

## Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

**25B. Administrative Items – Rulemaking Timetable Updates****Today's Item**Information Action 

Review and consider approving changes to the perpetual timetable for anticipated regulatory actions.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

- Commission approved rulemaking timetable February 11-12, 2026
- **Today consider approving changes to the rulemaking timetable April 15-16, 2026**

**Background**

This is a standing agenda item for staff and the Department to request changes to the Commission's rulemaking timetable (Exhibit 2), confirm changes made by the Commission during this meeting, and highlight minor changes made by staff.

The Department requests three changes to the rulemaking timetable (exhibits 1 and 2):

- Add an "Including Federal Groundfish and Associated Species in Auto Conformance Regulations" to amend sections 1.91 and 1.95. This rulemaking is necessary to enable the Commission to use an auto conformance process for biennial and in-season amendments for federally managed groundfish species as federal regulatory changes are recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The proposed rulemaking schedule is notice in June 2026 and discussion/adoption in August 2026, with the regulations in effect no later than October 1, 2026.
- Remove the "Pronghorn Antelope Hunting" rulemaking to amend Section 363. Following analysis of population survey data, no changes to the pronghorn regulations are anticipated.
- Make minor changes to listed affected Title 14 sections.

Staff is requesting one change to the rulemaking timetable at this meeting:

- Schedule the "Including Federal Groundfish and Associated Species in Auto Conformance Regulations" rulemaking, requested by the Department, for notice in June 2026 and adoption in October 2026. This later adoption date allows for additional time for public notice and Office of Administrative Law review of the proposal if adopted by the Commission.

Similar to the Commission's auto conformance processes for ocean salmon and Pacific halibut, this process offers advantages over the standard three-meeting process: it streamlines regulatory updates and reduces the time and resources required of Commission and Department staff. It also provides sufficient flexibility for the Commission to make changes to regulations if it chooses.

Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

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

**Recommendation**

**Commission staff:** Approve the proposed changes to the “Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions” as identified in this staff summary and Exhibit 3, and any other changes identified during this meeting.

**Department:** Approve the proposed changes to the rulemaking timetable as identified in Exhibit 1

**Exhibits**

1. [Department memo, received March 25, 2026](#)
2. [Department email, received April 8, 2026](#)
3. [“Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions,” dated April 9, 2026](#)

**Motion**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission approves the proposed changes to the perpetual timetable for anticipated regulatory actions as recommended and discussed today.

## MEMORANDUM

Date: March 24, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

**Subject: April 2026 Request for Changes to the Fish and Game Commission's Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests the following schedule changes to the California Fish and Game Commission's (Commission's) 2026 perpetual regulatory timetable for amendments to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR):

1. Add a recurring rulemaking, "Federal Groundfish and Associated Species" to publish notice by memo at the June 2026 meeting, amending sections 1.91, 27.20, 27.25, 27.30, 27.35, 27.40, 27.45, 27.65, 28.28, 28.29, 28.47, 28.49, 28.55, 28.56, 150.06, 150.16 and 189. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) will recommend recreational fishing regulations for federally managed groundfish species for the 2027-2028 management cycle at its June 11-16, 2026 meeting. Anticipated changes may include but are not limited to, changes to recreational seasons, depth restrictions, bag limits or size limits, and changes to commercial area management or trip limits. Changes to management measures have the goal of harvest achieving but not exceeding federally set harvest limits, which are set on a biennial basis. The proposed rulemaking schedule following notice is discussion at the August 2026 meeting and adoption at the October 2026 meeting, with an effective date no later than January 1, 2027.
2. Update the existing rulemaking, "Sport Fishing 2026" to include the updated list of affected Title 14 sections, for the final set of sections to



be amended: 1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, and 701.

3. Pursuant to correspondence from the Wildlife Branch, the 363 Pronghorn regulation is to be removed from the rulemaking calendar, given that following analysis of survey data, no changes to the pronghorn regulations are anticipated.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Regulations Unit Manager, Ona Alminas, at (916) 902-9222 or [Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Regulations@wildlife.ca.gov).

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director  
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Robert Pelzman, Assistant Chief  
Law Enforcement Division

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief  
Wildlife Branch

Jay Rowan, Branch Chief  
Fisheries Branch

Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager  
Marine Region

Ona Alminas, Env. Program Manager  
Regulations Unit

David Thesell, Deputy Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

Jenn Bacon, Acting Program Manager  
Fish and Game Commission

**Haug, David** [REDACTED]

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**From:** Maxey, Samara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** Alminas, Ona [REDACTED] Ashcraft, Susan [REDACTED] Yaremko, Marc [REDACTED] McKnight, Caroline [REDACTED] Parker, Melanie [REDACTED] Nandino, Daphne [REDACTED] D'Souza, Crysta [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Thesell, Harold(David) [REDACTED] Bacon, Jennifer [REDACTED] Fonbuena, Sherrie [REDACTED] Haug, David [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 27.20 Groundfish rulemaking scheduled for June notice

Thank you, Ona!

We prefer option 2 and have provided Susan with draft language for the rulemaking timetable.

Add a rulemaking, “ Including Federal Groundfish and Associated Species in Auto Conformance Regulations” to publish notice at the June 2026 meeting, amending sections 1.91 and 1.95. Anticipated changes would add federally managed groundfish species to existing auto conformance regulations. This would enable the California Fish and Game Commission to use auto conformance process for biennial and inseason amendments as federal regulatory changes are recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The proposed rulemaking schedule following notice is discussion and potential adoption at the August 2026 meeting with an effective date no later than October 1, 2026.

