

Committee Staff Summary for May 14, 2026 WRC

2. Mammal Trapping**Today's Item**Information Action

Discuss and potentially make recommendations for amendments to regulations regarding mammal trapping.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Initial vetting January 13, 2026; WRC
- **Discussion and potential recommendation** **May 14, 2026; WRC**
- Commission expected to consider WRC recommendation June 17-18, 2026

Background

Several bills were passed during the 2019-20 legislative session and signed into law, extending certain prohibitions for mammal trapping; the amended provisions are generally found within Fish and Game Code Chapter 2, Article 1.

- Assembly Bill 44 made it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or non-monetary consideration a fur product, or to manufacture a fur product in the state for sale (with some exemptions).
- Assembly Bill 273 made it unlawful to trap any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibits the sale of the raw fur of any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken.
- Assembly Bill 1254 made it unlawful to hunt, trap, or otherwise take a bobcat, except under specified circumstances, including under a depredation permit. Per the statute, the Department is developing a bobcat management plan to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding bobcat populations, which is a prerequisite to reestablishing bobcat hunting and trapping.

Commission regulations are out of date with respect to the new statutory requirements.

At the January 2026 WRC meeting, the Department presented recommendations and a document summarizing concepts for bringing mammal trapping regulations into compliance with the recent statutory changes (exhibits 1-2), including suggestions from regulation change petition 2025-15 (Exhibit 3) that was granted by the Commission.

Today's Meeting

Today, WRC will discuss the Department recommendations and any recommendations from meeting participants, and potentially develop a recommendation for Commission consideration.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Committee Staff Summary for May 14, 2026 WRC

Recommendation

Commission staff: Recommend the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding mammal trapping, based on today's discussion.

Department: Support a future rulemaking regarding mammal trapping, as recommended.

Exhibits

1. [Department presentation](#) for Agenda Item 4, January 2026 WRC meeting (*for background purposes only*)
2. [Summary of Proposed Concepts to Amend California Trapping Regulations](#), dated January 5, 2026
3. [Regulation change petition 2025-15](#), received October 8, 2025

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding mammal trapping based on the Department's recommendation and today's discussion.

Proposed Amendments to California Trapping Regulations

**Presentation to the Wildlife Resources Committee of the
California Fish and Game Commission**



January 13, 2026 | Matt Meshriy
Environmental Scientist, CDFW Upland Game Program

Summary of Proposed Changes

- **Remove** references to activities and requirements that are no longer allowed or relevant under revised statutes
- **Allow Department** to reinstate trapping licenses upon receipt of annual reports
- **Add** documentation requirement



Some Trapping License History

1952 – First license requirement for fur trappers

2003 – License & examination requirements extended to for-profit nuisance wildlife operators

2020 – Trapper reports expanded to all trapping (previously only take of fur)

Note – Trappers have *never been allowed* to take fur when offering service(s) for a fee



2019-2020 Legislative Session

Transition to use, exclusively for-profit depredation and nuisance wildlife control services.



AB273



AB44



AB1254



AB = Assembly Bill

Assembly Bill 273

- *Prohibits trapping for fur of fur-bearing and nongame mammals (recreational and commercial)*
- *Requires annual reports from nuisance wildlife operators*
- Prompted proposed amendments to Title 14:
 - Nongame mammals – take and possession
 - Use of traps
 - Trapping reports
 - Hours for taking nongame mammals



Proposed Amendments – Recreational Trapping

Law prohibits recreational trapping

Department proposes to *remove* references to:

- Trapping license and bag limits – recreational take of furbearing and nongame mammals
- “Body gripping traps” and description of traps lawful for fur trapping
- Use of traps for recreational seasons and bag limits for taking furbearing and nongame mammals



Proposed Amendments – Possessing Mountain Lions

Mountain lion specially protected species since 1990 – law only permits possession under scientific collecting permit

Department proposes to *remove* from Title 14:

- Reference to possession of mountain lion under restricted species permit



Proposed Amendments – Trapping Reports

Law requires licensed trappers submit an annual report with number and kind of fur-bearing and nongame mammals taken

Department proposes to *amend the report criteria*:

- From take of “fur” to take of “furbearing and nongame mammals”
- To specify whether take was lethal or nonlethal



Proposed Amendments – Trapping Reports (cont'd)

Law requires suspending trapping license unless sworn report received – Reinstatement unnecessarily complicated

Department proposes to *amend* Title 14 to:

- Discontinue requirement for notice and Commission hearing prior to determination of re-instatement
- Allow Department to re-instate on receipt of take report(s)



