

**California Fish and Game
Commission**

Wildlife Resources Committee

Meeting Binder



September 16, 2021

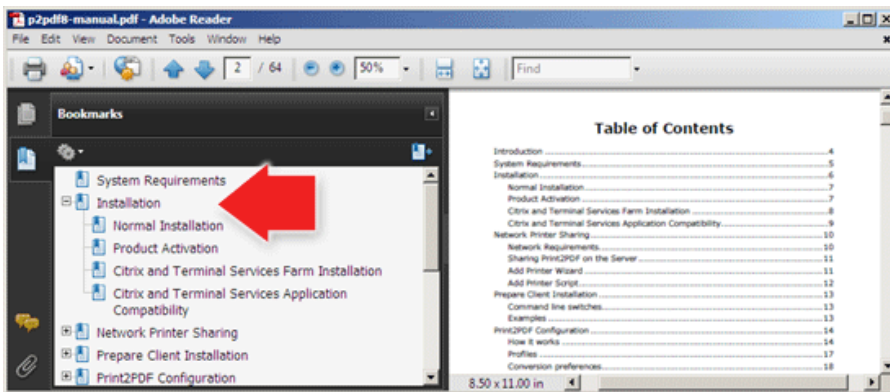
Webinar/Teleconference


EASY GUIDE TO USING THE BINDER

1. Download and open the binder document using your Adobe Acrobat program/app.
2. If a bookmark panel does not automatically appear on either the top or left side of the screen, click/tap on the “bookmark symbol” located near the top left-hand corner.



3. To make adjustments to the view, use the Page Display option in the View tab. You should see something like:



4. We suggest leaving open the bookmark panel to help you move efficiently among the staff summaries and numerous supporting documents in the binder. It's helpful to think of these bookmarks as a table of contents that allows you to go to specific points in the binder without having to scroll through hundreds of pages.
5. You can resize the two panels by placing your cursor in the dark, vertical line  located between the panels and using a long click /tap to move in either direction.
6. You may also adjust the sizing of the documents by adjusting the sizing preferences located on the Page Display icons found in the top toolbar or in the View tab.
7. Upon locating a staff summary for an agenda item, notice that you can obtain more information by clicking/tapping on any item underlined in blue.
8. Return to the staff summary by simply clicking/tapping on the item in the bookmark panel.
9. Do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions or would like assistance.

OVERVIEW OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

- Welcome to this meeting of the _____ Committee. The Committee is comprised of up to two Commissioners who co-chair each meeting; members are assigned by the Commission annually.
- Our goal today is informed discussion to guide future decision making, and, we need your cooperation to ensure a lively and comprehensive dialogue.
- We are operating under Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, but it is important to note that the Committee chairs cannot take action independent of the full Commission; instead, the chairs make recommendations to the full Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.
- These proceedings may be recorded and posted to our website for reference and archival purposes.
- Items may be heard in any order pursuant to the determination of the Committee Co-Chairs.
- As a general rule, requests for regulatory change need to be redirected to the full Commission and submitted on the required petition form, FGC 1, titled "Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change" (Section 662, Title 14, CCR). However, at the Committee's discretion, the Committee may request that staff follow up on items of potential interest to the Committee and possible recommendation to the Commission.
- Committee meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to provide comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:
 1. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Committee.
 2. Provide your name, affiliation (if any), and the number of people you represent.
 3. Time is limited; please keep your comments precise to give others time to speak.
 4. If several speakers have the same concerns, please appoint a group spokesperson.
 5. If speaking during public comment, the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Committee members discuss that item).

INTRODUCTIONS FOR FISH AND GAME COMMISSION WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

Peter Silva	Co-Chair (Jamul)
Erika Zavaleta	Co-Chair (Santa Cruz)

COMMISSION STAFF

Melissa Miller-Henson	Executive Director
Ari Cornman	Wildlife Advisor
Cynthia McKeith	Staff Services Analyst

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Garry Kelley	Acting Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
David Bess	Deputy Director and Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Valerie Cook	Acting Chief, Fisheries Branch
Scott Gardner	Chief, Wildlife Branch
Chris Stoots	Captain, Law Enforcement Division
Brad Burkholder	Environmental Program Manager, Wildlife Branch
Karen Mitchell	Senior Environmental Scientist, Fisheries Branch
Melanie Weaver	Waterfowl Program Biologist

I would also like to acknowledge special guests who are present:
(i.e., key DFW staff, elected officials, tribal chairpersons, other special guests)

Commissioners
Peter S. Silva, President
Jamul

Samantha Murray, Vice President
Del Mar

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

Eric Sklar, Member
Saint Helena

Erika Zavaleta, Member
Santa Cruz

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairs: Commissioner Silva and Commissioner Zavaleta

Meeting Agenda

September 16, 2021; 9:00 a.m.

