

## Staff Summary for April 15-16, 2026

**4B. Department Director and Law Enforcement Division Reports****Today's Item****Information** **Action** 

The Department will highlight items of note since the last Commission meeting.

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

Three news releases are provided that highlight a Department effort to evaluate the wolf-livestock compensation program in partnership with affected ranchers and two cases where parties responsible for fouling California's waters with oil were held responsible for their actions. See exhibits 1-3.

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

1. [Department news release: "CDFW Initiates Process to Evaluate Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program," dated March 9, 2026](#)
2. [Department news release: "Vessel Operators Settle Violations Stemming from Anchor Strike on Crude Oil Pipeline," dated March 16, 2026](#)
3. [Department news release: "Convicted Polluter Sentenced to Prison for Role in 2024 Stockton Oil Spill," dated March 25, 2026](#)

**Motion (N/A)**



# CDFW NEWS

March 9, 2026

## CDFW Initiates Process to Evaluate Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program



*Media Note: [Graphic and photos available for download \(external link\)](#)*

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has started a process to evaluate California's Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program (WLCP).

On Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, CDFW held an initial meeting with a group of stakeholder representatives previously involved in the development of the wolf-livestock program.

This meeting marked the first step in a broader public process that will gather input and perspectives from key stakeholder groups involved in livestock production, wolf conservation, research and government agencies, as well as from the public in the coming year. This process will include a rancher survey to garner input, as well as a series of rancher workshops and public meetings to gather a broad base of input on any adjustments to potential future funding, if appropriated by the Legislature and Administration.

This first meeting focused on how best to provide a public process to evaluate potential adjustments to future applications and funding opportunities. This effort relates to potential future WLCP funding, if appropriated by the California legislature and Administration.

CDFW recognizes that the WLCP affects a wide range of interests and will work in the coming months to ensure a broad swath of ranchers, communities, and interested parties are able to provide their input. As always, CDFW welcomes input on current and potential future programs at any time at [wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:wolfcompensation@wildlife.ca.gov).

Participants in this initial meeting included representatives from the California Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, Western Landowners Alliance, California Wool Growers Association, Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), University of California Cooperative Extension, University of California, Berkeley, Defenders of Wildlife, the California Wolf Foundation, the California Center for Biological Diversity, Working Circle, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CDFW will continue working with these groups, as well as ranchers, and communities as the evaluation process moves forward.

Since its inception as a pilot program in 2021, CDFW's Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program has paid out more than \$3.5 million to livestock producers whose operations have been impacted by the return of gray wolves to California.

For more information about the evaluation process, timeline and opportunities to participate please visit [CDFW's Wolf Livestock Compensation Grants webpage](#).

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**Media Contact:**

[Steve Gonzalez](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 804-1714



# CDFW NEWS

*March 16, 2026*

[Vessel Operators Settle Violations Stemming from Anchor Strike on Crude Oil Pipeline](#)



*The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention & Response (CDFW-OSPR) has settled violations stemming from a January 2021 incident in which the anchors of two vessels impacted an offshore oil pipeline, which later ruptured and discharged nearly 25,000 gallons of crude oil that impacted Orange County beaches.*

*CDFW OSPR issued an administrative complaint against the owners and operators of the BEIJING and the MSC DANIT, alleging that, during a severe storm on January 25, 2021, each vessel's anchor fouled on a crude oil pipeline for several hours before freeing itself. The pipeline connects an offshore platform located off the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to an onshore facility. California law requires large "disabled" vessels to report such a condition to the U.S. Coast Guard and to report oil spill threats to the Office of Emergency Services.*

*Early notification is a key safety measure. It provides commercial operators and response agencies with the opportunity to evaluate potential concerns, conduct timely inspections when needed, and take proactive steps to protect the environment and coastal communities.*

*A subsequent National Transportation Safety Board investigation found that both anchors struck the pipeline during the storm occurred in the vicinity of the pipeline that later failed (NTSB MIR 24-01 [Anchor Strike of Underwater Pipeline and Eventual Crude Oil Release\(external link\)](#)).*

*The settlements allow all involved parties to move forward with a shared focus on enhancing safety and strengthening marine environmental protections. As part of the settlements, CDFW-OSPR received a combined \$150,000 in administrative penalties. These funds will directly support habitat enhancement projects across California, contributing to healthier ecosystems and long-term resource stewardship.*

*An additional \$50,000 was provided to the Marine Exchange of Southern California for the acquisition and installation of an Automatic Identification System (AIS) send/receive unit, which will automatically track incoming and outgoing vessels. This upgraded AIS capability will be integrated into the existing vessel traffic service system for the Los Angeles/Long Beach region. Enhanced AIS coverage will improve offshore visibility, support safer navigation, and provide meaningful benefits to the maritime community through better situational awareness and more effective coordination during periods of severe weather.*

*CDFW-OSPR remains committed to working in partnership with maritime stakeholders, government agencies, and local communities to advance marine safety and protect California's coastal environment.*

*Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other CDFW activities are invited to contact CDFW's Accessibility Coordinator in the CRO Office at (916) 902-5577, or send an email to [CivilRights@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CivilRights@wildlife.ca.gov). Reasonable Accommodation requests for facility and/or*

*meeting accessibility should be received at least 21 days prior to the event. Requests for American Sign Language Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event, and requests for Real-Time Captioning 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 due to circumstances is no longer needed, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator immediately.*

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**Media Contacts:**

[Eric Laughlin](#), CDFW-OSPR Communications, (916) 214-3279

[Ryan Todd](#), CDFW-OSPR Legal Branch, (916) 698-0036



# CDFW NEWS

*March 25, 2026*

## Convicted Polluter Sentenced to Prison for Role in 2024 Stockton Oil Spill



*A Stockton man will serve prison time following his conviction stemming from an illegal petroleum dumping case in which approximately 280 gallons of oil product was dumped into a waterway near the Smith Canal in Stockton.*

*David Andrew Sump was sentenced to six years in prison by a San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge on Monday, March 23, 2026. Sump's prior criminal record was factored into the sentence. An investigation by CDFW's Law Enforcement Division, with assistance from the Stockton Police Department and the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, connected Sump to the incident, which took place on Sept. 27, 2024.*

*The incident triggered a multi-agency response that included CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Stockton Fire Department and other agencies. Cleanup contractors eventually removed the oil product from the waterway and nearby soil.*

*Following the incident, investigators spent several weeks gathering evidence and interviewing witnesses. Multiple citizens called in tips to the CDFW CalTIP Hotline (Californians Turn in Poachers and Polluters), which provided enough information to request an arrest warrant.*

*Sump was convicted on felony charges that included destruction of public property/vandalism, knowingly discharging a pollutant into waters of the state, and illegal disposal of hazardous waste. He was also convicted on two misdemeanor pollution and dumping charges.*

*"Attentive members of the public and their quick efforts to report this crime proved crucial in holding this polluter accountable," said Assistant Chief Josh Nicholas, CDFW-OSPR Law Enforcement Division. "We encourage anyone who sees anything impacting our waterways to report it immediately so we can launch a timely investigation."*

*To report a poaching or pollution incident, or any fish and wildlife crime, call the CalTIP Hotline 24 hours a day at 1-888-334-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258), or text CALTIP following by a space and the message to 847411 (TIP411).*

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**Media Contacts:**

[Eric Laughlin](#), CDFW-OSPR Communications, (916) 214-3279

[Kristina Werner](#), CDFW-OSPR Communications, (916) 594-4704