Assembly Bill 44

- *Operative January 1, 2023*
- *Prohibits manufacture of “new fur products”*
- *Documentation requirement for “used fur product”*
- Prompted proposed amendments to Title 14:
 - Bobcat pelts
 - Fur dealer and agent licenses



Proposed Amendments – Bobcat Pelts

Law requires documentation for “used fur product”

Department proposes to *amend* Title 14 related to:

- Bobcat pelts as used fur product



Proposed Amendments – Fur Dealer & Agent Licenses

Law prohibits sale of furbearing or nongame mammals

Department proposes to *repeal* Title 14 section:

- Authorizing sale of fur dealer or fur agent licenses



Assembly Bill 1254

- *Requires depredation permit to take bobcat in human-wildlife conflicts*
- *Traps may only be used with depredation permit*
- Prompted proposed amendment to Title 14:
 - Take of bobcat



Proposed Amendments – Bobcat

Law prohibits take of bobcats without depredation permit

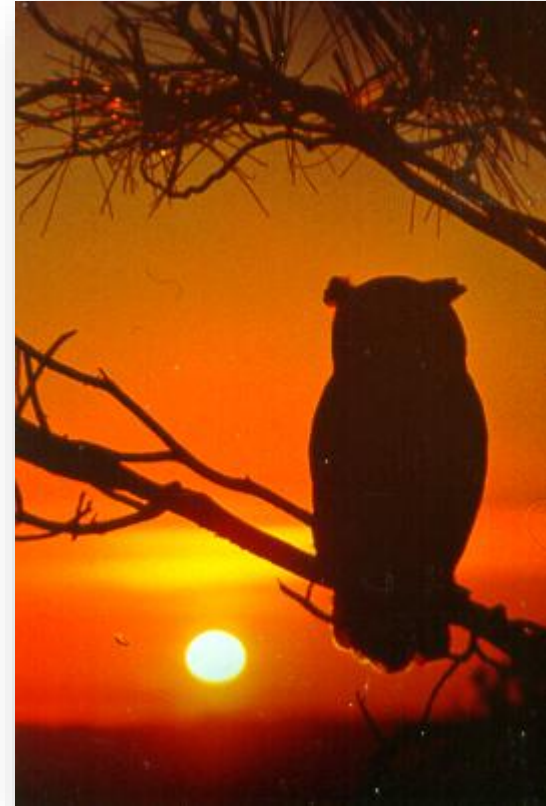
Department proposes to update bobcat regulations to *remove*:

- Reference to take of nongame mammals at any time or in any manner – does not apply to bobcat



Questions | Contact

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CDFW photo





Summary of Proposed Concepts to Amend California Trapping Regulations
January 5, 2026

Table 1. Summary of proposed amendments to Title 14 that are required for constancy with law contained in AB273, AB44 and AB1254 from the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, and subsequent changes to Fish and Game Code Sections 4001, 4008, 2023 and 4152.

Cross-reference for Presentation slide number, and affected T14 section(s)	Current Regulation	Revision	Rationale
Slide numbers 5 & 6; T14 §251.5 - Game Birds, Game Mammals, Exotic Game Mammals, Furbearers and Nongame Animals, Possession Of.	References a trapping license and bag limits as it relates to the <i>recreational</i> take of the specified groups of animals.	Remove reference to trapping license and bag limits as it relates to recreational take of the specified groups of animals.	Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 4001 makes recreational trapping unlawful in California.
Slide numbers 5 & 6; T14 §465.5 – Use of Traps.	Defines “body gripping traps”, in identifying the types of traps that are lawful for recreational or commercial fur trapping.	Remove reference to “body gripping traps” and description of traps that are lawful for fur trapping.	FGC Section 4001 makes trapping for recreation or fur universally unlawful, regardless of trap type.
Slide numbers 5 & 6; T14 §474 – Hours for Taking.	References lawful uses of traps related to recreational take of furbearing and nongame mammals.	Remove reference to lawful use of traps under the specified authority sections governing the recreational taking of furbearing and nongame mammals.	FGC Section 4001 prohibits use of traps for recreational take of furbearing and nongame mammals.

