

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

17. Mammal Trapping Consistency with Statute**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider authorizing publication of notice of intent to amend regulations related to trapping to align regulations with California Fish and Game Code, and to clarify and expand several existing trapping provisions.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) vetting | January 13, 2026; WRC |
| • WRC vetting | May 14, 2026; WRC |
| • Today's notice hearing | August 12-13, 2026 |
| • Discussion hearing | October 14-15, 2026 |
| • Adoption hearing | December 16-17, 2026 |

Background

Several California State Assembly bills in the 2019-20 session, which became law, significantly increased restrictions on trapping and fur trade. Assembly Bill (AB) 273 banned trapping of any furbearing or nongame mammal for recreation or fur commerce and prohibited selling raw fur, and eliminated state-issued fur dealer and fur agent licenses. AB 1254 made hunting, trapping, or otherwise taking bobcats unlawful except under narrowly defined circumstances and directed funding for a comprehensive bobcat management plan. AB 44 made it illegal to sell, trade, distribute or manufacture most fur products in California, while exempting certain used or exempted items, and imposed recordkeeping requirements for exempt transactions. These statutory provisions invalidated multiple existing trapping and depredation regulations.

As a result of these statutory changes, the Department has provided proposed amendments to mammal trapping regulations (exhibits 1 through 3) designed to provide consistency with current California Fish and Game Code provisions, update the license renewal process when annual reports are not submitted, and make minor conforming amendments to improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations.

Draft Proposed Regulations

The proposed amendments modernize and streamline all sections by removing obsolete trapping provisions, updating terminology, and aligning regulations with current law and depredation-only authority. Key changes by section include:

- Section 251.5: Eliminates obsolete mountain lion permit provisions and updates terminology to reflect current law and the ban on recreational trapping
- Section 465.5: Removes all outdated references to body-gripping traps and recreational and commercial trapping, aligning the section with current depredation-only trapping rules
- Section 467: Reorganizes the section by separating reporting requirements from penalties and removes outdated suspension procedures.
- Section 474: Clarifies written permission requirements for entering private property.

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- Section 478: Clarifies that bobcats may only be taken under depredation permits and prohibits the sale or export of bobcats.
- Section 479: Updates possession, import, and documentation requirements for bobcat pelts and other fur products.
- Section 696: Repeals this section in its entirety because fur dealer and fur agent licenses are obsolete under current law.

Complete details are available in the draft initial statement of reasons and proposed regulatory language (exhibits 2 and 3).

Today, the Department will present an overview of the draft proposed amendments (Exhibit 5).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Authorize publication of intent to amend sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and repeal Section 696 as recommended by the Department.

Committee: Schedule a rulemaking regarding mammal trapping based on the Department's recommendation.

Department: Authorize publication of notice of intent to amend sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and repeal Section 696.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo transmitting the draft initial statement of reasons](#), received July 27, 2026
2. [Draft initial statement of reasons](#)
3. [Proposed regulatory language](#)
4. [Draft economic and fiscal impact statement \(STD.399\) and addendum](#)
5. [Department presentation](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and repeal Section 696 related to trapping consistency with statute as discussed today.

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 23, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel
Director

Subject: **Submission of Initial Statement of Reasons for the August 12-13, 2026, California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) meeting to Amend Sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and repeal Section 696, Title 14, California Code of Regulations,**

Re: **Trapping Consistency with Statute.**

The proposed regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with new statute in Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which made it unlawful to trap any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibits the sale of the raw fur of any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses that the department previously sold. Current regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements. Fish and Game Code Sections 4157 and 4158 (Assembly bill 1254, 2019-20 legislative session) made it unlawful to hunt, trap, or otherwise take a bobcat, except under specified circumstances, including under a depredation permit.

Authorization of the request to publish notice at the August 12-13, 2026, Commission meeting would allow for discussion at the October 14-15, 2026, meeting and adoption hearing on December 14-15, 2026.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Gardner, Wildlife Branch Chief, scott.gardner@wildlife.ca.gov. The Department point of contact for this regulation should identify Game Conservation and Wildlife Connectivity Program Manager Mario Klip, who can be reached at mario.klip@wildlife.ca.gov.



Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
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cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch

Mario Klip, Game Conservation and Wildlife Connectivity Program
Manager
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Cali Roth, Upland Game and Waterfowl Supervisor
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State of California
Fish and Game Commission

Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479

Repeal Section 696

Title 14, California Code of Regulations

Re: Mammal Trapping Consistency with Statute

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: July 3, 2026

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: August 12-13, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: October 13-16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: December 14-15, 2026

Location: Sacramento

III. Description of Regulatory Action

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulatory Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The proposed regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with new statute in Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly Bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which made it unlawful to trap any furbearing 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. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) previously sold. Current regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements.

Fish and Game Code sections 4157 and 4158 (Assembly Bill 1254, 2019-20 legislative session) made it unlawful to hunt, trap, or otherwise take a bobcat, except under specified circumstances, including under a depredation permit. The bill's specified appropriation has been made by the Legislature to the Department to develop a bobcat management plan to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding bobcat populations. Current regulations in Section 478 are out of date with respect to current requirements for depredation of bobcats.

Fish and Game Code Section 2023 (Assembly Bill 44, 2019-20) became fully operative on January 1, 2023, and made it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or nonmonetary consideration a fur product, as defined, in the state. The statute also made it unlawful to manufacture a fur product in the state for sale. The statute exempted used fur products, as defined, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law. The statute requires a person that sells or trades any fur product exempt from this prohibition to maintain records of each sale or trade of an exempt fur product for at least one year, except as provided. Current regulations in 479 are out of date with respect to these requirements.

Proposed Regulations

The amendments to the trapping regulations described below are designed to provide consistency and conformity to current statutes, and to make minor conforming changes to increase the clarity and consistency of these regulations.

Section 251.5 Possession of Game Birds, Game Mammals, Exotic Game Mammals, Furbearers, Nongame Birds and Nongame Animals Mammals.

The title of this Section is amended for clarity and to reflect the content of the provisions.

Subsection (a) - no changes to regulatory language.

Subsection (b) is removed from Section 251.5. Subsection (b) references that a live mountain lion may be possessed only under the terms of a permit issued by the Department on or before June 6, 1990. This date is now more than 35 years in the past and there are no such permits for living mountain lions in existence in California. Because the mountain lion is a specially protected animal in California, no new permits of this type may be issued for this species. The regulatory language of this subsection does not otherwise have any effect on the statutory provisions 2150 or 3200 for other licenses or permits that the department issues. For these reasons, subsection (b) is no longer needed and should be removed for clarity, and consistency with current law and regulations.

Subsection (b), renumbered from (c), is amended, replacing ~~nongame animal~~ with nongame bird, or nongame mammal; (nongame animal is not a term that is defined in Statute or regulation) removes the references to a trapping license because Section 251.5 relates to the recreational take of the specified groups of animals and recreational trapping is no longer lawful in California per Fish and Game Code 4001. The phrase ~~and reduced to possession by the hunter, or trapper~~ is deleted since this reference is to the hunting license that is already in the sentence.

Section 465.5. Use of Traps.

Subsection (a) The description of “body gripping trap” is deleted as it repeats the definition. All other references to this description or ‘body gripping’ are deleted throughout the regulation as unlawful for purposes other than those described in subsection (g) including protection of property.

Subsection (b) - no changes to regulatory language.

Subsection (c) Prohibition on Trapping for the Purposes of Recreation or Commerce, is amended to remove the language concerning specific types of traps since trapping by any method for recreation or commercial fur use is unlawful.

Subsection (d) is amended to remove reference to “body gripping traps” since trapping by any means for recreation or commerce in fur is unlawful.

Subsection (e) no changes to regulatory language.

Subsection (f) Use of Non-Body Gripping Traps, the current subsection is deleted in its entirety. Trapping by any means for purposes of recreation and commerce in fur is unlawful.

Subsection (f) Trap Number Requirement (renumbered from (f)(1)). The department assigns a trap number upon receipt of the Depredating Trap Numbering form (no fee), available on the department’s website wildlife.ca.gov, to aid the public in acquiring a registered Trap Number. Once a Trap Number is registered it is permanently assigned to the person.

Subsection (g), the last sentence of this provision has been removed because trapping for purposes of recreation and commerce in fur and the exchange of raw fur is unlawful.

Subsection (g)(1) no changes to regulatory language .