Webinar and Teleconference

Pursuant to Executive Order N-08-21, the California Fish and Game Commission is conducting this meeting by webinar and teleconference. Commission members will participate remotely. The public may provide public comment during the public comment periods and otherwise observe remotely, consistent with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

To participate in the meeting, you may join via Zoom or by telephone. [Click here](#) or go to <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=193738&inline> for instructions on how to join the meeting.

Note: Please see important meeting procedures and information at the end of the agenda. Unless otherwise indicated, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is identified as Department. All agenda items are informational and/or discussion only. The Committee develops recommendations to the Commission but does not have authority to make policy or regulatory decisions on behalf of the Commission.

Call to order

1. Approve agenda and order of items

2. General public comment for items not on agenda

The Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to consider whether to recommend that the matter be added to the agenda of a future meeting [Sections 11125, 11125.7(a), Government Code].

3. Department updates

The Department will highlight items of note since the last committee meeting.

- (A) Wildlife Branch
- (B) Fisheries Branch
- (C) Law Enforcement Division

4. Discussion and potential recommendations for regulations

Discuss and potentially make recommendations on regulatory options for 2022-23 seasons for:

- (A) Upland game bird hunting
- (B) Mammal hunting
- (C) Waterfowl hunting
- (D) Central Valley sport fishing
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing
- (F) Inland sport fishing
 - I. Striped bass slot limits
 - II. Inland boat limits
 - III. Permits for game fish contests (also known as “tournaments”)
 - IV. Regulation simplification clarifications and updates

5. Mammal hunting tag returns

- (A) Discuss and consider recommendations on a potential rulemaking to address returns of mammal hunting preference points and fee refunds in response to public land closures due to wildfire for the 2021-22 seasons.
- (B) Discuss and consider recommendations on a potential rulemaking to provide the Department general authority to address returns of mammal hunting preference points and fee refunds in response to potential future public land closures.

6. Bullfrogs and non-native turtles

Receive an update on implementing the American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtles Stakeholder Engagement Project.

7. Future agenda items

- (A) Review work plan agenda topics and timeline
- (B) Potential new agenda topics for Commission consideration

Adjourn

California Fish and Game Commission Meeting Schedule

Note: As meeting dates and locations can change, please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for the most current list of meeting dates and locations.

Meeting Date	Commission Meeting	Committee Meeting
October 13-14, 2021	Sacramento	
November 9, 2021		Marine Resources Sacramento
December 14, 2021		Tribal Sacramento
December 15-16, 2021	Sacramento	
January 13, 2022		Wildlife Resources Sacramento
February 16-17, 2022	Sacramento	
March 24, 2022		Marine Resources Sacramento
April 19, 2022		Tribal Monterey/Santa Cruz area
April 20-21, 2022	Monterey/Santa Cruz area	
May 19, 2022	Redding – Teleconference	
May 19, 2022		Wildlife Resources Redding
June 15-16, 2022	Los Angeles/Orange County	
July 14, 2022		Marine Resources San Diego area
August 16, 2022		Tribal Fortuna
August 17-18, 2022	Fortuna	
September 15, 2022		Wildlife Resources Los Angeles/Inland Empire area
October 12-13, 2022	Truckee	
November 17, 2022		Marine Resources Monterey area
December 13, 2022		Tribal San Diego area
December 14-15, 2022	San Diego area	

Other Meetings of Interest

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- September 18-21, 2022, Fort Worth, TX

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- November 15-22, 2021, Costa Mesa, CA
- March 8-14, 2022, San Jose, CA
- April 6-13, 2022, San Jose, CA
- June 7-14, 2022, Vancouver, WA
- September 7-14, 2022, Boise, ID
- November 2-8, 2022, Orange County, CA

Pacific Flyway Council

- February 2022 – Dates and location to be determined
- August 2022 – Dates and location to be determined

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- January 6-10, 2022, Tucson, AZ
- July 10-15, 2022, Oklahoma City, OK

Wildlife Conservation Board

- November 18, 2021, videoconference or teleconference
- 2022 dates to be determined

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURES INFORMATION

Welcome to a meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee. The Committee is composed of and chaired by up to two Commissioners; these assignments are made by the Commission each year.

