

Staff Summary for June 17-18, 2026

19. Providing Water for Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats**Today's Item****Information** **Action**

Receive a presentation from the Bay Delta Flows Coalition—comprised of tribal governments, commercial and subsistence fishing interests, environmental justice advocates, conservation organizations, and river-dependent communities—regarding actions they have taken, observed, or recommend to contribute clean and cold water to California's rivers and streams, and to help ensure healthy habitats for the state's fish and wildlife.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Received presentations from leadership at the State Water Resources Control Board | October 8-9, 2025 |
| • Received presentations from leadership at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) | February 11-12, 2026 |
| • Today, receive presentations from members of the Bay Delta Flows Coalition | June 17-18, 2026 |
| • Proposed water presentation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife | TBD |

Background

For decades, California's ecosystems have been under pressure from a myriad of threats including pollution, urban development, invasive species, and climate change. Climate change in particular has intensified droughts, increased wildfire frequency, and accelerated habitat loss. Prolonged drought and rising temperatures are shrinking water supplies, which in turn is threatening the survival of fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend upon. Clean, abundant water is essential for sustaining California's ecosystems and, hence, protecting water quality and supplies is a cornerstone of conservation—critical for protecting biodiversity, maintaining habitat connectivity, and meeting legal obligations to safeguard public trust resources.

The Commission's tagline, "Wildlife heritage and conservation since 1870," is more than just a statement of tradition – it is a charge. The Commission is entrusted with the responsibility for conserving and protecting California's fish, wildlife, and their habitats, while maintaining a wildlife heritage that ensures the public can engage in diverse outdoor opportunities such as fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife watching, and aquaculture.

As California faces increasingly frequent disruptions to native ecosystems—driven by climate change, habitat loss, and invasive species—many native populations are declining, and others are being displaced from their natural ranges. In response, the Commission must strategically employ the tools at its disposal to safeguard remaining species and ecosystems; such tools include implementing the California Endangered Species Act, adjusting hunting and fishing limits, and establishing and regulating terrestrial and marine protected areas, all aimed at enabling recovery, promoting resilience, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Yet, over time, many have raised concerns that both the quality and quantity of water available to native species and ecosystems are in decline. The Commission has a long-standing interest

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in this topic and, in service of this interest, seeks to understand other agencies' roles in protecting and sustaining native fish and wildlife. While the Commission is not a water management agency, it is committed to understanding the actions California's agencies have taken—and plan to take—in areas such as water rights, water quality, instream flows, water distribution, water temperature, habitat connectivity, and hydropower relicensing, as these factors all influence the condition of California's native populations of fish and other aquatic organisms. These efforts are vital for delivering adequate clean water to rivers and streams for maintaining healthy habitats for native fish and wildlife. Today's presentations are an important step in continuing that dialogue.

Speakers

Today, the Commission will receive presentations from members of the Bay Delta Flows Coalition sharing observations and perspectives organized around three primary topics:

1. Gaps that may exist in protections for native fish species, including those related to flows, water temperature, and passage.
2. Areas where those gaps may allow significant adverse impacts to fish and habitat.
3. Tools available to address the impacts, including authorities held by other State agencies.

Speakers are expected to include:

- *Krystal Moreno, Manager, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians*
- *Devon Pearse, PhD, Lead Scientist, Friends of the River*
- *Gary Bobker, Program Director, Friends of the River*
- *Scott Webb, Director of Advocacy, Resource Renewal Institute*

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits (N/A)

Motion (N/A)