Subsection (g)(2) Trap Visitation Requirement, Fish and Game Code Section 4152 specifies that it is “the owner or tenant of the premises” that gives written permission to a representative. The provision is updated to provide greater consistency in these regulations.

Subsection (g)(2)(A) specifies that a representative must have the authorization on their person to visit and check traps that have been set. This requirement allows law enforcement to determine upon contacting an individual, whether they are authorized to trap at that location through written permission or a contract for professional trapping service(s).

Subsection (g)(2)(B) clarifying that the representative, when unable, may authorize another person to perform the required checks.

Subsections (g)(3) through (h) no changes to regulatory language.

Section 467. Annual Statement of Licensee, Trapping Report.

The title of this Section is changed (and throughout the section) to conform with Fish and Game Code Section 4008, which designates this requirement as “Annual Statement of Licensee.” Trapping Report is the more common term and is used interchangeably.

The content of the first paragraph has been deleted but the applicable content is divided and amended into new subsections (a) and (b) to differentiate the required elements of a completed annual trapping report from the penalty for failing to submit a trapping report on time. The last sentence setting forth a method of notice of suspension, revocation, and renewal of license is deleted. The previous method placed a heavy burden on Commission

Staff and the affected Licensee's without a need to involve another agency in the reinstatement decision since the Legislature allows that furbearing mammals, nongame mammals and nongame birds that are not covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, may be taken by a landowner or their designee when found to be injuring growing crops or other property. The department is able to determine when a report has been received from a Trapping Licensee that satisfies the Statutory requirement.

Subsection (a) Annual Statement of Licensee. The required Annual Statement of Licensee "shall" be submitted to the Department by all license holders by July 1 following their previous license year's take in. This conforms with the statutory requirement in Section 4008, Fish and Game Code, to allow the Department to monitor and understand the magnitude, distribution and outcomes, of the take of wildlife authorized under this license. This change was requested by members of the public during public comment at initial vetting for this rulemaking at the Fish and Game Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee on January 13th, 2026. A form "Annual Statement of Licensee," not incorporated by reference, is provided by the Department to download and print from the Department's license directory. The statement shall include:

Subsection (a)(1) the species of animals, the location, whether the animal was killed or released and date taken in conformance with the statutory requirement.

Subsection (a)(2) Those licensees who have not taken any of the listed fur-bearing or non-game mammals are required to submit a report of zero take in conformance with the statutory requirement.

Subsection (a)(3) Where permitted trapping activities occur it is possible that incidental take of game species or nongame birds or mammals (other than the 'target', e.g., rat) may occur. Licensees are to take actions such as the immediate release or transport to a rehabilitation facility to minimize this problem. If incidental take occurs, the Annual Statement of Licensee shall report that take. This information is necessary to provide a complete picture of the efforts of the licensee and the animals.

Subsection (a)(3)(A) When uninjured the animal shall be released. Keeping or injuring an unauthorized animal is unlawful. This is both humane and necessary to prevent any financial motive for take of the animal.

Subsection (a)(3)(B) When an animal that is orphaned or injured is in the possession of the licensee; it shall be brought to the nearest wildlife rehabilitator. This is both humane and necessary to prevent any financial motive for take of the animal.

Subsection (a)(3)(C), if an animal is killed as a result of an incidental take the animal shall be disposed of in accordance to all federal, state, and local jurisdiction requirements and no part shall be harvested or kept by the trapper. This is both humane and necessary to prevent any financial motive for take of the animal.

Subsection (a)(4) The provision specifies that in the event a State or Federal protected species is incidentally taken, it shall be reported to both the Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is necessary to make explicit the responsibility of the licensee for such protected species for this particular trapping license. This explicit reporting

obligation supports coordinated species protection efforts and ensures compliance with applicable State and Federal laws.

Subsection (b) Late or incomplete statements will result in license suspension until the report is received by the Department's License and Revenue Branch. This is necessary to underscore the importance of submitting an accurate report on time, as timely reporting is essential for effective oversight and resource management. Information is given for the licensee to determine the status of their report by going online. Providing online access for licensees to verify the status of their report ensures transparency and gives licensees a clear, accessible method to confirm compliance and avoid unnecessary suspension.

