

## Committee Staff Summary for November 6-7, 2024 MRC

**12. General Public Comment****Today's Item**Information Action 

Receive public comment regarding topics that are not included on today's agenda.

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

The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) receives two types of correspondence or comment under general public comment: (1) requests for MRC to consider new topics and (2) informational items. As a general rule, requests for a regulation change must be submitted to the Commission on petition form FGC 1, Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change. However, MRC may, at its discretion, request that staff follow up on items of potential interest for possible recommendation to the Commission.

**Significant Public Comments**

One commenter requests the Commission to continuously track at all meetings the status of all salmon species until they are no longer considered "endangered" or "threatened"; expresses concern over the southern resident Pacific orca population decline; and urges the Department and Commission to investigate the impact of offshore wind turbines, pollution, and habitat loss on coastal mammals such as mink, fisher and river otter (Exhibit 1).

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

1. [Email from Phoebe Lenhart](#), received October 23, 2024

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

**From:** Phoebe Lenhart <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2024 03:24 PM

**To:** FGC <[FGC@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:FGC@fgc.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** November 6, 2024 meeting. #12: General public comment for items not on the agenda. Please, NO Salmon fishing in CA. Status of all salmon species? Status of coastal mammals? Consideration of the Southern Resident Pacific orca whales.

Dear FGC,

This email is sent to your attention regarding numerous concerns.

First, the status of the salmon species (ALL) is not on the agenda for this meeting. I protest the omission of the consideration on the state of the salmon on the agenda. I believe, until all 7 species of Pacific salmon are no longer considered “endangered” or “threatened”, all the species of Pacific salmon are of urgency to be listed on the agenda at every meeting. In addition, please protect all the Chinook salmon in order to feed the Southern Resident Pacific (SRP) orca whales, in particular. The survival of the SRP is dependent upon the supply of Chinook salmon. Please include all the species of Pacific salmon on the agenda for consideration. Thank you.

Second, how can multiple agencies involved with the survival of the Chinook salmon fail? What kind of “management” do you call this? How can 830,000 Chinook fry die swimming to the Klamath River? How can multiple agencies “fail” by not testing the condition of the Klamath River before releasing ALL the Chinook fry to their subsequent death? This matters immensely as other marine mammals in the Pacific Ocean dependent upon the salmon to eat!! Particularly the Southern Resident Pacific (SRP) orcas. What are these agencies going to do to prevent future disasters and to supply the Pacific Ocean with abundant Chinook salmon for all marine life dependent on them?

Third, of great importance is the wellbeing of small coastal mammals in CA. I would like the DFW/FGC to investigate the status of the CA mink, the CA fisher, the River otters, the Humboldt marten and etc. It is very rare when any of these small coastal mammals are accounted for at all in your meetings. With the development of off shore wind turbines, pollution, habitat loss, among many other factors, these are issues that impact small marine mammal survival.

Fourth, the Southern Resident Pacific (SRP) orca whale pod has 73 members. According to

research, there was only 1 birth in the pod this year. The population of the SRP has been in decline for 20 years and has been considered as “starving” for many years due to low Chinook salmon stocks. What are your agencies doing to correct this failure?

Sincerely,  
Phoebe Lenhart



Sent from my iPad