

## Staff Summary for February 14-15, 2024

**12. Commission Policies****Today's Item**Information Action 

Receive update on planning and coordination for review of Commission policies, with potential recommendation for next set of policies to review. Consider and potentially adopt amendments to three Commission policies.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • Received initial staff assessment and provided direction on next steps                                      | June 14-15, 2023            |
| • Received recommendations for first policies to review and potential policies for repeal                     | August 22-23, 2023          |
| • Repealed selected policies  | October 11-12, 2023         |
| • Received drafts of first three policies proposed for revision   | December 13-14, 2023        |
| • <b>Today consider actions for select revised policies and recommendation for next revisions</b>             | <b>February 14-15, 2024</b> |
| • Consider action on <i>Commission Naming Installations Policy</i> and receive update on next set of policies | April 17-18, 2024           |

**Background**

In December 2022, the Commission directed staff to conduct an initial assessment of Commission policies with a justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) and tribal lens. In June 2023, Commission staff presented an initial assessment as well as a proposed plan for moving forward with a comprehensive assessment of all policies, both of which were developed in coordination with Department staff. At its June 2023 meeting, the Commission provided feedback on the proposed plan for review and provided direction to staff. At the August 2023 Commission meeting, consistent with Commission direction, staff provided a list of all policies categorized into one of five groups reflecting a combination of general priorities, anticipated levels of revision, and expected workloads, referred to as “bins.” See Exhibit 12.1 for additional details.

Based on the August categorization, the Commission directed staff to work with the Department to develop potential revisions to a selection of policies recommended for initial review and revision. Staff presented at the December 2023 Commission meeting potential revisions, developed in consultation with Department staff, to *Legislation, Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas*, and *Naming Installations* (exhibits 2-4, respectively) for Commission feedback and public input, with the goal of presenting final recommendations at today's meeting.

The Commission also directed staff to send the *Naming Installations Policy* to tribes and tribal communities requesting input on the proposed revisions, especially in the context of potential changes to the state's Marine Protected Area network and management program, currently under review as a result of the first decadal management review. The request to tribes and

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tribal communities for feedback on the proposed changes to the *Naming Installations Policy* was only recently sent and staff feels that additional time is necessary to provide tribes sufficient time to respond.

Regarding the next policies for review, staff has identified four as potentially requiring relatively minor revisions: 1.1 (code of conduct), 2.10 (fish planting in youth camps), 2.17 (youth fishing programs), and 4.19 (research). The policy numbering corresponds to the numbers in the updated table of Commission policies, organized with proposed bins and the rationale for each. The table has been updated with the addition of a “Commission Action” column for quick reference of the status (Exhibit 5).

In the case of the first set of policies proposed for revision, staff and the Department worked together to develop suggested revisions to each policy and then solicited feedback from the Commission, tribes, and stakeholders. For the next round of policies, staff proposes to send a notice to tribes and the Commission’s electronic mailing list, seeking any suggestions for revisions to the identified policies prior to the April commission meeting. In April staff would summarize what input has been received, request commission feedback, and return in June with proposed revisions. With the loss of the commission policies project lead and several staff vacancies, the proposed process allows us to keep the project advancing with a lighter staff workload during the next two months while the focus is on staff recruitment.

Today provides an opportunity to discuss and consider approving revisions to the first three policies with proposed changes; however, staff believes that tribes have had insufficient time to respond to proposed changes to the *Naming Installations Policy* such that the Commission may want to consider that policy at the April 2024 meeting. The Commission may also choose to direct staff to begin a review process for the next set of policies.

### Significant Public Comments (N/A)

### Recommendation

**Commission staff:** Adopt proposed revisions to the Commission’s *Legislation Policy* and *Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas Policy*, as presented in exhibits 2 and 3. Schedule consideration of potential revisions to the Commission’s *Naming Installations Policy* for the April 2024 meeting. Approve the next set of policies for review as identified by staff.

### Exhibits

1. [Staff summary from August 22-23, 2023 meeting \(for background purposes only\)](#)
2. [Draft proposed revisions to Legislation Policy, dated December 2023](#)
3. [Draft proposed revisions to Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas Policy, dated December 2023](#)
4. [Draft proposed revisions to Naming Installations Policy, dated December 2023](#)
5. [Updated policy bins and rationale for Commission policies, with status added, dated February 9, 2024](#)

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**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission amends its *Legislation Policy* and *Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas Policy*, as recommended and discussed today; moves consideration of proposed changes to its *Naming Installations Policy* to the April 2024 meeting; and directs staff to begin the review process for policies 1.1 (code of conduct), 2.10 (fish planting in youth camps), 2.17 (youth fishing programs) and 4.19 (research).