# California Fish and Game Commission: Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions

April 9, 2026

Proposed changes are shown in blue ~~strikeout~~/underline

Subject of Rulemaking	Title 14 Section(s)	FGC	WRC	FGC	FGC	MRC	TC	FGC	FGC	WRC	FGC	FGC	MRC	TC	FGC	FGC	WRC	FGC	FGC	WRC	FGC	FGC	MRC	TC	FGC	FGC	WRC	
		Santa Barbara Area May 6, 2026	Sacramento May 14, 2026	Sacramento June 17, 2026	Sacramento June 18, 2026	Sacramento July 16, 2026	Sacramento August 11, 2026	Sacramento August 12, 2026	Sacramento August 13, 2026	Sacramento September 10, 2026	Sacramento October 14, 2026	Sacramento October 15, 2026	Sacramento November 12, 2026	Sacramento December 14, 2026	Sacramento December 15, 2026	Sacramento December 16, 2026	TBD January 13, 2027	TBD February 17, 2027	TBD February 18, 2027	TBD March 18, 2027	TBD April 13, 2027	TBD April 14, 2027	TBD April 15, 2027					
Central Valley Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(4), (43), (66), (80)	A				E 7/15																						
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(50)	A				E 7/1																						
Waterfowl Hunting, 2026-2027 (Annual)	502					E 7/1																						
Processing and Donating Sport Caught Fish <sup>1</sup>	231					E 7/1																						
Recreational Take of Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling, and Lingcod Emergency (First 90-day Extension)	1.91, 27.25, 27.30, 27.35, 27.40, 28.55			EE 5/26																								
Recreational Take of Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling, and Lingcod	1.91, 27.25, 27.30, 27.35, 27.40, 28.55			E 5/26																								
Bighorn Sheep Hunting	362					E 7/1																						
<u>Pronghorn-Antelope Hunting</u>	<u>363</u>					<u>E 7/1</u>																						
Elk Hunting	353, 364, 364.1, 555, 555.1					E 7/1																						
Black Bear Hunting	365, 366, 708.12					E 7/1																						
Sport Fishing 2026	1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, <u>8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, 701</u>				D				A											E 1/1								
Commercial Use and Possession of Native Rattlesnakes	42.1, 43, 703				N				D				A							E 1/1								
Harpoons and Flying Gaff Allowance	28.38, 28.40, 28.90, 28.95, 107			N					D				A							E 1/1								
<u>Including Federal Groundfish and Associated Species in Auto-Conformance Regulations</u>	<u>1.91, 1.95</u>			N									<u>A</u>							<u>EUF</u>								
Trapping Consistency with Statute	251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478, 478.1, 479, 550, 550.5, 551, 630, 696		R						N				D							A						E 4/1		
Department Lands <sup>3</sup>	550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630		R										N							D						A		
Private Lands Management (PLM) Program	601		V							R																		

**KEY**  
 CFGC = California Fish and Game Commission MRC = CFGC Marine Resources Committee WRC = CFGC Wildlife Resources Committee TC = CFGC Tribal Committee OAL = Office of Administrative Law  
 EM = Emergency **EE = Emergency Expires** E = Anticipated Effective Date (**RED "X" = expedited OAL review**) EUF = Effective Upon Filing w/ Secretary of State  
 N = Notice Hearing D = Discussion Hearing A = Adoption Hearing V = Committee Vetting R = Committee Recommendation 1 = Considers CFGC Petition 2023-10  
 2 = Considers MPA Petitions/sub-actions: 2023-22MPA (sub-actions 1, 2, 4, 6); 2023-25MPA (sub-actions 1, 3); 2023-26MPA (sub-actions 2, 3, 4); and 2023-31MPA (sub-actions 1, 2)  
 3 = Considers CFGC Petition 2018-016(a) 4 = Considers CFGC Petition 2025-10

# California Fish and Game Commission: Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions

April 9, 2026

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## Future Rulemakings: Schedule to be Determined

Subject of Rulemaking	Title 14 Section(s)	FGC Santa Barbara Area May 6, 2026	WRC Sacramento May 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento June 17, 2026	FGC Sacramento June 18, 2026	MRC Sacramento July 16, 2026	TC Sacramento August 11, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 12, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 13, 2026	WRC Sacramento September 10, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 15, 2026	MRC Sacramento November 12, 2026	TC Sacramento December 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 15, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 16, 2026	WRC TBD January 13, 2027	FGC TBD February 17, 2027	FGC TBD February 18, 2027	MRC TBD March 18, 2027	TC TBD April 13, 2027	FGC TBD April 14, 2027	FGC TBD April 15, 2027
Possess Game / Process Into Food	TBD																						
American Zoological Association / Zoo and Aquarium Association	671.1																						
Night Hunting in Gray Wolf Range (CFGFC Petition 2015-010)	474																						
Electronic Report Cards	1.74, 5.79, 5.80, 5.81, 5.87, 5.88																						
Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices	TBD																						
Ridgeback Prawn Incidental Take Allowance	120(e)																						
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) <sup>2</sup>	632																						
Restricted Animal Caging Requirements and Materials <sup>4</sup>	TBD																						

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