

Commissioners
Samantha Murray, President
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Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville
Eric Sklar, Member
Saint Helena
Darius W. Anderson, Member
Kenwood

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

Melissa A. Miller-Henson
Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
fgc@fgc.ca.gov
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

Second Revised* Meeting Agenda **February 12-13, 2025**

Participate in Person

California Natural Resources Headquarters Building
715 P Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

or

Participate via Zoom/Phone

The meeting will be live streamed; visit <http://www.fgc.ca.gov> the day of the meeting to watch or listen. To provide public comment, please join at the Sacramento location, via Zoom, or by phone; join via Zoom or directly at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84890694237>. For complete instructions on how to join via Zoom or phone, visit fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2025.

* This agenda has been revised to:

- Move the start time of the second day to 8:30 a.m.;
- note that item 2 (Election of Commission President and Vice President), item 3 (Committee Assignments), and item 16A (Tribal Committee) will be heard on Thursday the 13th;
- postpone to a future meeting item 17 (State Water Resources Control Board presentation); and
- correct the citation in item 23 (Aquaculture Lease Assignment) to Section 15412, California Fish and Game Code.

- Notes:
- (1) See important meeting deadlines and procedures, including written public comment deadlines, starting on page 13.
 - (2) A list of documents received by the commission since its December 2024 meeting is on page 8.
 - (3) Unless otherwise indicated, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is identified as Department.
 - (4) All section and subsection references are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise noted.

Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish a Quorum

1. **Consider approving agenda and order of items**

Commission Elections and Committee Assignments

2. **Election of Commission president and vice president**

The commissioners annually elect one of their number as a president and one as a vice president, by a concurrent vote of at least three commissioners.

(Pursuant to Section 102, California Fish and Game Code)

Note: This agenda item will be heard on Thursday.

3. **Committee assignments**

The Commission forms three committees from its membership, consisting of at least one or up to two commissioners: Marine Resources Committee, Wildlife Resources Committee, and Tribal Committee.

(Pursuant to sections 105, 106 and 106.5, California Fish and Game Code)

Note: This agenda item will be heard on Thursday.

General Public Comment

4. **General public comment for items not on the agenda**

Receive public comment regarding topics within the Commission's authority that are not included on the agenda.

Note: The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting (sections 11125 and 11125.7(a), Government Code).

Consent Items

Note: Items on the consent calendar are expected to be routine and non-controversial. After public comment, the Commission will consider approving items on the consent calendar in a single vote without discussion. The presiding commissioner may choose to remove any item from the consent calendar and allow a separate discussion and potential action on that item in response to a request by a Commission member, staff, or an interested person.

5. **Southern California steelhead (consent)**

Consider ratifying findings on the decision to list southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (Pursuant to subdivision 2075.5(e)(2), California Fish and Game Code)

6. **White sturgeon (consent)**

Consider approving the Department's request for a six-month extension to deliver the one-year status review report on the petition to list white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

(Pursuant to Section 2074.6, California Fish and Game Code)

Discussion and Action Items

7. Commission executive director and Department reports

- (A) ***Commission executive director***
- (B) ***Department director and Law Enforcement Division***

8. Inland sport fishing

(A) ***Central Valley (annual)***

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend Central Valley sport fishing regulations.

(Amend subsections 7.40(b)(4), (b)(43), (b)(66) and (b)(80))

(B) ***Klamath River Basin (annual)***

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations related to Chinook salmon.

(Amend subsection 7.40(b)(50)).

9. White sturgeon sport fishing 2084 regular rulemaking

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend regulations for the recreational take of, tagging of, and reporting requirements for, white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) in inland and ocean waters, pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2084.

(Repeal sections 5.79, 27.92, and 27.95; and amend sections 1.74, 5.80, 5.81, 27.60, 27.90, 27.91 and 701)

10. Waterfowl hunting

Discuss proposed amendments to waterfowl hunting regulations.