For Background Purposes Only  
STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 22-23, 2023

## 19. COMMISSION POLICIES

Today's Item	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action <input type="checkbox"/>
Receive update and presentation on planning and coordination for review of Commission policies, and initial list of policies proposed for review.		

### Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission requested staff develop plan for review of policies that includes a “JEDI and tribal lens”</li> </ul> | December 14-15, 2022                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on policy review during executive director’s reports</li> </ul>  | February 8-9, 2023 and<br>April 19-20, 2023 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received initial staff assessment and provided direction on next steps</li> </ul>                                | June 14-15, 2023                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Today receive recommendations for first policies to review</b></li> </ul>                                     | <b>August 22-23, 2023</b>                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider repeal of selected policies</li> </ul>  | October 10-11, 2023                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive drafts of first three revised policies</li> </ul>  | December 13-14, 2023                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider actions for first three revised policies</li> </ul>   | February 2024                               |

### Background

In December 2022, the Commission directed staff to conduct an initial assessment of Commission policies, and in June 2023, Commission staff presented that initial assessment as well as a proposed plan for moving forward with a comprehensive assessment of all policies (see Exhibit 1 for more information).

At its June 2023 meeting, the Commission provided feedback on the proposed plan for review and directed staff to bring to the August 2023 meeting:

- all policies categorized into one of five groups, referred to as “bins”(see Exhibit 1 for descriptions of the bins);
- a list of policies that staff believes do not need updates as part of this review process or that can be repealed, for potential Commission action in October; and
- a list of three to four policies to prioritize for further review and potential revision, and a proposed timeline for reviewing those policies (selecting policies that only need “minor revision” to fine tune the process before tackling more challenging policies).

Exhibit 2 provides the full list of proposed review bins and rationale for the proposed bin categorization of each policy; note that each policy is numbered for ease of tracking. Per Commission direction, staff has identified and proposes six policies for “no additional review,” three for “initial further review and revision,” and three for “repeal.”

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STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 22-23, 2023

**No Additional Review Recommended**

Policies not recommended for any further additional review at this point are identified as “No Update Needed” in Exhibit 2. Most of these policies were updated relatively recently and no needed changes were identified by Department and Commission staff during their initial review.

- 1.7 [Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- 1.10 [Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year](#)
- 2.8 [Forage Species](#)
- 2.13 [Striped Bass](#)
- 3.5 [Terrestrial Predator Policy](#)
- 4.17 [Prospecting on Fish and Game Lands](#)

**Recommended for Initial Further Review and Revision**

Staff recommends that three policies be the first considered for further review and revision. Staff propose a two-meeting process for items 1.8 and 4.8: initial proposed revisions would be presented at the December Commission meeting for public comment and Commissioner feedback, and staff would provide revised draft policies for Commission consideration at its February 2024 meeting. Recognizing that item 4.13 is of high interest and also has a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion nexus, staff is seeking feedback from the Commission regarding process and timing.

- 1.8 [Legislation](#)
- 4.8 [Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas](#)
- 4.13 [Naming Installations](#)

**Repeal Recommended**

Staff recommends that the Commission consider repealing three policies at the October Commission meeting. Policies may be recommended for repeal for various reasons, such as they are duplicative of statute, regulation or a Commission-adopted management plan, or are no longer applicable. Some policies are identified as "repeal" or "repeal and replace" in Exhibit 2, but are not identified for potential action at the October meeting to ensure any relevant language can be retained in other related policies that will be reviewed at a later date.

- 1.9 [Retention of Commission Records](#)
- 2.16 [Warmwater Game Fish Stocking](#)
- 4.16 [Planning](#)

At today’s meeting, staff seeks the Commission’s guidance regarding the proposed bins for policy review, particularly those recommended for “no additional review” or “repeal”, and next steps in the policy review process.

For Background Purposes Only  
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**Significant Public Comments (N/A)**

**Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Direct staff to work with the Department to develop potential revisions to the initial policies recommended for further review and revision, and present proposed revisions at the December meeting. Schedule Commission consideration of policies proposed for repeal for the October meeting.

**Exhibits**

1. Staff Summary from June 14-15, 2023 Meeting (*for background purposes only*)
2. Policies review: Proposed bins

**Motion (N/A)**

# California Fish and Game Commission

## Potential Modifications to the Commission Legislation Policy

*December 7, 2023*

The Commission Legislation Policy is numbered 1.8 for tracking during the 2023-24 Commission policies review process. This document proposes changes to the policy for discussion and feedback at the December 2023 Commission meeting.

The Commission Legislation Policy has evolved over the years as a result of several instances in which a Commission statement of support or opposition became irrelevant or, more significantly, inconsistent with the Commission's position as bills changed through the dynamic and uncertain legislative process. In response, the Commission has chosen to identify high-level goals or concepts for addressing issues of concern that can be transmitted to members of the legislature generally or to specific bill authors working on solutions to related issues; the current policy does not reflect this more nuanced approach to supporting legislation.