Subsection (c) Acknowledgement and Signature. The reporting licensee must sign the form accordingly with knowledge of the threat of prosecution, resulting in fines or jail if the Department finds information has been falsified by the applicant. This provision is necessary for the Department to ensure that an applicant provides accurate information as required per Fish and Game Code Section 4008. Language is added pursuant to compliance with California Civil Code subdivision b of Section 1633.5 for provision of electronic signature.

Section 474. Hours for Taking of Nongame Mammals.

The title of this section is amended adding the "of Nongame Mammals" for clarity because this section references only nongame mammals.

Subsection (a) The first unnumbered provision is numbered as subsection (a) for clarity. The relevant portion of the last sentence of the former (a) has been moved here to clarify that legal traps are allowed, but not for hunting.

Subsection (b), renumbered from subsection (a). There are no changes to the boundary description in (b). The last sentence has been deleted and the relevant portion moved to (a) for clarity.

As specified in (a) "legal take" refers to the regulations and statutes and there is no need for specific section references and are deleted (The Note regarding Authority and Reference has been updated to include relevant sections). Current language referring to the "regulation supersedes Fish and Game Code Section 3000" is deleted since the proposed language does not change or supersede the Fish and Game Code.

Subsection (c), renumbered from subsection (b), and added subsections (c)(1) and (2) for organizational clarity.

Subsection (c)(1) In the language "his agents", is replaced with "their tenant" in order to provide consistency with the language in 465.5.

Subsection (c)(2) In the language "his agents", is replaced with "their tenant" in order to provide consistency with the language in 465.5. The description of the written permission that is required to be in possession for a person taking nongame mammals on private property and is updated to state "to enter the property", instead of "trespass" clarifying the intent which the landowner or tenant has already granted permission to

access a property. The hours of entry are deleted since the provision is only applicable to the hours stated in (c).

Subsection (d), renumbered from subsection (c).

Section 478

In subsection (a), the first sentence is updated to add the words “hunt, trap”, preceding the word “pursue”, to make it clear that no hunting or trapping or pursuit of a bobcat may occur unless the specified conditions are met. The remainder of this subsection (a) is updated to add the language “or depredation permit as in subsection (b) below” and “issued pursuant to Section 401 of these regulations as in subsection (b) below.” These additions are necessary to include, because they represent the specific condition that must be satisfied before a bobcat may be lawfully trapped resulting from new law contained in AB1254 that amended Fish and Game Code Section 4181 to require a depredation permit for the trapping of bobcats.

Subsection (c) is amended to indicate that the only exception that allows for the trapping of a bobcat is under the authority of a depredation permit issued pursuant to Section 401. This subsection is further amended to state that a bobcat taken pursuant to a depredation permit shall be disposed of as required in the permit. This language is necessary to make clear that it is unlawful to sell or export any bobcat or part of any bobcat taken in the State of California.

This subsection is further amended to replace “holder of a trapping license” with “person” since the conditions of a depredation permit may provide a person with the authority to trap a bobcat, and a trapping license is not a required condition of a depredation permit issued by the department. People who do not possess a trapping license may still obtain a depredation permit for bobcat.

Finally, the stipulation is added to the end of subsection “that is not the depredating species identified in a depredation permit issued by the department” to indicate that if a bobcat is trapped when not the subject of a depredation permit, it shall be immediately released unharmed back to the wild. This addition is needed to maintain consistency with the provisions of Section 401 which allows the issuance of a depredation permit to take a bobcat that is damaging or destroying or immediately threatening to damage or destroy land or property.

Section 479

In subsection (a) in the first sentence, the addition of the words “lawfully” and “prior to January 1, 2020” makes clear, the time period from which a bobcat must have been taken for the bobcat’s pelt to have been lawfully harvested. The addition of the word “completed” further specifies for clarity, that a tag affixed to a bobcat pelt must also be completely filled out for the pelt to be lawfully possessed. Following the language in the second sentence that states “as set forth in Section 478.1,” the words “affixed to the pelt,” are added as this language is consistent with the guidance provided in section 478.1. This addition is necessary to reference the conditions which must be satisfied, before the Commission may

open a bobcat hunting season in any area, determined by the Commission to require a hunt

In subsection (b)(1) the referenced “shipping tag” is further described/identified as the “United States Fish and Wildlife Service Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) export or shipping tag” for clarity. The word “and” is added following “Marked with the current export or shipping tag from the state of origin” to make clear that all of the conditions in (b)(1) through (b)(3) must collectively be satisfied in order a bobcat pelt to be lawfully received from out of state.

