

Staff Summary for February 12-13, 2025

6. White Sturgeon (consent)**Today's Item**Information Action

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 (CESA).

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Received petition | November 29, 2023 |
| • Transmitted petition to Department | December 6, 2023 |
| • Published notice of receipt of petition | January 5, 2024 |
| • Determined the petitioned action may be warranted, initiating Department's one-year status review | June 19-20, 2024 |
| • Today consider approving the Department's six-month extension request | February 12-13, 2025 |

Background

On November 29, 2023, the Commission received a petition from San Francisco Bay Keeper, Restore the Delta, the Bay Institute, and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance requesting the Commission list white sturgeon as threatened under CESA.

At its June 2024 meeting, the Commission determined that the petition contains sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. The Commission published a notice of its determination, and of white sturgeon's protected, candidate species status, on July 12, 2024. Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 2074.6, the Department has one year from the date of notice to complete a status review, unless the Commission grants an extension of time.

Today, the Commission will consider a request by the Department for a six-month extension to further analyze and evaluate the available science, to undergo the peer review process, and to complete its status review (Exhibit 1). The Commission must receive the Department's status review report before the Commission can make a final listing decision.

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

Commission staff: Under a motion to adopt the consent calendar, approve the Department's request for a six-month extension to complete the status review report for white sturgeon.

Department: Approve request for a six-month extension to complete the status review report for white sturgeon.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received December 4, 2024](#)

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Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations for items 5 and 6 on the consent calendar.

Memorandum

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: Request for 6-Month Extension, White Sturgeon Status Review

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests a 6-month extension of time pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.6 to produce and make publicly available the final peer reviewed white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) status review report. The Department anticipates receiving substantial comments and/or scientific information from tribes, stakeholders, and other interested parties regarding the petition to list white sturgeon as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Department has determined that an extension is necessary to complete independent peer review of the report and to provide a minimum of 30 days for public review prior to the hearing specified in Fish and Game Code Section 2075. The requested extension would change the due date of the Department's status review report to January 12, 2026, which is 18 months from the date the Fish and Game Commission published the Notice of Findings that, in part, provided notice that white sturgeon is a candidate species under CESA (July 12, 2024).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jay Rowan, Chief, Fisheries Branch at fisheries@wildlife.ca.gov.

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
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