Additionally, the Commission has stated the importance of its policies taking into consideration justice, equity, diversity and inclusion values, including those of tribal nations; the importance of considering those values currently is not included in the Commission Legislation Policy. The Commission adopted a separate Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy in 2022.

Potential revisions to the policy could include: (1) revising language to remove reference to prior practices and replace them with current practices, and (2) make reference to the Commission Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Potential revisions will be presented at the December 2023 Commission meeting for discussion purposes; proposed revisions are expected to be presented at the February 2024 Commission meeting for potential adoption.

### **Legislation Policy with Draft Potential Revisions**

#### ***Legislation Policy***

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

The Commission does not take a formal position on state or federal legislation due to the rapidly changing nature of the legislative process. Rather, the Commission identifies goals or concepts it endorses to address specific issues or concerns that could be addressed through legislation; in developing the goals and concepts, the Commission does so consistent with its Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. Information is shared with legislators and legislative staff through written letters and/or conversations with legislative staff. The Commission's approach allows it to be responsive and potentially impactful during the legislative process without relinquishing control over the subject matter it chooses to support or oppose.

~~The Department shall inform the Commission of legislation it proposes to sponsor (introduce). The Commission shall receive monthly Department written and oral reports from the Department summarizing the status of legislation affecting fish and wildlife resources or Department/Commission responsibilities, along with the Department's official position on such legislation, if any. The report shall include departmental analysis of consistency of each bill~~

~~with Commission policy and with the Department's and Commission's Mission Statements. To help support the Commission in discussing and considering potential or proposed legislation, the Department will provide at each regularly scheduled Commission meeting a written report summarizing the status of state legislation affecting California fish and wildlife, Department responsibilities or resources, or Commission responsibilities or resources, along with the Department's approved position on such legislation, if any.~~

~~Any public request for Commission to take a position on proposed legislation shall first be considered by one of the Commission subcommittees. Upon approval by simple majority of a subcommittee, the subcommittee, Commissioner assigned to the subcommittee, or a Commission staff representative shall bring the request to the Commission for action at a Commission meeting.~~

Under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the Commission president, proposed legislation may be placed on ~~the~~ a Commission meeting agenda for consideration of a position or other action by the Commission. ~~Also, by a majority vote the Commission may direct staff to place proposed legislation on the agenda for possible action at a future meeting.~~ A commissioner, making clear that ~~he or she is~~ they are not representing the entire Commission in ~~any~~ an official capacity, may support or oppose legislation apart from the Commission.

(Amended 12/4/92, 11/17/11, 2/xx/2024)



# California Fish and Game Commission

## Potential Modifications to the Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas Policy

*December 8, 2023*

The Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas Policy is numbered 4.8 for tracking purposes during the 2023-24 Commission policies review process. This document proposes changes to the policy for discussion and feedback at the December 2023 Commission meeting.

In the current policy, timing for designating new lands is inconsistent with California Fish and Game Code Section 1019 (regarding management plans, timing, and reporting to the legislature) and is unrealistic. Proposed changes to the policy harmonize reporting to the Commission with existing Department obligations.

Proposed policy changes establish a periodic check-in where the Department and Commission Wildlife Resources Committee can assess whether a critical mass of proposed changes to Department lands regulations has been reached to warrant a rulemaking, thereby better balancing both staff workload and rulemaking content between rulemaking efforts. A framework is important because designating new lands alone does not enable public use – regulations authorizing specific public activities must also be enacted.

The proposed changes would also increase transparency by daylighting and discussing priority-setting and regulation change timing in a public setting, across years. The changes also include a “backstop” whereby a rulemaking regarding Department lands would be considered at least every three years, to prevent acquired lands from languishing without public access.

Lastly, a proposed new name for the policy better reflects the intent and effect of the policy, to encompass all Department lands, instead of wildlife areas only.

### **Designation and Regulation of Department Lands ~~Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas~~**

In this policy, “Department lands” refers to Department-managed lands as defined in California Fish and Game Code Section 1745. It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

1. When submitting to the California State Legislature a list of lands acquired during the previous two fiscal years and the status of the management plans for each acquisition pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1019, subdivision (b)(1), the Department shall also provide the list to the Commission.
2. The Department, within 30 days of the date of obtaining legal control of any lands which are to be managed as a state wildlife area or as a public hunting area, shall request that the Commission formally designate such lands as a "State Wildlife Area". The Commission Annually, in a Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, and the Tribal and/or Marine Resources committees as appropriate, the Department will provide a review of undesignated lands for which the Department has gained management control, proposals for additions and amendments to public uses on designated Department lands or potential transfer of lands, petitions for regulation changes that have been granted by the Commission but not yet considered in a rulemaking related to

Department lands, and any proposals for system-wide Department lands regulations.  
The Department will periodically, but not less than once every three years, make  
recommendations to the Committee regarding Department lands regulations as  
appropriate. consider taking regulatory action to add such formally designated lands to  
the list of "State Wildlife Areas" in Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

(Amended 8/18/05, 2/xx/2024)

# California Fish and Game Commission

## Potential Modifications to the Commission Naming Installations Policy

*December 10, 2023*

The Commission Naming Installations Policy is numbered 4.13 for tracking during the 2023-24 Commission policies review process. This document proposes changes to the policy for discussion and feedback at the December 2023 Commission meeting.