(Amend Section 502)

11. Big game hunting and chronic wasting disease

Discuss and consider authorizing staff to provide public notice of sufficiently related changes to proposed regulations regarding big game hunting and chronic wasting disease testing.

(Amend sections 360, 362, 363, 364, 364.1 and 708.5)

12. Application for a new restricted species permit

Review an application for a permit to import, possess, transport or rear, or conduct research on, transgenic zebrafish and take action consistent with the Commission regulation, if warranted.

(Pursuant to subdivision 15007(e), California Fish and Game Code, and subsection 671.1(a)(8)(H), Title 14, CCR)

13. Morro manzanita

Consider and potentially act on the petition, Department's evaluation report, and comments received to determine whether listing morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*) as endangered under CESA may be warranted.

(Pursuant to subdivision 2074.2, California Fish and Game Code)

Note: This agenda item will begin immediately following Wednesday's lunch break.

14. Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan

Receive a presentation on the development of the draft *Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan*, discuss, and provide feedback on the draft plan.
(Pursuant to subdivision 1927.6(a), California Fish and Game Code)

Note: The total amount of time allocated for public comment on this agenda item will be limited to no more than 60 minutes to limit the entire agenda item to approximately two hours in length, including presentations, discussion and public comment.

15. Regulation change petitions (wildlife)

(Pursuant to Section 662)

(A) Petitions for action today

Consider whether to grant, deny, or refer for additional review, petitions for regulation change received at previous meetings. Petitions granted today will be added to the Commission's rulemaking calendar for development and future consideration.

- I. *Petition 2021-026: Request to remove regulations for areas claimed to be outside the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and update reserve boundaries*
- II. *Petition 2020-016 AM1: Authorize use of a crossbow with a scope for those with visual disabilities*
- III. *Petition 2024-01: Allow increased take and reduce size limitations of trout in Stony Creek in Colusa County*

(B) New petitions

Receive new petitions for regulation change.

Consideration of whether to grant, deny, or refer for additional review is expected to be scheduled for the April 16-17, 2025 Commission meeting.

(C) Referred petitions

Receive comments on petitions previously referred by the Commission to staff, legal counsel, a Commission committee, or the Department for review and recommendation.

Commission action on any referred petition will be scheduled for consideration once a recommendation is received.

16. Committee and Department reports

Receive updates on items of note since the previous Commission meeting from Commission committees and Department divisions.

(A) Tribal Committee

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting on April 15, 2025.

Note: This agenda item will be heard on Thursday.

(B) Wildlife Resources Committee

Receive a summary and recommendations from the January 15, 2025 Wildlife Resource Committee meeting, potentially act on the recommendations, discuss

referred topics, consider revisions to topics and timing, and consider scheduling action on the previously referred topic of falconry regulation changes.

- (B) ***Department Wildlife and Fisheries Division, and Department Ecosystem Conservation Division***

February 13, 2025; 8:30 AM

Call to Order/Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Discussion and Action Items

- 17. State Water Resources Control Board: Providing water for fish and wildlife and their habitats**
Receive and discuss presentations from leadership at the State Water Resources Control Board regarding actions the board has recently taken, or will consider in the near future, to contribute clean and cold water to California's rivers and streams, and to help ensure healthy habitats for the state's fish and wildlife.
Note: This agenda item is postponed to a future meeting to prioritize Los Angeles wildfire recovery efforts.
- 18. Recreational take of ocean salmon and Pacific halibut**
Receive and discuss an update on the Pacific Fishery Management Council process and timeline for recreational ocean salmon and Pacific halibut, automatic conformance of state regulations to federal regulations, and the option to authorize staff to develop and notice a regular rulemaking or rulemakings.
(Pursuant to Section 1.95)
- 19. Commercial take of coonstripe shrimp emergency**
Consider adopting emergency regulations for the commercial take of coonstripe shrimp.
(Amend Section 180.15)
- 20. Commercial take of red and other sea urchin**
Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend regulations for commercial take of red and other sea urchin.
(Amend Section 120.7 and add Section 120.8)
- 21. Commercial harvest of kelp, including sea palm, and other aquatic plants**
Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend regulations for commercial harvest of sea palm, and kelp and other aquatic plants harvest reporting and references.
(Amend sections 165 and 705.1)
- 22. Recreational take of barred sand bass**
Discuss proposed amendments to regulations for recreational barred sand bass fishery.
(Amend Section 28.30)