In subsection (b)(2), reference to the import declaration described in Fish and Game Code Section 2353, is replaced by reference to a Declaration of Importation of Dead Wildlife form DFW901 as provided in Section 712.5. Section 712.5 was added in 2022 and is more specific than Fish and Game Code Section 2353 regarding the declaration that is required to be submitted to the department. Section 712.5 incorporates by reference, the specific form DFW901 which is required to be completed for importation of dead wildlife.

In the first sentence of subsection (b)(2) the words “in the shipment” are stricken because the referenced form DFW 901 does not apply to dead birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibians imported into this state in a shipment handled by a common carrier under a bill of lading. This language “in the shipment” formerly referenced the USFWS CITES tagging requirement which is now separated under subsection (b)(1) for organizational clarity.

The last sentence of subsection (b)(2) which states “Demonstration of the declaration of entry, pelt ownership and proof of legal take and marking is required of anyone receiving bobcat pelts from out-of-state upon the request of the department.”, is replaced by new subsection (b)(3) which stipulates “The person in possession of the bobcat pelts or parts thereof shall have in their possession the documents required herein and shall present the documents upon the request of the department.”. This change provides clarity in identifying all importation requirements as numbered subsections of (b).

The new subsection (b)(3) also further indicates that the required documents for importing a bobcat must not only be available upon request of the Department but must also be in possession of the person importing the bobcat at the time of import. This change is necessary because possession of the required documents at the time of importation is a requirement of section 712.5 regarding the declaration of importation of dead fish and wildlife and the documentation incorporated by reference in that Section.

Subsection (c) is added to describe the documentary requirements of fur products including the requirement for the completion of the Declaration of Dead Wildlife form DFW 901 as described in subsection (b)(2), when importing or receiving from out of state, the pelt of any furbearing or nongame mammal.

Subsection (d) is added to describe the requirement that a record of sale or trade must be maintained by the seller, for a period of one year, when selling or trading a “used fur product” per Fish and Game Code Section 2023(a)(5), or an exempt fur product as described in Fish and Game Code Section 2023(c).

Subsections (d)(1) – (d)(5) list the minimum information to be included in a bill of sale for a used fur product. These are the minimum informational elements necessary for the Department’s Law Enforcement Division to be able to determine the authenticity and provenance of a “used fur product”.

Section 696

This section is repealed in its entirety. The Fur Dealer License and Fur Agent Licenses described within Section 696 were subject to Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly bill 273 from the 2019-20 legislative session), which made it unlawful to trap any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibited the sale of the raw fur of any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken.

(b) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

The goal of the proposed regulations is to maintain consistency with new Statute in Fish and Game Code. Three recent bills, AB273, AB1254 and AB44 from the 2019-2020 legislative session changed the legal framework for recreational fur trapping and the possession or exchange of raw fur and new and used fur products in California. Existing regulations regarding the use of traps are out of date with respect to these changes and require substantive updates to maintain consistency with new law. Additionally minor conforming changes are also included for clarity and consistency in conveying these regulations for the public.

(c) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation

Section 251.5

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 3800 and 4150, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 2000, 2001, 3005.5, 3965, 4001, 4150, and 4650, Fish and Game Code.

Section 465.5

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 3005.5, 4001, 4005, and 4009.5, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 3003.1, 3005.5, 3950, 3965, 4000, 4001, 4004, 4005, 4150, 4152, 4180 and 4700, Fish and Game Code.

Section 467

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 1050, 4005, 4008, 4009.5 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 4000, 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4009.5, 4010, 4011, 4150, 4152, and 4180 Fish and Game Code.

Section 474

Authority cited: Sections 3000 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 3000, 4001, 4152 and 4180 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Section 478

Authority cited: Sections 200, 265, 4150, 4155, 4157, 4158 and 4181. Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 3960, 4150, 4155, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code.

Section 479

Authority cited: Sections 2353, 4150, 4155, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 2023, 2353, 3003.1, 4150, 4155, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code.