The Commission has expressed concerns regarding its existing Naming Installations Policy providing an exception for naming a marine protected area (MPA) after an individual; the over 70-year-old policy was amended in 2012 to allow the exception. Currently, there are three MPAs named after individuals: Lovers Point-Julia Platt State Marine Reserve, Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area, and Robert W. Crown State Marine Conservation Area.

Additionally, the Commission has stated the importance of its policies taking into consideration tribal and justice, equity, diversity and inclusion values. The Naming Installations Policy currently does not recognize that, when Europeans arrived, specific geographies already had names established by Native Americans in what is now known as California and off its shores.

For naming purposes, the Commission is directly involved in naming protected areas when it designates such areas: state wildlife areas, ecological reserves, and marine protected areas. The Commission does not have a direct role in establishing, purchasing or naming refuges (established by the California State Legislature), fish hatcheries, vessels, and other installations owned or managed by the Department.

Potential revisions to the policy could include: (1) removing the MPA naming exception; (2) adding a provision to consider, in collaboration with local tribes, tribal placenames when naming or renaming installations, including MPAs; and (3) revising the policy title to reflect proposed policy language focused on protected areas.

If the Commission moves forward with removing the option to name MPAs after individuals, the Commission may wish to specify how to address the three MPAs currently named after an individual. For example, they could be renamed immediately, allowed to remain named as they are, or, if the MPA is renamed, a nearby structure or facility could be named in honor of the individual.

If the Commission moves forward with using tribal placenames, the Commission may wish to consider whether or not a western geographic name might also be referenced to maximize public understanding of where the MPA is located. If a western name is included, the Commission may wish to provide direction regarding a standardized format (e.g., tribal name MPA at western geographic location) and whether to apply the same standard to Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area and Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve.

Potential revisions are being presented at this meeting for discussion purposes; proposed policy revisions based on Commission and public input are expected to be presented at the February 2024 Commission meeting for potential adoption.

### **Naming Installations Policy with Draft Potential Revisions**

#### ***Naming Protected Areas Installations Policy***

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

- I. ~~No fish hatchery, game refuge, wildlife area, ecological reserve, or marine protected area (MPA) or any installation, other than Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), shall be named for any person, living or dead. Installations-Protected areas shall be named in a manner which will indicate their geographical location, avoiding as far as possible the names of local political units. ~~Vessels shall be named for fish.~~~~
- II. Traditional tribal placenames for a geographic location shall be considered in collaboration and collaboration with local tribes when naming or renaming any protected area, including MPAs.
- I. ~~The Commission may commemorate an individual by including that individual's name after the geographic name of an MPA if all of the following criteria are met:~~
  1. ~~The individual has been deceased for a minimum of 5 years;~~
  2. ~~It has been determined the individual has made an extraordinary, unique, and long-lasting contribution to the conservation, use, and/or enjoyment of California's living marine resources;~~
  3. ~~It has been determined with reasonable care and consideration that the individual's merit and/or contribution can stand the test of time;~~
  4. ~~The individual and/or their efforts have a direct connection with the geographic location of the MPA or immediate vicinity.~~
- III. The Commission shall be represented at and may participate in all ceremonies dedicating the launching or inauguration of any wildlife area, ecological reserve, or MPA or any installation of the facilities mentioned above. The Department and the Commission staff shall coordinate their work and efforts in ~~setting up or arranging~~ such dedication ceremonies programs.

(Amended 4/7/1994, and 5/23/2012, 2/xx/2024)