23. Aquaculture lease assignment

Consider and potentially act on the request from Cove Mussel Company to assign State Water Bottom Lease M-430-06 in Tomales Bay to Starbird Mariculture, Inc. (Pursuant to Section 15412, California Fish and Game Code).

24. Experimental fishing permit (EFP) major amendment request

Receive, consider, and potentially act on a major amendment request for an EFP (Commission tracking #2023-02) approved to test pop-up fishing systems in the California Dungeness crab fishery. (Pursuant to Section 91)

25. Experimental fishing permit application

Receive, consider, and potentially act on an EFP application (Commission tracking #2023-04) to test traditional longlining gear in the California Dungeness crab fishery under the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program in the spring when the season may be closed to traditional gear that utilizes one vertical line per trap. (Pursuant to Section 91)

26. Regulation change petitions (marine)

(Pursuant to Section 662)

(A) Petitions for action today

Consider whether to grant, deny, or refer for additional review, petitions for regulation change received at previous meetings. Petitions granted today will be added to the Commission's rulemaking calendar for development and future consideration.

No petitions are ready for Commission consideration today.

(B) New petitions

Receive new petitions for regulation change.

Consideration of whether to grant, deny, or refer petitions for additional review is expected to be scheduled for the April 16-17, 2025 Commission meeting.

(C) Referred petitions

I. Receive comments on petitions previously referred by the Commission to staff, legal counsel, a Commission committee, and/or the Department for review and recommendation.

II. *Amendments to marine protected area (MPA) petitions*

Receive a written update from staff regarding MPA petitioners who submitted by the January 10 deadline either an amended petition or a statement of intent to amend their petition by March 15; receive amended petitions received to date and statements of intent, which have been forwarded to the Department.

Commission action on any referred petition will be scheduled for consideration once a recommendation is received.

27. Committee and Department reports

Receive updates on items of note since the previous Commission meeting from Commission committees and Department divisions.

(A) ***Marine Resources Committee***

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting on March 13, 2025.

(B) ***Department Marine Region***

- I. Public discussion of actions taken by the Department director to lift the temporary recreational crab trap restrictions in the Dungeness crab fishery from the Sonoma/Mendocino county line to Lopez Point, Monterey County (Fishing Zones 3 and 4).
(Pursuant to Section 29.80)

28. Commission administrative items

(A) ***Legislative report***

Receive updates on legislative activity and consider providing direction to staff on potential actions.

(B) ***Rulemaking timetable updates***

Review and potentially approve changes to the perpetual timetable for anticipated regulatory actions.

(C) ***Future meetings and new business***

Review logistics and approve draft agenda items for the next Commission meeting (April 16-17, 2025), consider any changes to approved meeting dates or locations, or introduce new business for a future meeting agenda.

General Public Comment

29. General public comment for items not on the agenda

Receive public comment regarding topics within the Commission’s authority that are not included on the agenda.

Note: The Commission may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting (Section 11125 and subdivision 11125.7(a), California Government Code).

Adjourn

Public Receipt of Documents

This section of the agenda highlights reports or other significant documents received by the Commission since the previous meeting. Any Commission discussion or action on these documents will be noticed and placed on the agenda of a future meeting. Since December 12, 2024, the Commission has received four documents:

1. [Annual report to the California State Legislature regarding necropsies on mountain lions](#) taken under depredation permits in 2024.
(Pursuant to subdivision 4807(b), California Fish and Game Code)
2. [Petition from the Center for Biological Diversity and the Endangered Habitats League to list quino checkerspot butterfly \(*Euphydryas editha quino*\) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act](#). Additional information about the petition is available at <https://fgc.ca.gov/CESA> under “Active Petitions.”
(Pursuant to subsection 670.1(c), Title 14, California Code of Regulations)