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change. None.

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change. None.

(f) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No alternatives were identified by or brought to the attention of Commission staff that would have the same desired regulatory effect.

(b) No Change Alternative

The no change alternative would mean that existing regulations concerning recreational trapping remain inconsistent with respect to current law.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States.

The Commission does not anticipate significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment.

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California because the proposed regulation is administrative in nature. The Commission anticipates general benefits to the health and welfare of California residents, and no impacts to worker safety, or to the state's environment.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts because the proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state, as the proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses within the state. The proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes, which introduces no new adverse economic impacts to businesses that would change their operations.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California because this action will not affect the demand for goods and services.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

The proposed regulation is intended to provide clarity and consistency with current law for the public.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety:

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety in California because this action will not affect working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment:

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to the State's environment from the proposed regulation as it is intended to provide clarity and consistency with current law for the public.

(g) Other Benefits of the Regulation

The proposed regulation is intended to provide clarity and consistency with current law for the public.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

The amendments to Section 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479 and removal of section 696 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with new statute in Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which made it unlawful to trap any furbearing 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. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses that the department previously sold. Current regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements.

The Department recommends changes to the following sections:

251.5 Possession of Game Birds, Game Mammals, Exotic Game Mammals, Furbearers, Nongame Birds and Nongame Mammals.

Revise Section title, remove reference to an outdated permit for the possession of a mountain lion, remove reference to the recreational trapping of mammals and update terms for consistency with statute.

465.5 Use of Traps.

Remove conditional reference to body gripping traps and update to state that no traps, body gripping or otherwise, are lawful for recreational use. Remove stipulation for trap type when stating the prohibition on purchase, barter or exchange of raw fur. Make minor clarifying changes to the language referencing a tenant or designee, who will accomplish depredation trapping. Reference to a new form "DFW 1389e" is added, to aid individuals in obtaining the referenced "trap number issued by and registered with the department" in new subsection (f).

467 Annual Statement of Licensee. Trapping Reports.

Update to state that trappers shall report their take of furbearing and nongame mammals rather than their take of fur. Specify that trapping reports shall specify whether "take" was lethal or nonlethal. Update the stated penalty for non-reporting for consistency with Fish and Game Code Section 4008.

474 Hours for Taking of Nongame Mammals.

Revise Section title clarifying that these provisions are relevant to the taking of 'nongame mammals' and clarifying that take on private property is only allowed for the owner, tenant, or a person in possession of written permission.

478 Bobcat.

Hunting of bobcat is unlawful unless under specific permits or depredation is occurring. Trapping of bobcat is unlawful except under depredation. It is unlawful to sell or export any pelt or part of bobcat taken under a depredation permit.

479 Bobcat Pelts and Fur Products.

It is unlawful to possess any pelt or part without a department mark or shipping tag not legally taken prior to 2020. If the bobcat or parts are imported from outside California, the pelt must have a CITES tag, or be accompanied by a Declaration of Importation with proof of lawful take.

It is unlawful for the pelt of any other furbearing mammal imported to California to be possessed without a Declaration of Importation form. Persons who sell or trade “used fur product” must maintain complete records of each item. The sale and trade of fur products for religious purposes to Native American Tribes is exempt.

696 Fur Dealer and Fur Agent Licenses. Repealed.

Benefits of the regulations:

The goal of the proposed regulations is to maintain consistency with new Statute in Fish and Game Code. Three recent bills, AB273, AB1254 and AB44 from the 2019-2020 legislative session changed the legal framework for recreational fur trapping and the possession or exchange of raw fur and new and used fur products in California. Existing regulations regarding the use of traps are out of date with respect to these changes and require substantive updates to maintain consistency with new law. Additionally minor conforming changes are also included for clarity and consistency in conveying these regulations for the public.

Evaluation of incompatibility with existing regulations:

The Commission has reviewed its regulations in Title 14, CCR, and conducted a search of other regulations on this topic and has concluded that the proposed amendments to Sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478, 478.1, 479 and 550 and the repeal of 696 are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. No other State agency has the authority to promulgate hunting regulations.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 251.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 251.5. Possession of Game Birds, Game Mammals, Exotic Game Mammals, Furbearers, Nongame Birds and Nongame Animals Mammals, Possession Of.