**California Fish and Game Commission**  
**Commission Policies Review: Proposed Bins, Rationale and Status**

*Revised February 9, 2024*

Current Category	Policy No.	Policy Title	Proposed Bin	Rationale for Bin	Commission Action
1. Commission	1.1	<a href="#">Code of Conduct</a>	Minor Revisions	Staff have not identified any concerns with the current language; however, the Commission may desire to strengthen or augment this policy.	Proposed for April - June 2024 round of review
1. Commission	1.6	<a href="#">Implementation and Review of Policies</a>	Major Revisions	Both environmental and organizational conditions have changed since this policy was last reviewed. The reporting standards seem infeasible, prompting the need for major revisions. Reporting requirements are scattered throughout other individual policies and should likely be consolidated through this policy.	
1. Commission	1.7	<a href="#">Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion</a>	No update needed	This is one of the Commission's most recently adopted policies. The Commission is currently in the process of developing a full justice, equity, diversity and inclusion plan and may wish to revisit this policy after the plan is complete; however, staff do not recommend revising this policy as part of the current policy review process.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
1. Commission	1.8	<a href="#">Legislation</a>	Minor Revisions	While the Department does provide regular legislative updates to the Commission, this policy should be updated to reflect current practices. Staff expect this revision to require relatively low effort, making it a good candidate for an early review.	Amendments proposed for approval February 14, 2024
1. Commission	1.9	<a href="#">Retention of Commission Records</a>	Repeal	This policy is unnecessary because it is duplicative of and inconsistent with the Commission's records retention schedule (Form STD. 73, filed with the Secretary of State) developed by staff with the assistance of legal counsel. The policy does not provide the level of nuance and differentiation between different types of records that is achieved in the records retention schedule, especially as technology evolves. A revision of the Commission's records retention schedule has been drafted by staff and is under final review; staff expects to file the updated form with the Secretary of State in September.	Repealed October 12, 2024
1. Commission	1.10	<a href="#">Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year</a>	No update needed	This policy was last updated in 2019 and it is currently functioning as intended; staff has not identified any necessary or desired updates.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
2. Fisheries	2.1	<a href="#">Anadromous Rainbow Trout</a>	Minor Revisions	While this policy could require minor or major revision, staff recommend starting with minor revisions and adjusting as or if necessary. Environmental conditions have changed significantly since this policy was last updated in 2008. Some of the content is overly specific and/or duplicative of the fish stocking environmental impact report/statement. Staff recommends revisions to ensure this policy is not duplicative of other guidance. Alternatively, if the Commission pursues a general stocking policy, components of this policy could be incorporated therein.	

Current Category	Policy No.	Policy Title	Proposed Bin	Rationale for Bin	Commission Action
2. Fisheries	2.3	<a href="#">Commercial Use of Native Reptiles</a>	Unclear; more work needed	This policy may need major revisions or could potentially be repealed if the Commission adopts a regulation on the subject. More research and analysis is needed prior to proposing a specific bin for review.	
2. Fisheries	2.4	<a href="#">Commission Designated Wild Trout Waters</a>	Minor Revisions	This policy was recently updated and there were no additional needed changes identified. The Commission may wish to consider minor revisions to consider JEDI impacts (at most).	
2. Fisheries	2.5	<a href="#">Cooperatively Operated Rearing Programs for Salmon and Steelhead</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Potentially this policy may have tribal and/or JEDI implications. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
2. Fisheries	2.6	<a href="#">Delta Fisheries Management Policy</a>	Major Revisions	While a relatively recent policy (2020), the Commission may desire to strengthen language regarding considering native wildlife. The scope of changes are likely minor; however, this is identified as a major revision due to the extent of public process expected.	
2. Fisheries	2.7	<a href="#">Emerging Fisheries</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Sections of this policy are duplicative of code. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
2. Fisheries	2.8	<a href="#">Forage Species</a>	No update needed	This policy was developed through a multi-interest stakeholder group and is equipped to address emerging needs, such as those related to climate change and implementing the experimental fishing program.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
2. Fisheries	2.9	<a href="#">Golden Trout</a>	Unclear; more work needed	The Commission may want to consider combining with overall trout policy, though as the official state fish in California, golden trout may be worthy of its own policy. Need to also consider the impact of stocking in lakes otherwise devoid of fish. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
2. Fisheries	2.10	<a href="#">Planting Fish in Youth Camps</a>	Minor Revisions	Overall, the Department finds this policy to be working well; however, minor changes are likely needed (e.g., reporting requirements, JEDI considerations, and potentially combine with other, similar policies).	Proposed for April - June 2024 round of review
2. Fisheries	2.11	<a href="#">Salmon</a>	Major Revisions	Staff recommends revisions to this policy be considered "major" due to the expected significant interest in elements of the policy. Additionally, there is a tribal nexus that necessitates a more extensive process. Based on initial review, suggested revisions include removing the coded wire tag requirement to reflect current practices and changing technology, revising sections that are overly specific or prescriptive, and recognizing the cultural significance of salmon to tribes and tribal ecological knowledge.  Note: The Commission could consider revising this policy in two parts. Part one: Address coded wire tags, which is a high priority for the department (minor). Part two: Full-scale revision (major).	