The goal of the Committee is to allow greater time to investigate issues before the Commission than would otherwise be possible. Committee meetings are less formal in nature and provide for additional access to the Commission. The Committee follows the noticing requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. It is important to note that the Committee chairs cannot take action independent of the full Commission; instead, the chairs make recommendations to the full Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

The Commission's goal is preserving our outdoor heritage and conserving our natural resources through informed decision-making; Committee meetings are vital in developing recommendations to help the Commission achieve that goal. In that spirit, we provide the following information to be as effective and efficient toward that end. Welcome, and please let us know if you have any questions.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other Commission activities are invited to contact the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and requests for American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Requests for Real-Time Captioners should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Office immediately.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN MATERIALS

The public is encouraged to attend Committee meetings and engage in the discussion about items on the agenda; the public is also welcome to comment on agenda items in writing. You may submit your written comments by one of the following methods (only one is necessary): **Email** to fgc@fgc.ca.gov; **mail** to California Fish and Game Commission, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090; or **deliver** to California Fish and Game Commission, 715 P Street, 16th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

COMMENT DEADLINES

The **Written Comment Deadline** for this meeting is 5:00 p.m. on **September 3, 2021**. Written comments received at the Commission office by this deadline will be made available to Commissioners prior to the meeting.

The **Supplemental Comment Deadline** for this meeting is noon on **September 13, 2021**. Comments received by this deadline will be made available to Commissioners at the meeting.

*The Committee **will not** consider comments regarding proposed changes to regulations that have been noticed by the Commission. If you wish to provide comment on a noticed item, please provide your comments during Commission business meetings, via email, or deliver to the Commission office.*

Note: Materials provided to the Committee may be made available to the general public.

REGULATION CHANGE PETITIONS

As a general rule, requests for regulatory change must be redirected to the full Commission and submitted on the required petition form, FGC 1, *Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change* (Section 662, Title 14, California Code of Regulations). However, at the Committee's discretion, the Committee may request that staff follow up on items of potential interest to the Committee and possible recommendation to the Commission.

SPEAKING AT THE MEETING

Committee meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:

1. You will be given instructions during the meeting for how to be recognized by the Committee co-chair(s) to speak.
2. Once recognized, please begin by giving your name and affiliation (if any) and the number of people you represent.
3. Time is limited; please keep your comments concise so that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
4. If there are several speakers with the same concerns, please try to appoint a spokesperson and avoid repetitive comments.
5. If speaking during public comment for items not on the agenda (Agenda Item 2), the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Committee members discuss that item). As a general rule, public comment is an opportunity to bring matters to the attention of the Committee, but you may also do so via email or standard mail. At the discretion of the Committee, staff may be requested to follow up on the subject you raise.

VISUAL PRESENTATIONS/MATERIALS

All electronic presentations must be submitted by the **Written Comment Deadline** and approved by the Commission executive director before the meeting.

1. Electronic presentations must be provided by email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or delivered to the Commission on a USB flash drive by the deadline.
2. All electronic formats must be Windows PC compatible.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receive public comments for items not on the agenda.

Summary of Previous/Future Action (N/A)**Background**

WRC receives two types of correspondence or comment under general public comment: requests for WRC to consider new topics and informational items. As a general rule, requests for regulation changes must be submitted to FGC on petition form FGC 1, *Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change*. However, WRC may, at its discretion, request staff to follow up on items of potential interest for possible recommendation to FGC.

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

Staff recommends any potential new agenda items — based on issues raised — be held for discussion under Agenda Item 7, *Future agenda items*.

Exhibits (N/A)**Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive updates on DFW activities.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

This is a standing agenda item for DFW to provide updates on activities of interest related to wildlife and inland fisheries. Verbal updates are expected from:

- (A) Wildlife Branch
- (B) Fisheries Branch
- (C) Law Enforcement Division

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

4. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGULATIONS

Today's Item **Information** **Action**

Discuss potential regulatory options for 2022-23 seasons for:

- (A) Upland game bird hunting
- (B) Mammal hunting
- (C) Waterfowl hunting
- (D) Central Valley sport fishing
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing
- (F) Inland sport fishing
 - I. Striped bass slot limits
 - II. Inland boat limits
 - III. Permits for game fish contests (also known as tournaments or derbies)
 - IV. Regulation simplification clarifications and updates

Summary of Previous/Future Action

- Initial vetting of potential regulation changes May 11, 2021; WRC, Webinar/Teleconference
- **Today's discussions and potential recommendations** **Sep 16, 2021; WRC, Sacramento**
- FGC considers WRC recommendations Oct 13-14, 2021; Sacramento

Background

This item provides the public an opportunity to engage in discussions with WRC, FGC staff, and DFW; WRC may potentially make recommendations regarding proposed regulation changes for upcoming hunting and fishing seasons.