Cross-reference for Presentation slide number, and affected T14 section(s)	Current Regulation	Revision	Rationale
Slide number 8; T14 §467 – Trapping Reports.	The current report criteria references the take of “fur”.	Amend the report criteria from fur to the take of “furbearing and nongame mammals”.	FGC Section 4008 specifies that licensed trappers must submit a report showing the number of each kind of furbearing mammals and nongame mammals taken under the previous license.
Slide number 9; T14 §467 – Trapping Reports.	Re-instatement requires receipt of report and a notice and Commission hearing.	California law does not mandate the Commission to be involved in re-instating trapping licenses. Discontinue the requirement for notice and Commission hearing prior to determination of re-instatement and allow the Department to re-instate on receipt of take report(s).	FGC 4008 specifies that non-reporting trapping licenses are suspended for a year unless a sworn report is received.
Slide number 10 & 11; T14 §479 – Bobcat Pelts.	Review Title 14 Section 479 for consistency with documentation requirements.	Does not reference a documentation requirement for a used fur product.	A person who sells a “used fur product” must maintain a record of sale for at least one year per FGC Section 2023.
Slide number 12; T14 §696 – Fur Dealer and Fur Agent Licenses	References the Department’s sale of “Fur Dealer” and “Fur Agent” licenses.	Repeal Section 696 as the Department no longer sells “Fur Dealer” or “Fur Agent” licenses.	FGC Section 4001 prohibits the sale of a fur-bearing or nongame mammal that was otherwise lawfully taken in California.

Cross-reference for Presentation slide number, and affected T14 section(s)	Current Regulation	Revision	Rationale
Slide number 13 & 14; T14 §478 – Bobcat.	Title 14 Section 478 References bobcats taken pursuant to FGC Section 4152 (including with traps) and does not indicate the permit requirement in FGC 4181.	Remove reference to FGC Section 4152 as it does not apply to bobcats. Reference the permit requirements for bobcat depredation.	AB 1254 states that FGC 4152 does not apply to bobcats, a depredation permit is required for bobcats; and traps may only be used as permitted.

Table 2. Summary of proposed supplemental amendments to affected Title 14 sections to improve clarity and consistency.

Cross-reference for Presentation slide number, and affected T14 section(s)	Current Regulation	Revision	Rationale
Slide number 7; T14 §251.5 - Game Birds, Game Mammals, Exotic Game Mammals, Furbearers and Nongame Animals, Possession Of.	References an exception allowing for possession of a mountain lion under a restricted species permit issued on or before June 6, 1990.	Remove reference to possession of a mountain lion under a previously issued restricted species permit.	There are no such active restricted species permits for mountain lions existing in department records, and no new permits of this type may be issued according to law.
Slide number 8; T14 §467 – Trapping Reports.	Trapper reporting criteria does not specify whether “take” is lethal or nonlethal.	Clarify on the report form whether take is “lethal”.	Nuisance wildlife trapping may include “hazing” or catch and release/trapping non-target animals. Clarifying that take is lethal improves the validity of the data that the department collects.



Tracking Number: (2025-15)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Name of primary contact person: [Rebecca Dmytryk](#)

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: [Sections 200, 203, 219, 265, 3003.1, 4005 and 4009.5, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 110, 200, 203, 203.1, 265, 3003.1, 4004, 4005, 4009.5, 4152 and 4180, Fish and Game Code.](#)

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations:

[Petitioner seeks to have section §465.5 \(g\)\(3\) amended. Please see the two options for clarification being proposed:](#)

["Traps may not be set within 150 yards of any structure used as a permanent or temporary residence unless the person setting the trap controls that property or has obtained and is carrying written consent from all property owners with structures used as permanent or temporary residences within 150 yards of the trap site."](#)



“No person shall set a trap within 150 yards of any structure used as a permanent or temporary residence unless that person controls the property or possesses written consent from all property owners with structures used as permanent or temporary residences within 150 yards of the trap site.”

4. **Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change:

As it currently reads, §465.5 (g)(3) is ambiguous, leaving much room for interpretation, which, for decades, has led to confusion - even among law enforcement officers, resulting in officers being unable to act on potentially unlawful acts due to the way this subsection is written.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** 10-8-2025

6. **Category of Proposed Change**

- Sport Fishing
 Commercial Fishing
 Hunting

Other, please specify: **General trapping regulations**

7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

- Amend Title 14 Section(s): **§ 465.5(g)(3)**
 Add New Title 14 Section(s): *Click here to enter text.*
 Repeal Title 14 Section(s): *Click here to enter text.*

8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** *Click here to enter text.*

Or Not applicable.

9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation. If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: **NA**

10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: **NA**

11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: **NA**



12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed: **NA**

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: 10/8/2025

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
- Reject - incomplete
- Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: _____

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____

Tracking Number

- Granted for consideration of regulation change