Current Category	Policy No.	Policy Title	Proposed Bin	Rationale for Bin	Commission Action
2. Fisheries	2.12	<a href="#">Stocking Fish in Waters Where Anglers Pay Access Fees</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
2. Fisheries	2.13	<a href="#">Striped Bass</a>	No update needed	This policy was updated in 2020 through an extensive public process; staff do not recommend revising as part of the current policy review process.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
2. Fisheries	2.14	<a href="#">Trophy Black Bass Program</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
2. Fisheries	2.15	<a href="#">Trout</a>	Major Revisions	This policy appears to be duplicative of a number of sections of Fish and Game Code. If further research confirms duplication, revision to remove duplicative sections is recommended. Changes are expected to be significant. Additionally, the Commission may wish to combine this policy with the Golden Trout Policy.	
2. Fisheries	2.16	<a href="#">Warmwater Game Fish Stocking</a>	Repeal	This policy generally recommends against stocking warm water fish because satisfactory populations are usually sustained by natural reproduction. Climate change has reduced the Department's ability to stock trout in lower elevation areas, particularly in southern California and closer to urban centers. While this policy does not prohibit stocking of warm water fish, repeal of this policy would give the Department additional flexibility to respond to climate change and help ensure the ability to stock native warmwater fish closer to urban population centers. Additionally, this policy was adopted prior to the fish stocking environmental impact report/statement, which will continue to guide the Department's stocking practice if this policy is repealed.	Repealed October 12, 2024
2. Fisheries	2.17	<a href="#">Youth Fishing Programs</a>	Minor Revisions	This policy starts with "The Department is supportive..." Staff recommends retaining this policy, which supports the use of hatchery fish for youth fishing programs, and rewording to make it clear that this is a policy of the Commission rather than the Department. The Commission may also wish to consider combining with its Planting Fish in Youth Camps Policy (2.10).	Proposed for April - June 2024 round of review
3. Wildlife	3.1	<a href="#">Deer Management</a>	Major Revisions	This policy was last updated in 1984 and staff recommends significant review and revision. In particular, the Commission may wish to incorporate co-management perspectives.	
3. Wildlife	3.2	<a href="#">Depredation Control</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Staff does not recommend selecting a bin for potential revisions until the "take of nongame mammals" subject is addressed through the Commission Wildlife Resources Committee process.	
3. Wildlife	3.3	<a href="#">Elk</a>	Major Revisions	While the extent of revisions will depend on the results of a more detailed review, a major stakeholder process is expected. This policy should be updated to incorporate tribal co-management and revisions may be more global than just elk.	

Current Category	Policy No.	Policy Title	Proposed Bin	Rationale for Bin	Commission Action
3.Wildlife	3.4	<a href="#">Raptors</a>	Minor Revisions	This policy is anticipated to need to be updated based on upcoming revisions to relevant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations. While a current read of the policy suggests minor revisions, federal regulation changes and stakeholder interest may elevate the policy changes to the major revisions bin.	
3.Wildlife	3.5	<a href="#">Terrestrial Predator Policy</a>	No update needed	This policy was updated recently and staff has not identified any necessary or desired changes.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
3.Wildlife	3.6	<a href="#">Upland Game</a>	Minor Revisions	While significant revisions are expected, staff also believe that all stakeholder involvement could potentially occur through the Commission Tribal Committee and the Commission Wildlife Resources Committee, keeping the process for revision within the "minor revision" bin.	
3.Wildlife	3.7	<a href="#">Wild Pigs</a>	Unclear; more work needed	This policy is likely to be informed by the wild "exotic" pig rulemaking currently under development for Commission consideration. Staff will assess what is the appropriate bin once the proposed rulemaking is mostly complete.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.1	<a href="#">Al Taucher's Preserving Hunting and Sport Fishing Opportunities Policy</a>	Minor Revisions	While staff expects significant stakeholder interest, the scope of changes is expected to be minor and staff do not recommend a separate stakeholder process for the revisions.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.2	<a href="#">California Policy for Native Plants</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Staff recommends conferring with tribes through the Commission Tribal Committee regarding the potential need for revisions, prior to determining a bin. A discussion about the need for revisions could be added to the Tribal Committee's December 2023 meeting agenda.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.3	<a href="#">Cooperation</a>	Unclear; more work needed	It appears this policy is partially duplicative of Fish and Game Code, but not entirely; there do not appear to be any overarching references to cooperation in code but, rather, are related to specific subjects.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.4	<a href="#">Endangered and Threatened Species</a>	Major Revisions	While this policy may appear to be duplicative of California Fish and Game Code sections 2052, 2053, 2055 and 2056, there is a significant difference in that the policy focuses not just on all species currently listed under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), but also those that may become eligible for listing, and specifically native species. The reference to native species in significant decline that may become endangered or threatened is not addressed within CESA, though perhaps elsewhere in Fish and Game Code. The second sentence may be duplicative of the Commission's Cooperation Policy. Warrants further review and consideration of potential revisions; a high level of public interest suggests binning as major revision.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.5	<a href="#">Introduction of Non-native Species</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Staff anticipates revisions are needed to update definitions, remove sections that are duplicative of code, and more, though the full extent is not yet clear. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	