- (A) Upland game bird hunting (2022-23): WRC will receive an update from DFW on the status of upland game bird populations, and potentially make recommendations for regulation changes for the 2022-23 seasons. FGC staff expects a DFW recommendation of no changes for the coming hunting seasons.
- (B) Mammal hunting (2022-23): WRC will receive an update on mammal populations and will discuss previous suggestions for hunting regulations for various big game mammals, including deer, Nelson bighorn sheep, antelope and elk, and potentially make recommendations for regulation changes for the 2022-23 seasons. FGC staff expects a DFW recommendation of no changes for the coming hunting seasons.
- (C) Waterfowl hunting (2022-23): FGC annually adopts migratory waterfowl hunting regulations to conform State regulations with federal regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopts federal regulations each Oct based, in part, on recommendations from four regional flyway councils. Migratory waterfowl include American coot, common moorhen, ducks, black brant and geese, among others. WRC

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

will receive a presentation from DFW (Exhibit 1) and potentially make recommendations for regulation changes for the 2022-23 season. FGC staff expects a DFW recommendation for season date adjustments and potentially other minor changes.

- (D) Central Valley sport fishing (2022): FGC annually adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations for the American, Feather, Sacramento, and Mokelumne rivers to conform state regulations with federal regulations and management goals. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adopts federal Central Valley salmon escapement goals each Apr based, in part, on recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). DFW then proposes State regulation changes for consistency with the stated goals. WRC will receive an update from DFW and potentially make recommendations for regulation changes for the 2022 season.
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing (2022): FGC annually adopts regulations to conform State regulations with federal regulations in the Klamath River Basin. NMFS adopts federal Klamath River Basin salmon allocations each Apr based, in part, on recommendations from PFMC; DFW then proposes regulation changes based upon those allocations. WRC will receive an update from DFW and potentially make recommendations for regulation changes for the 2022 season.
- (F) Inland sport fishing: Inland sport fishing regulations include a wide variety of fish species in non-marine waters throughout the state. WRC will receive an update and potentially make recommendations on regulatory changes.
 - I. Striped bass slot limits: DFW will update WRC on progress in developing a potential regulatory change to implement slot limits for striped bass. This item is primarily for discussion only.
 - II. Inland boat limits: DFW will update WRC on progress in developing a potential regulatory change to implement inland boat limits for salmon. This item is primarily for discussion only.
 - III. Permits for game fish contests: DFW will propose a rulemaking to change regulations regarding game fish tournaments and derbies. WRC will discuss with DFW, stakeholders, and the public the overall framework for proposed changes. Potential changes could include adding a new event type, changes to permit terms and conditions, changes to applicable forms, providing authority for permit denial or revocation, establishing or opting to avoid a formal DFW role in pre-draw conflict resolution (i.e., overlapping permit applications), and/or defining applicant eligibility. WRC will receive a presentation from DFW (Exhibit 2) and potentially make recommendations for the proposed rulemaking.
 - IV. Regulation simplification clarifications and updates: DFW will update WRC on future changes it may propose to clarify and revise certain changes made in the sportfishing simplification rulemaking adopted by FGC in Oct 2020. This item is primarily for discussion only.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

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

FGC Staff: Prior to developing recommendations for waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, Klamath River Basin sport fishing, and permits for game fish contests, consider DFW recommendations and public comments provided during the meeting.

Exhibits

1. [DFW presentation](#) (waterfowl)
2. [DFW presentation](#) (game fish contests)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support the proposed regulation changes for waterfowl hunting, Central Valley sport fishing, Klamath River Basin sport fishing, and permits for game fish contests, as recommended by the Department and discussed today.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

5. MAMMAL HUNTING TAG RETURNS

Today's Item	Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(A) Discuss and consider recommendations on a potential rulemaking to address returns of mammal hunting preference points and fee refunds in response to public land closures due to wildfire for the 2021-22 seasons.		
(B) Discuss and consider recommendations on a potential rulemaking to provide the Department general authority to address returns of mammal hunting preference points and fee refunds in response to potential future public land closures.		