Executive Session
(Not open to the public)

At a convenient time during the regular agenda of its February 12-13, 2025 meeting, the Commission will recess from the public portion of the agenda and conduct a closed session on the agenda items below. The Commission is authorized to discuss these matters in a closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 11126, subdivisions (a)(1), (c)(3), and (e)(1), and Fish and Game Code Section 309. After closed session, the Commission will reconvene in public session, which may include announcements about actions taken during closed session.

- (A) Pending litigation to which the Commission is a party
 - I. The People of the State of California v. Hannam Chain U.S.A., Inc., et al. (restricted species) and Hannam Chain U.S.A., Inc., et al. v. California Fish and Game Commission (challenge to restricted species regulation)
 - II. The Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. California Fish and Game Commission and California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (challenge to decisions related to public uses on an ecological reserve)
 - III. The Ballona Wetlands Land Trust v. California Fish and Game Commission (Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve petition for regulation change)
 - IV. Wright v. Sklar (classification of ferrets)
 - V. Borba et al. v. Merced Co, Merced Irrigation Dist., California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission (complaint for damages related to flooding)
 - VI. Perez-Ramirez et al. v. County of Merced, City of Merced, Merced Irrigation Dist., California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission (complaint for damages related to flooding)
 - VII. Glenn et al. v. County of Merced, City of Merced, Merced Irrigation Dist., California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and California Fish and Game Commission (complaint for damages related to flooding)
- (B) Possible litigation involving the Commission
- (C) Staffing
- (D) Deliberation and action on license and permit items

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. All Commission meetings will include a webinar/teleconference option for attendance and every effort will be made to ensure that committee meetings include the same.

Meeting Date	Commission Meeting	Committee Meeting
March 13, 2025		Marine Resources California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
April 15, 2025		Tribal California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
April 16-17, 2025	Sacramento area	
May 14, 2025	Teleconference Sacramento, Trinidad, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, and San Diego	
May 15, 2025		Wildlife Resources California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
June 11-12, 2025	Sacramento area	
July 17, 2025		Marine Resources California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814go
August 12, 2025		Tribal California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
August 13-14, 2025	California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814	

Meeting Date	Commission Meeting	Committee Meeting
September 11, 2025		Wildlife Resources California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
October 8-9, 2025	Sacramento area	
November 6, 2025		Marine Resources California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
December 9, 2025		Tribal California Natural Resources Headquarters Building 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
December 10-11, 2025	Sacramento area	

Other Meetings of Interest

Meetings listed here are organizations for which the Commission: (1) is a member, or (2) takes action based upon regulations developed by that organization.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- September 21-24, 2025 – Tucson, AZ

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- March 5-11, 2025 – Vancouver, WA
- April 9-15, 2025 – San Jose, CA
- June 12-18, 2025 – Rohnert Park, CA
- September 18-24, 2025 – Spokane, WA
- November 13-19, 2025 – Costa Mesa, CA

Pacific Flyway Council

- March 11, 2025 – Louisville, KY
- September 2025 – Date and location TBD

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- June 2-6, 2025 – Provo, UT

Wildlife Conservation Board

- February 26, 2025 – Sacramento, CA
- May 22, 2025 – Sacramento, CA
- August 28, 2025 – Sacramento, CA
- November 20, 2025 – Sacramento, CA

Important Commission Meeting Procedures Information

Welcome to a Meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission

This year marks the 155th year of operation of the Commission in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our goal is the preservation of our heritage and conservation of our natural resources through informed decision making; Commission meetings are vital in achieving that goal and we provide this 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 Civil Rights Office (CRO) at civilrights@wildlife.ca.gov. Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and requests for American Sign Language 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 CRO immediately.

Stay Informed

To receive meeting agendas and regulatory notices about those subjects of interest to you, visit the Commission's website, www.fgc.ca.gov, to sign up on our electronic mailing lists.