Current Category	Policy No.	Policy Title	Proposed Bin	Rationale for Bin	Commission Action
4. Miscellaneous	4.6	<a href="#">Kelp</a>	Unclear; more work needed	This policy is outdated and does not account for current kelp conditions. The Department is developing a kelp recovery and management plan through a public process and is anticipated to incorporate aspirational components of this policy into the plan. Staff recommends considering this policy after the kelp plan is completed and adopted.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.7	<a href="#">Land Use Planning</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Staff believes the policy needs modification, but the scope of revisions is not yet clear. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.8	<a href="#">Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas</a>	Minor Revisions	Staff recommends repealing the first sentence because it is inconsistent with Fish and Game Code Section 1019 (regarding management plan, timing, and reporting to the legislature). In the second sentence, consider adding "ecological reserves." Consider additional guidance regarding Title 14 updates and adding a reasonable time limit for the Department to develop a draft management plan.	Amendments proposed for approval February 14, 2024
4. Miscellaneous	4.9	<a href="#">Management and Utilization of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Lands</a>	Repeal	While this policy is not necessarily duplicative of any particular code section, it essentially states that: (1) the Department should follow the law, (2) the policy does not extend into areas in which it legally cannot apply, and (3) the Department will cooperate with the federal government (duplicative of Cooperation Policy). The statements are not particularly meaningful and staff not see a need to retain this policy; if there are elements that the Commission wants to retain, they should be added to a general federal lands policy.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.10	<a href="#">Management and Utilization of Fish and Wildlife on Private Lands</a>	Minor Revisions	A portion is of this policy is already in regulation and can be deleted. The Commission may wish to expand or further clarify the enhancement component. Other minor modifications are anticipated as well.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.11	<a href="#">Marine Protected Areas</a>	Unclear; more work needed	This policy appears to have been completely—or at least largely—incorporated into statute, the master plan for marine protected areas (MPAs), and/or established interagency governance structures; however, the policy needs close review and confirmation, and elements not already captured should be added to the master plan. Cultural values and practices are missing from the current policy and also should be considered for inclusion in the master plan.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.12	<a href="#">Multiple Use of Lands Administered by the Department of Fish and Game</a>	Minor Revisions	Human use conflicts on Department lands have been raised in multiple venues; as a result, staff anticipates significant stakeholder interest. While a current read of the policy suggests minor revisions are needed, stakeholder interest ultimately may elevate the policy changes to the major revisions bin.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.13	<a href="#">Naming Installations</a>	Major Revisions	As already identified during Commission discussions, updates are needed to this policy and may be significant (i.e., incorporating the voices of underrepresented communities). Stakeholder interest will also be high, securing the policy in the major revisions bin.	Amendments proposed for approval April 17-18, 2024, 2024

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4. Miscellaneous	4.14	<a href="#">National Forests</a>	Repeal and Replace	As written, this policy creates significant workload for the Department and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with limited benefit given the current working relationship. Any USFS participation is entirely voluntary. If elements of this policy are desired to be retained, they should be combined with elements of the Management and Utilization of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Land Policy within a general federal lands policy.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.15	<a href="#">Non-native Turtles and Frogs</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Staff anticipates that this policy will need to be significantly modified or repealed. Necessary revisions and process depend in part on the outcomes of the Commission's American bullfrog and non-native turtles project; after the Commission takes action on the project, staff will revisit the policy bin.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.16	<a href="#">Planning</a>	Repeal	The policy requires the Department to prepare and submit annually to the Commission a report on progress in implementing the Comprehensive Management System adopted by the Department in March 1992, and to obtain Commission approval for any proposed program not identified in the strategic planning component of the system unless mandated by the legislature. The system no longer exists and, hence, the policy is obsolete.	Repealed October 12, 2024
4. Miscellaneous	4.17	<a href="#">Prospecting on Fish and Game Lands</a>	No update needed	This policy is clear and straightforward. At some point in the future, the Commission may wish to codify the first paragraph in regulation (likely as part of a Department lands package); at that point, the policy could be revisited and the second paragraph could then be incorporated into a more general Department lands policy.	Affirmed no update needed August 23, 2023
4. Miscellaneous	4.18	<a href="#">Public Information and Education</a>	Minor Revisions	Updates are needed to add modern communication tools and incorporate JEDI. The last statement regarding wild animals as pets is disconnected from the rest of the policy and likely does not belong here. Need to ensure public information and education is provided in a way that supports JEDI.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.19	<a href="#">Research</a>	Minor Revisions	No updates are needed currently; however, the Commission may wish to revisit item IV when the idea of reporting to the Commission in general is revisited.	Proposed for April - June 2024 round of review
4. Miscellaneous	4.20	<a href="#">Restricted Access Commercial Fisheries</a>	Major Revisions	This policy is foundational to the established structure of California's commercial fisheries. Legal and socio-economic implications of changes to the policy must be carefully considered. Significant resources and stakeholder engagement are anticipated. A two-phase process should be considered, where the first phase is reviewing and assessing the performance of existing restricted access fisheries relative to the policy objectives.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.21	<a href="#">Salton Sea</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	