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- FGC adopted a preference point and tag fee regulation for the 2020-21 seasons only Feb 10, 2021; Webinar/Teleconference
- **Today's discussion and potential recommendation** **Sep 16, 2021; WRC, Sacramento**

Background

In recent years, California has experienced catastrophic wildfire activity at an unprecedented level; this has prompted federal and state land management agencies to close public lands due to public safety concerns, affecting more hunting in California than in previous seasons. In Feb 2021, FGC adopted a regulation to allow partial refunds and/or preference point restoration for selected big game hunts that experienced a significant or total loss of hunting opportunity due to wildfire-related closures.

- (A) DFW is proposing amendments to mammal hunting regulations to potentially allow restoration of preference points and refunds of certain tag fees in instances where certain public lands were closed due to wildfires during license years 2021 and 2022. This proposal is similar to the previous regulation adopted in Feb 2021, except that it entails a standard for which hunts would be eligible for refunds and/or restoration, and that additional big game species (i.e., certain premium deer hunts) may be eligible for points restoration. WRC will discuss and potentially make recommendations on this proposed rulemaking.
- (B) FGC requested its staff to work with DFW to develop ideas for a future rulemaking that addresses returns of mammal hunting preference points and fee refunds in response to potential future public land closures. WRC will discuss options for such a plan, including relevant standards for eligibility based on the nature of the closures, applicable big game species and hunts, tag return protocols, and other considerations. This item is intended for discussion only.

Importantly, the two proposed regulatory actions do not shorten or close any hunting season as some members of the public have been led to believe, nor do they close any public lands. FGC does not have authority to close or keep open any federal public lands; such decisions are made by the pertinent federal agencies. Decisions regarding closing or opening lands managed by DFW in response to public safety hazards are made by DFW under its day-to-day

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

management authority. Instead, the intent of the proposed rulemakings is to mitigate some of the burden borne by hunters when public lands are closed due to public safety concerns.

Significant Public Comments

Four commenters ask FGC not to ban hunting due to wildfire and climate change for the 2021-22 seasons. A sample letter is included as Exhibit 1.

Recommendation

FGC Staff: Consider DFW recommendations and public comments provided during the meeting in developing a recommendation for restoring preference points and refunding certain tag fees in instances where certain public lands were closed due to wildfires during license years 2021 and 2022.

Exhibits

1. [Sample email from John Chaney](#), received Aug 25, 2021

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support the proposed regulation changes to restore preference points for certain hunts and to refund certain tag fees in instances where public lands were closed due to wildfires during the 2021 and 2022 mammal hunting seasons, as discussed today.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

6. BULLFROGS AND NON-NATIVE TURTLES**Today's Item**Information Action

Receive an update on implementation of the bullfrog and non-native turtle stakeholder engagement plan.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Project referred to WRC Dec 12-13, 2018; FGC, Oceanside
- Most recent updates and discussion May 11, 2021; WRC, Webinar/Teleconference
- **Today's update Sep 16, 2021; WRC; Webinar/Teleconference**

Background

Annually there are approximately two million non-native American bullfrogs and 300,000 non-native turtles (mostly red-eared sliders and softshell turtles) imported into California for food and the pet trade. Even though these species are not imported into California with the intention of being released, they have established wild populations that threaten native amphibians, fish, and wildlife by direct predation, competition for resources and habitat, and disease.

In Apr 2017, FGC directed FGC staff, with DFW's assistance, to develop a proposal for stakeholder engagement to further evaluate possible solutions to address the impacts of American bullfrogs and non-native turtles on native wildlife. The staff proposal was presented to FGC in Oct 2017, a revised version was approved by FGC in Oct 2018, and the stakeholder engagement plan was referred to WRC in Dec 2018 to track progress implementing the plan. The plan involves three independent groups working through the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* to develop situation analyses and strategies for addressing the threats, challenges, and opportunities posed by bullfrogs and non-native turtles. WRC received three progress updates in 2020 and two in 2021.

Today, staff will provide an update on progress since the May 2021 WRC meeting. Groups have met in the past three months and have progressed to the final stages of their situation analyses and solution breakdowns. The agency group has scheduled its final meeting to discuss one last results chain, and the industry and environmental/animal welfare groups are currently reviewing the last of the results chains to finalize their plans as well. Following these steps, staff anticipates a period of cross-group dialogue, synthesis and options development, and legislative outreach, before commencing detailed, substantive dialogue at the Jan 13, 2022 WRC meeting.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 WRC

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**Today's Item**Information Action

Review upcoming agenda items scheduled for the next and future WRC meetings, hear requests from DFW and stakeholders for future agenda items, and identify new items for consideration.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- **Today's discussion** **Sep 16, 2021; WRC, Webinar/Teleconference**
- FGC potentially approves WRC recommendations Oct 13-14, 2021; Webinar/Teleconference
- Next WRC meeting Jan 13, 2022; WRC, Sacramento

Background

Committee topics are referred by FGC and scheduled as appropriate. FGC-referred topics and the current schedule are shown in the WRC work plan (Exhibit 1). WRC agendas currently include one complex and time-intensive topic, related to bullfrogs and non-native turtles. The committee has placed emphasis on issues of imminent regulatory importance.