Submitting Written Comments

The public is encouraged to comment on any agenda item. Submit written comments by one of the following methods: E-mail to fgc@fgc.ca.gov; mail to California Fish and Game Commission, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090; deliver to California Fish and Game Commission, 715 P Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 (you must call at least one business day in advance to arrange delivery). Materials provided to the Commission may be made available to the general public.

Comment Deadlines

The **Comment Deadline** for this meeting is **5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2025**. 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 February 7, 2025**. Comments received by this deadline will be made available to Commissioners at the meeting.

After these deadlines, written comments may be delivered in person to the meeting. Please bring 12 copies of written comments to the meeting and give them to the designated staff member just prior to speaking.

Petitions for Regulation Change

Any person requesting that the Commission adopt, amend, or repeal a regulation must complete and submit form FGC 1, *Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change* (as required by Section 662, Title 14, CCR), available at <https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Petition-for-Regulation-Change>. To be received by the

Commission at this meeting, petition forms must be received by the **Supplemental Comment Deadline** or delivered in person at the meeting during the regulation change petitions agenda item. Petitions received at this meeting will be scheduled for consideration at the next regularly scheduled business meeting, unless the petition is rejected under staff review pursuant to subsection 662(b), Title 14, CCR.

Non-Regulatory Requests

All non-regulatory requests follow a two-meeting cycle to ensure proper review and thorough consideration of each item. All requests submitted by the **Supplemental Comment Deadline** (or heard during general public comment at the meeting) will be scheduled for receipt at this meeting and scheduled for consideration at the next regularly scheduled business meeting.

Speaking at the Meeting

To speak on an agenda item in-person, please complete a “speaker card” and provide it to the designated staff member before the agenda item is announced. Please complete one speaker card per item. Cards will be available near the entrance of the meeting room.

To speak on an agenda item via Zoom or phone, please “raise” your hand either through the Zoom function or by pressing *9 once on your phone when prompted at the beginning of the agenda item.

1. In-person speakers will be identified in groups; please line up when your name is called. Speakers on Zoom or phone will be identified by your Zoom display name or the last three digits of your phone number; listen closely for when your name or number is called.
2. When addressing the Commission, please give your name and the name of any organization you represent, and provide your comments on the item under consideration.
3. If there are several speakers with the same concerns, you are encouraged to appoint a spokesperson and avoid repetitive testimony.
4. The presiding commissioner will allot between one and three minutes per speaker per agenda item, subject to several exceptions:
 - a. The presiding commissioner may allow up to five minutes for an individual speaker if a minimum of three individuals who are present when the agenda item is called have ceded their time to the designated spokesperson, and the individuals ceding time forfeit their right to speak to the agenda item.
 - b. In-person participants ceding their time shall complete a speaker card and approach the staff table with the spokesperson so that staff may confirm the presence of those ceding their time. Persons participating via Zoom or phone and ceding their time to another speaker must notify the Commission at fgc@fgc.ca.gov prior to the start of the agenda item, including to whom they are ceding their time, and must be present during the agenda item.
 - c. Individuals may receive advance approval for additional time to speak if such requests are received by email or delivery to the Commission office by the **Supplemental Comment Deadline**. The president or designee will approve or deny the request no later than 5:00 p.m. two days prior to the meeting.
 - d. An individual requiring an interpreter is entitled to at least twice the allotted speaking time pursuant to Government Code Section 11125.7(c).

- e. An individual may receive additional time to speak to an agenda item at the request of any commissioner.

Agenda items may be heard in any order and on either day pursuant to the discretion of the presiding commissioner.

Visual Presentations/Materials

All electronic presentations must be submitted by the ***Supplemental 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. If the presentation file is too large to send via email, contact staff to identify an alternative method for submitting the file.
2. All electronic formats must be Windows PC compatible.
3. If presenting at the in-person meeting location, it is recommended that you bring a print copy of your presentation in case of technical difficulties.