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4. Miscellaneous	4.22	<a href="#">Season Opening Dates</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Hard-coded season opening dates are challenging in the face of climate disruption. Predictability has value to local communities that host openers, though species biology, as well as matching the window of hunting and fishing seasons with species activity, life cycles, and variable social considerations is paramount. Further thinking and discussion is needed before making a recommendation.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.23	<a href="#">Shellfish and Sea Otter Conflicts</a>	Major Revisions	Changes to this policy will need to be considered in the context of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service efforts currently underway to explore sea otter range expansion. Staff anticipates a high level of interest and engagement by stakeholders and other agencies.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.24	<a href="#">Training, Testing and Trialing of Hunting Dogs</a>	Unclear; more work needed	If substantive changes are made to this policy, a high level of stakeholder interest is expected. Needs further discussion between Commission and Department staff before a recommendation can be made.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.25	<a href="#">Tribal Consultation Policy</a>	Major Revisions	The policy was a good first step for a consultation policy in the Commission's effort to build a tribal affairs program. However, the policy needs to be updated due to the evolution of tribal consultation and engagement since the policy was first adopted in 2015. The California Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with the governor's office, is heading up a collaborative effort amongst its natural resource agencies to develop a basic agency-wide policy that can then be built upon and customized by the Commission.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.26	<a href="#">Use of Designated Department Lands for Privately Managed Public Hunting Areas</a>	Unclear; more work needed	Additional research is needed regarding authorities and current practices before a recommendation can be made.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.27	<a href="#">Water</a>	Unclear; more work needed	The Department is already completing many of the tasks described in the policy, as required by law. Significant changes have occurred to both the physical environment and governance structures since the policy was adopted almost 30 years ago. Additional research is needed before a recommendation can be made.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.28	<a href="#">Wetlands Resources</a>	Major Revisions	This policy should be retained with modifications, and elements of policies 4.29 and 4.30 incorporated.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.29	<a href="#">DFG Recommended Wetland Definition, Mitigation Strategies, and Habitat Value Assessment Methodology (this policy goes hand-in-hand with the CFGC response to the proposal, 4.30)</a>	Repeal and Replace	Much of the content is outside the scope of a policy and is more appropriate for program management guidelines. Any needed content should be combined with the Commission Wetlands Resources Policy.	
4. Miscellaneous	4.30	<a href="#">CFGC Comment to DFG on the Wetland Policy Implementation Proposal</a>	Repeal and Replace	Much of the content is outside the scope of a policy and is more appropriate for program management guidelines. Any needed content should be combined with the Commission Wetlands Resources Policy.	

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4. Miscellaneous	4.31	<a href="#">Wilderness Areas</a>	Minor Revisions	Conceptually the policy has value (retain all wild areas as such), though there is at least one change that would provide greater clarity: What are the "selected habitat management programs" and, if the individual programs cannot be identified, at least provide a general definition. Need to also assess potential JEDI and tribal impacts.	
5. Joint Policies - California State Board of Forestry and the California Fish and Game Commission	5.1	<a href="#">Joint Policy Statement on Pacific Salmon and Anadromous Trout</a>	Major Revisions	Staff recommends this policy be amended in conjunction with the policy on fire activities and wildlife habitat (5.2). Review will necessitate a series of concerted meetings with BOF and the Department, and is expected to generate significant tribal and stakeholder interest.	
5. Joint Policies - California State Board of Forestry and the California Fish and Game Commission	5.2	<a href="#">Interim Joint Policy on Pre-, During, and Post Fire Activities and Wildlife Habitat</a>	Major Revisions	Staff recommends this policy be amended in conjunction with the policy on Pacific salmon and anadromous trout (5.1). Review will necessitate a series of concerted meetings with BOF and the Department, and is expected to generate significant tribal and stakeholder interest.	
5. Joint Policies - California State Board of Forestry and the California Fish and Game Commission	5.3	<a href="#">Policy on Hardwoods</a>	Major Revisions	Amendments to this policy is of high interest to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), which contacted the Commission in early 2023 about initiating an amendment process. The review process will necessitate a series of concerted meetings with BOF and the Department, and is expected to generate significant tribal and stakeholder interest. BOF is developing proposed amendments to the policy for discussion purposes.	