenda topic approved for the Mar 5, 2020 WRC meeting.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Most recent WRC meeting   | Jan 16, 2020; WRC, Long Beach   |
| • <b>Today consider WRC recommendation and potential new topics</b> | <b>Feb 21, 2020; Sacramento</b> |
| • Next WRC meeting, added by FGC in Oct 2019                        | Mar 5, 2020; WRC, Sacramento    |
| • WRC meeting   | May 14, 2020; WRC, Santa Rosa   |

**Background**

WRC works under FGC direction to set and accomplish its work plan (Exhibit 2).

**Meeting Summary**

WRC met on Jan 16, 2020 and covered the following topics:

- Update and discussion of simplification of statewide inland fishing regulations
- Update on bullfrogs and non-native turtle stakeholder engagement process

A written summary of the meeting is provided in Exhibit 1.

**WRC Recommendations**

Based on public comment and the meeting discussions, WRC has one recommendation for FGC consideration:

1. Add a discussion of urban coyote issues to a future FGC meeting agenda.

**Next Meeting**

The next WRC meeting is scheduled for Mar 5, 2020 in Sacramento. This meeting was added to the regular WRC meeting schedule by FGC in Oct 2019 for the sole purpose of WRC discussion and potential recommendation on the simplification of statewide inland fishing regulations.

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

**FGC staff:** Add a discussion on urban coyotes for the June 2020 FGC meeting in Santa Ana. No changes are recommended to the Mar 5, 2020 WRC agenda.

**WRC:** Schedule for a future FGC meeting a discussion on urban coyote issues.

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2020

**Exhibits**

1. [WRC meeting summary for Jan 16, 2020](#)
2. [WRC work plan, updated Feb 11, 2020](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the recommendation from the January 16, 2020 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting and directs staff to schedule a discussion on urban coyotes for the June 2020 FGC meeting in Santa Ana.

**OR**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the recommendation from the Jan 16, 2020 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, except \_\_\_\_\_.

**Commissioners**  
**Eric Sklar**, President  
Saint Helena

**Jacque Hostler-Carmesin**, Vice President  
McKinleyville

**Russell E. Burns**, Member  
Napa

**Peter S. Silva**, Member  
Jamul

**Samantha Murray**, Member  
Del Mar

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

## Fish and Game Commission



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*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation*  
*Since 1870*

### WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairs: Commissioner Burns and President Sklar

### January 16, 2020 Meeting Summary

Following is a summary of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) meeting as prepared by staff. An audio recording of the meeting is available upon request.

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Commissioner Burns at the Aquarium of the Pacific, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA 90802. Commissioner Burns gave welcoming remarks.

Wildlife Advisor Ari Cornman outlined meeting procedures and guidelines for participating in Committee discussions, noting that the Committee is a non-decision-making body that provides recommendations to the Commission on wildlife and inland fisheries items. He introduced Commission staff and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff. The following Committee members, and Commission and Department staff, attended:

#### **Committee Co-Chairs**

Russell Burns	Present
Eric Sklar	Present

#### **Commission Staff**

Melissa Miller-Henson	Executive Director
Ari Cornman	Wildlife Advisor
Craig Castleton	Associate Government Program Analyst

#### **Department Staff**

Chris Stoots	Captain, Law Enforcement Division
Brad Burkholder	Environmental Program Manager, Wildlife Branch
Karen Mitchell	Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Fisheries Branch
Russell Black	Fisheries Supervisor, South Coast Region

#### 1. Approve agenda and order of items

The Committee approved the agenda and order of items.

## **2. Public comment for items not on the agenda**

A representative of the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust presented concerns with the recently-released environmental impact report (EIR) for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, specifically issues surrounding the parking garage. He indicated that the trust may file a petition on the subject but is seeking an “alternate way” to resolve its concerns and asked the Committee for help. He also stated that the date for EIR certification was unclear due to confusion surrounding which flow rates were to be used.

Several commenters voiced concerns regarding coyote impacts in various areas throughout the Los Angeles area. Concerns included attacks on pets, dead animal remains, trash and food availability, potential threats to children, interactions with the homeless, ineffective control measures, and difficulties in working with local governments. Suggestions included coyote culls, improved data collection and reporting, and collaboration with the Department.

