

Staff Summary for February 11-12, 2026

25C. Administrative Items – Future Meetings and New Business**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Review logistics and approve draft agenda items for the next Commission meetings (April 15-16, April 21, May 5, May 6, and May 19). Consider any changes to previously approved meeting dates or locations, and introduce any new business for inclusion on a future meeting agenda.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Discussed regional marine protected area (MPA) petition evaluation meetings for 2026 | October 8-9, 2025 |
| • Approved proposed 2026 dates and locations for three regional MPA petition evaluation meetings | December 10-11, 2025 |
| • Today, discuss and consider approving proposed changes to May 5 and 6 meetings and draft agenda items for upcoming meetings | February 11-12, 2026 |

Background

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting is April 15-16, 2026 in Sacramento, followed by three meetings focused on MPAs scheduled for April 21, May 5, and May 19.

At its October 2025 meeting, the Commission agreed that future reviews of MPA petitions and evaluations will be conducted by the Commission, beginning with three, in-person, regionally based meetings using a committee-style format with all commissioners. At its December 2025 meeting, the Commission approved adding three Commission meeting dates for April 21, May 5, and May 19, with locations in the Half Moon Bay area, Santa Barbara area, and Oceanside or northern San Diego area, respectively.

After multiple conversations with agency partners and stakeholders, staff has concluded that the MPA discussions in the Santa Barbara area will likely require more than one day. Given the number of petitioned actions represented in that area, another half day is advisable. The additional time could most easily be achieved by combining the May 5 regional meeting with the May 6 teleconference meeting and then extending the expected end time on May 6. The two rulemaking topics currently scheduled for May 6 related to Klamath River Basin sport fishing and Central Valley sport fishing can be added to the regional meeting agenda.

Phone and webinar options will be available for all meetings to allow public participation remotely. Potential agenda items for the multiple meetings are provided in exhibits 1-3 for consideration and potential Commission approval. No unusual logistics are expected.

For regularly scheduled two-day Commission meetings in 2026, marine items will generally be heard on the first day, and wildlife and inland fisheries items on the second. Except for regional MPA petition evaluation meetings, all Commission and committee meetings are scheduled in the Sacramento area through December 2026 due to ongoing budget constraints.

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

Commission staff: Approve the proposed extension of the May 5 MPA petition evaluation meeting to May 5-6, add the currently scheduled May 6 teleconference agenda items to the May 5-6 regional meeting, and approve agenda items for the April 15-16, April 21, May 5-6, and May 19, 2026 meetings as presented in Exhibit 1 and amended during this meeting.

Exhibits

1. [Potential agenda items for the April 15-16, April 21, May 5-6, and May 19, 2026 Commission meetings](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission:

- approves adding the May 6 teleconference meeting agenda topics to the May 5 regional MPA meeting agenda, resulting in a two-day Commission meeting on May 5-6; and
- approves the draft agenda items for the April 15-16, April 21, May 5-6, and May 19, 2026 Commission meetings, and as presented and modified during this meeting.

California Fish and Game Commission
Potential Agenda Items for the April and May 2026 Commission Meetings
February 4, 2026

The next Commission meetings are scheduled for April 15-16, 2026 in Sacramento, and for April 21, May 5, and May 19, 2026 in the Half Moon Bay area, Santa Barbara area, and San Clemente area, respectively. All meetings will be conducted in person and via Zoom, with phone options for the public.

The Commission also has a May 6 teleconference meeting scheduled for annual inland fisheries rulemakings related to salmon. However, during the February 11-12 Commission meeting, staff will recommend combining the May 6 teleconference agenda items with the May 5 in-person meeting, creating a single, day-and-a-half meeting. This adjustment will allow some marine protected area (MPA) petition discussion to take place on May 6.

This document identifies potential agenda items for each meeting, including items to be received from staff and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department).

Wednesday, April 15: Marine-Related and Administrative Items

1. General public comments for items not on the agenda
2. Commission executive director report and Department reports (director and Law Enforcement Division)
3. Experimental Fishing Permit (EFP) Program – Consider approving an EFP application (Tracking ID #2025-01), named Southern Sardine Data Project, to allow the collection of data on the commercial harvest of the southern subpopulation of Pacific sardine
4. Marine petitions for regulation change¹
5. Marine non-regulatory requests from previous meetings¹
6. Commission committee reports (Tribal Committee, Marine Resources Committee) and Department report (Marine Region).
7. Executive (closed) session

Thursday, April 16: Wildlife- and Inland Fisheries-Related and Administrative Items

8. Notice hearing: Sport fishing 2026
9. Notice hearing: Commercial use and possession of native rattlesnakes
10. Discussion hearing: Central Valley sport fishing
11. Discussion hearing: Klamath River Basin sport fishing
12. Adoption hearing: Waterfowl hunting
13. Adoption hearing: Black bear hunting
14. Adoption hearing: Bighorn sheep hunting
15. Adoption hearing: Pronghorn antelope hunting
16. Adoption hearing: Elk hunting

17. Determine whether listing Bendire's thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*) and LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act may be warranted
18. Determine whether listing western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*) as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act may be warranted
19. Receive and consider approving initial private lands wildlife habitat enhancement and management (PLM) plans and licenses
20. Receive and consider approving annual PLM plans and licenses
21. Receive and consider approving five-year PLM plans and licenses
22. Wildlife and inland fisheries petitions for regulation change¹
23. Wildlife and inland fisheries non-regulatory requests from previous meetings¹
24. Department presentation: Update on Clear Lake hitch, including outcomes from the February 25, 2026 leadership summit
25. Receive and discuss presentation from leadership at the Department regarding its role in ensuring clean water for healthy habitats for the state's fish and wildlife
26. Commission committee report (Wildlife Resources Committee) and Department reports (Wildlife and Fisheries Division, and Ecosystem Conservation Division)
27. Administrative items (legislative report, rulemaking timetable updates, and future meetings and new business)
28. General public comment for items not on the agenda

Tuesday, April 21: Regional MPA Petitions (California/Oregon border through Monterey County)

1. Discuss regional MPA petitions and evaluations
2. General public comment for items not on the agenda

Tuesday, May 5: Regional MPA Petitions (San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and northern Channel Islands)

1. Discuss regional MPA petitions and evaluations
2. General public comment for items not on the agenda

Wednesday, May 6²: Salmon Teleconference

1. Adoption hearing: Central Valley sport fishing
2. Adoption hearing: Klamath River Basin sport fishing
3. General public comment for items not on the agenda

¹ Staff is authorized to remove this agenda item if there are no actionable, referred, or new items, in which case any new regulation change petitions or non-regulatory requests delivered at the meeting will be received under the general public comment agenda items on Wednesday or Thursday.

² If approved by the Commission at its February 11-12, 2026 meeting, these agenda items will be combined with the May 5 items for a single, day and one half, in-person meeting on May 5-6.

Tuesday, May 19: Regional MPA Petitions (Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties, including islands)

1. Discuss regional MPA petitions and evaluations
2. General public comment for items not on the agenda