WRC Work Plan

Draft agenda topics identified for the Jan 2022 WRC meeting are shown in Exhibit 1.

Discuss and Recommend New WRC Topics

Today provides an opportunity to identify any potential new agenda topics to recommend to FGC for referral to WRC.

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

FGC staff: Review WRC work plan and current FGC rulemaking timetable (Exhibit 2), and identify any new topics to recommend for WRC evaluation.

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan](#), updated Sep 7, 2021
2. [FGC Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions](#), updated Sep 3, 2021

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)



Section 502 Waterfowl

Anticipated Recommendations for the 2022-23 Season

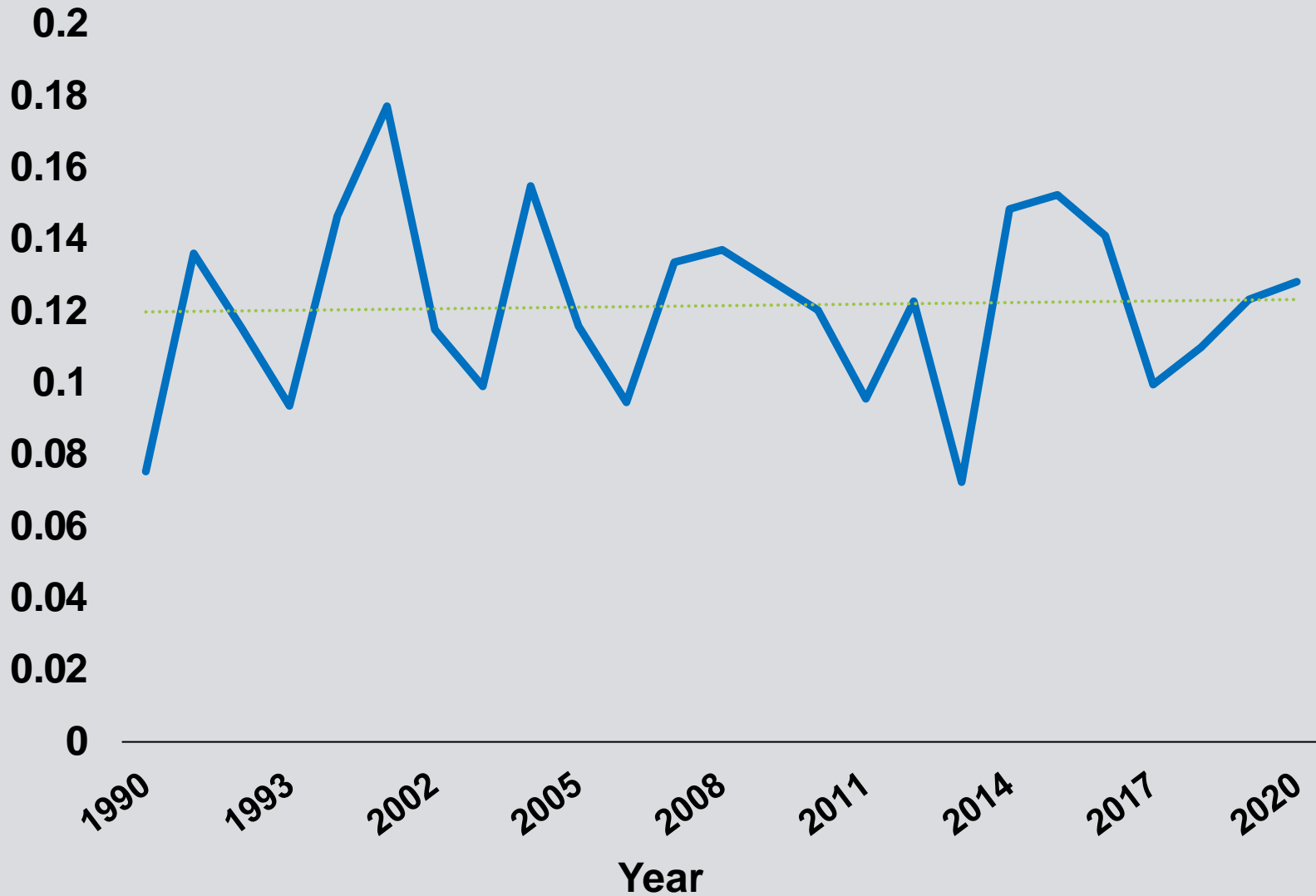


Recommended Changes

- Most duck season lengths increased to 102 days to accommodate January 31 closure and traditional Saturday opener in late October.
 - Results in decrease of falconry only season
- Move 2 days from early Canada goose season in Balance of State Zone to late season.



California Adult Male Mallard Harvest Rates



QUESTIONS?



Melanie Weaver
Waterfowl Program Coordinator
Melanie.weaver@wildlife.ca.gov



Issuance of Permits for Contests Offering Prizes for the Taking of Game Fish



California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting
September 16, 2021
Fisheries Branch



Overview

- Background/justification for rulemaking
- Necessary amendments
- Options for process amendment

Need for rulemaking

- Effective guidelines for last 10 years
- Modified issuance process during COVID revealed regulatory gaps
- Expand tournament opportunities
- Effective date of July 1, 2022

Necessary amendments

- Eliminate \$ thresholds of Type A vs. B events
- Allow catch-photo-release events
 - Amend live well requirements
- Extend duration of black bass events
- Define applicant eligibility
- Provide authority to deny or revoke permits
- Define CDFW's role in conflict resolution

Options for process amendment

1. Cease facilitation of pre-drawing conflict resolution (follow current regulations)
2. Codify pre-drawing facilitation process
3. Remove 1 tournament/water/day rule to eliminate conflicts

Summary

- CDFW is engaging stakeholders on the process/regulations
- Rulemaking is necessary to, at minimum:
 - close gaps that create conflicts and skew odds of successful permit drawing
 - provide authority to revoke or deny based on violations of Fish and Game Code or this section
- Today, discuss the direction of CDFW's role and/or obligations in pre-drawing conflict resolution

From: John Chaney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 2:48 PM
To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>
Subject: Proposed Hunting Ban Opposition

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello,

It has come to my attention that the FGC may be bringing a vote to potentially banning hunting for the 2021/2022 year due to climate and fires. This would be an absolute failure of the FGC to the people of the great state of California and there is no data to support such a measure. I am asking that the commission fully oppose this on the September 16th meeting. My son is 10 years old and is looking forward to possibly taking his first deer this year. We have done nothing but be good stewards of the sport and we eat our game and put countless hours in off season to habitat rehab.

These fires are definitely insane the last 5 years but do not constitute a reason for which we hunters shouldn't be able to hunt. To think I may not be able to duck hunt would also be a travesty. We have put thousands of dollars into management of the area we hunt.

You are alienating hunters over an issue that has zero data to support that there is too much pressure on these animals.

I urge you to vote against this measure.

A concerned hunter and citizen,

John D. Chaney

California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC
Updated September 7, 2021

		May 2021 Webinar/ Teleconference	Sep 2021 Webinar/ Teleconference	Jan 2022 TBD
Periodic Regulations				
Upland (Resident) Game Birds	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Mammal Hunting	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Waterfowl Hunting	Annual	X	X/R	
Central Valley Sport Fishing	Annual	X	X/R	
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual	X	X/R	
Inland Sport Fishing	Regulatory	X	X/R	X
Regulations & Legislative Mandates				
Falconry	Referral for Review			
Mammal Hunting Tags Returns	Regulatory		X/R	X
Restricted Species	Regulatory			
Special Projects				
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

California Fish and Game Commission: Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions

Updated September 3, 2021

Regulatory Change Category	Title 14 Section(s)	WRC Webinar/Teleconference Sep 16, 2021	FGC Webinar/Teleconference Oct 13, 2021	FGC Webinar/Teleconference Oct 14, 2021	MRC Sacramento Nov 9, 2021	TC Sacramento Dec 14, 2021	FGC Sacramento Dec 15, 2021	FGC Sacramento Dec 16, 2021	WRC Sacramento Jan 13, 2022	FGC Sacramento February 16, 2022	FGC Sacramento February 17, 2022	MRC Sacramento Mar 24, 2022	TC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 19, 2022	FGC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 20, 2022	FGC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 21, 2022	FGC Redding Teleconference May 19, 2022	WRC Redding May 19, 2022	FGC Los Angeles / Orange County June 15, 2022	FGC Los Angeles / Orange County June 16, 2022	MRC San Diego Area July 14, 2022	TC Fortuna August 16, 2022	FGC Fortuna August 17, 2022	FGC Fortuna August 18, 2022
Recreational Clam, Sand Crab, and Shrimp Gear Emergency ⁶	29.20, 29.80								EE 1/8														
Recreational Clam, San Crab, and Shrimp Gear Emergency (First 90-day Extension) ⁶	29.20, 29.80			A					E 1/1				EE 4/1										
Recreational Clam, Sand Crab, and Shrimp Gear Emergency (Second 90-day Extension) ⁶	29.20, 29.80										A		E 4/1								EE 7/1		
Recreational Clam, Sand Crab, and Shrimp Gear (Implementing Certificate of Compliance) ⁶	29.20, 29.80							N		D				A							E 7/1		
Central Valley Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(4), (43), (66), (80)	V									N				D	A					E 7/1		
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(50)	V									N				D	A					E 7/1		
Waterfowl (Annual)	502	V					N				D				A						E 7/1		
CA Grunion Limit and Season Changes (FGC Petition #2019-014)	27.60(b), 28.00			N				D		A								E 6/1					
Pink Shrimp Fishery Management Plan Implementing Regulations	120.1, 120.2							N		D/A											E 7/1		
(Mammal Hunting) Preference Points and Tag Refunds	708.19		N					D		A											E 7/1		
Harvesting of Kelp and Other Aquatic Plants, Commercial Marine Algae Management Policies	165, 165.5, 705							N		D/A											E 7/1		
Western Joshua Tree Dead Hazard Trees 2084 Emergency	749.11				EE 11/9																		
Western Joshua Tree Dead Hazard Trees 2084 Emergency (90-day Extension)	749.11		A		E 11/9				EE 2/7														
Western Joshua Tree Local Government 2084 Emergency	749.12				EE 11/9																		
Western Joshua Tree Local Government 2084 Emergency (90-day Extension)	749.12		A		E 11/9				EE 2/7														
Recreational Crab Marine Life Protection Measures	29.80, 29.85, 701				E 11/1																		
Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Program Phase II	90, 91, 120.1, 149, 149.3, 180, 704			D				A					E 4/1										

Rulemaking Schedule to be Determined	Title 14 Section(s)	WRC Webinar/Teleconference Sep 16, 2021	FGC Webinar/Teleconference Oct 13, 2021	FGC Webinar/Teleconference Oct 14, 2021	MRC Sacramento Nov 9, 2021	TC Sacramento Dec 14, 2021	FGC Sacramento Dec 15, 2021	FGC Sacramento Dec 16, 2021	WRC Sacramento Jan 13, 2022	FGC Sacramento February 16, 2022	FGC Sacramento February 17, 2022	MRC Sacramento Mar 24, 2022	TC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 19, 2022	FGC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 20, 2022	FGC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area Apr 21, 2022	FGC Redding Teleconference May 19, 2022	WRC Redding May 19, 2022	FGC Los Angeles / Orange County June 15, 2022	FGC Los Angeles / Orange County June 16, 2022	MRC San Diego Area July 14, 2022	TC Fortuna August 16, 2022	FGC Fortuna August 17, 2022	FGC Fortuna August 18, 2022
Pre-Existing Structures in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), and Special Closures	632																						
Santa Cruz Harbor Salmon Fishing (FGC Petition #2016-018)	TBD																						
European Green Crab (FGC Petition #2017-006)	TBD																						
Wildlife Areas/Public Lands ⁴	TBD																						
Possess Game / Process Into Food	TBD																						
American Zoological Association / Zoo and Aquarium Association	671.1																						
Night Hunting in Gray Wolf Range (FGC Petition #2015-010)	474																						
Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices	TBD																						
Ban of Neonicotinoid Pesticides on Department Lands (FGC Petition #2017-008)	TBD																						
Ridgeback Prawns Incidental Take Allowance	120(e)																						

KEY
 FGC = California Fish and Game Commission MRC = FGC Marine Resources Committee WRC = FGC Wildlife Resources Committee TC = FGC Tribal Committee
 EM = Emergency EE = Emergency Expires E = Anticipated Effective Date (RED "X" = expedited OAL review)
 N = Notice Hearing D = Discussion Hearing A = Adoption Hearing V = Vetting R = Committee Recommendation
 4 = Includes FGC Petition #2018-003 6 = Includes FGC Petition #2019-012