### *Discussion*

Co-chair Sklar emphasized the importance of education and gathering data. David Bess was asked about private citizens’ ability to trap coyotes in their community. He answered that there is multi-layered jurisdiction, and that local municipalities have different ordinances governing trapping and coyote control. Co-chair Sklar added that it depends on who owns the land on which trapping occurs. A stakeholder asked about the mission of the Department, and Co-chair Sklar explained the difference between the Commission and the Department. A stakeholder asked about the Commission’s involvement in local municipality issues, and Co-chair Sklar responded that the Commission cannot direct cities to act regarding issues that are within their jurisdiction. Melissa Miller-Henson remarked that neither the Commission nor the Department have the statutory mandate and funding to address coyote problems. The co-chairs indicated a willingness to continue dialogue on the topic.

### *Committee Recommendation*

WRC recommended that the Commission add a discussion of urban coyote issues to a future Commission agenda.

## **3. Department updates**

### **(A) Fisheries Branch**

No updates were provided.

### **(A) Wildlife Branch**

No updates were provided.

### **(B) Law Enforcement Division**

Chris Stoots discussed the start of a new class of cadets at the Department’s Wildlife Officer Academy. There are currently 465 officers statewide. The Department and its Law Enforcement Division are participating in various sporting shows around the state. He highlighted cases involving trash dumping in waterways and trophy deer poaching.

### *Discussion*

Co-chair Sklar asked about the roadkill bill that recently passed, and David Bess explained that possessing roadkill is still illegal; the Commission has authority to write regulations governing a roadkill permit program. Melissa Miller-Henson added that the legislation indicated that funds should be available before undertaking a rulemaking. Ari Cornman noted that the statute directs the Commission and Department to work with several other agencies to develop the program, so appropriations would have to include them as well. David Bess explained some of the complexities involved in implementing the statute.

#### **4. Bullfrogs and non-native turtles**

Ari Cornman provided an update on the bullfrog and non-native turtle stakeholder engagement process. Staff is in the process of scheduling the next meeting of the agency team. The environmental/animal welfare team has met four times and made substantial progress. The industry team is still being formed.

### *Discussion*

Co-chair Sklar asked about the industry team, and Ari explained that it has been difficult to find participants from the live food market industry; they discussed potential ways to reach out to that community. A representative of the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) urged moving forward with the project. Ari thanked CBD for its participation and stated that ongoing challenges with stakeholder participation needed to be addressed to have meaningful progress.

#### **5. Simplification of statewide inland fishing regulations**

Karen Mitchell presented the simplification of inland fishing regulations rulemaking proposal, including the purposes and goals, public outreach, some examples of how public comment was considered by the Department, and a new proposed timeline. Revisions from the last version include retaining the traditional trout opener and a category for artificial lures. The overall rulemaking revisions will reduce the number of localized seasons from 33 to 2 and size limits from 8 to 2, reduce the number of special regulations by 25 percent, expand angling opportunity in 48% of existing waters with special regulations, and align the regulations with current biological management goals.

### *Discussion*

Co-chair Sklar emphasized the importance of the regulatory proposal. He further asked the Department to consider a regulation that, when there is sufficient stock, anglers who have caught all other trout species be permitted to catch and release a single Paiute cutthroat trout; Co-chair Burns remarked that this may help the Department's hunter and angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) program.

#### **6. Future agenda items**

The next WRC meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at the Natural Resources Building in Sacramento. Added by FGC as an additional special meeting, the sole agenda topic will be a

discussion and potential recommendation on the simplification of statewide inland fishing regulations.

### **Adjourn**

The Committee adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

## California Fish and Game Commission Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC)

### 2020 Work Plan: Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC by the California Fish and Game Commission

*Updated February 11, 2020*

		Jan 2020 Long Beach	Mar 2020 Sacramento	May 2020 Santa Rosa	Sep 2020 Sacramento
<b>Annual Regulations</b>					
Upland (Resident) Game Birds	Annual				X
Sport Fishing	Annual				
Mammal Hunting	Annual			X	X/R
Waterfowl	Annual			X	X/R
Central Valley Salmon Sport Fishing	Annual			X	X/R
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual			X	X/R
<b>Regulations &amp; Legislative Mandates</b>					
Falconry	Referral for Review				
Simplification of Statewide Inland Fishing Regulations	Regulatory	X	X/R		
<b>Special Projects</b>					
American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtle Stakeholder Engagement Project	Referral for Review	X		X	X

KEY: X Discussion scheduled X/R Recommendation developed and moved to FGC

\* Note: The March meeting is an additional meeting added by FGC.