- (a) Migratory game birds may not be held beyond the period provided by the federal regulations and in accordance with the daily bag and possession limits prescribed by these regulations (see sections 257 and 502).
- ~~(b) Live mountain lions may be possessed only under terms of a permit issued by the Department pursuant to section 2150 of the Fish and Game Code or if the owner can demonstrate that the mountain lion was in his/ her possession on or before June 6, 1990, under a permit issued pursuant to section 3200 of said code.~~
- ~~(c)~~(b) Every game bird, game mammal, exotic game mammal, furbearer ~~or nongame animal, nongame bird, or nongame mammal,~~ taken under the authority of a hunting ~~or trapping~~ license ~~and reduced to possession by the hunter, or trapper~~ shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, ~~265, 275, 3005.5,~~ 3800 and 4150, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections ~~110, 200, 201, 203, 203.1, 265, 275,~~ 2000, 2001, 3005.5, ~~3800, 3965,~~ 4001, 4150, and 4650 ~~and 4800,~~ Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 465.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 465.5. Use of Traps.

- (a) Traps Defined. Traps are defined to include padded-jaw leg-hold, steel-jawed leg-hold, and conibear traps, snares, dead-falls, cage traps and other devices designed to confine, hold, grasp, grip, clamp or crush animals' bodies or body parts. ~~A body-gripping trap is one that grips the mammal's body or body part, including, but not limited to, steel-jawed leg-hold traps, padded-jaw leg-hold traps, conibear traps, and snares.~~
- (b) Affected Mammals Defined. For purposes of this section, furbearing mammals, game mammals, exotic game mammals, nongame mammals, and protected mammals are those mammals so defined by statute on July 1, 2024, in sections 3950, 3965, 4000, 4150 and 4700 of the Fish and Game Code.
- (c) Prohibition on Trapping for the Purposes of Recreation or Commerce in Fur. It is unlawful for any person to trap for the purposes of recreation or commerce in fur any furbearing mammal or nongame with any body-gripping trap. ~~A body-gripping trap is one that grips the mammal's body or body part, including, but not limited to, steel-jawed leg-hold traps, padded-jaw leg-hold traps, conibear traps, and snares. Cage and box traps, nets, suitcase-type live beaver traps, and common rat and mouse traps shall not be considered body-gripping traps and may be used to trap for the purposes of recreation or commerce in fur any furbearing or nongame mammal.~~
- (d) Prohibition on Exchange of Raw Fur. It is unlawful for any person to buy, sell, barter, or otherwise exchange for profit, or to offer to buy, sell, barter, or otherwise exchange for profit, the raw fur, as defined by Section 4005 of the Fish and Game Code, of any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal that was trapped in this State, ~~with a body-gripping trap as described in subsection (c) above.~~
- (e) Prohibition on Use of Steel-jawed Leg-hold Traps by Individuals. It is unlawful for any person to use or authorize the use of any steel-jawed leg-hold trap, padded or otherwise, to capture any game mammal, exotic game mammal, furbearing mammal, nongame mammal, protected mammal, or any dog or cat.
 - (1) Exception for Extraordinary Case to Protect Human Health or Safety. The prohibition in subsection (e) does not apply to federal, state, county, or municipal government employees or their duly authorized agents in the extraordinary case where the otherwise prohibited padded-jaw leg-hold trap is the only method available to protect human health or safety.
 - (A) Leg-hold Trap Requirements. Leg-hold traps used to implement subsection (e)(1) must be padded, commercially manufactured, and equipped as provided in subsections (A)1. through (A)5. below.
 - 1. Anchor Chains. Anchor chains must be attached to the center of the padded trap, rather than the side.

2. Chain Swivels. Anchor chains must have a double swivel mechanism attached as follows: One swivel is required where the chain attaches to the center of the trap. The second swivel may be located at any point along the chain, but it must be functional at all times.
3. Shock Absorbing Device. A shock absorbing device such as a spring must be in the anchor chain.
4. Tension Device. Padded leg-hold traps must be equipped with a commercially manufactured pan tension adjusting device.
5. Trap Pads. Trap pads must be replaced with new pads when worn and maintained in good condition.

~~(f) Use of Non-Body Gripping Traps for Purposes of Recreation or Commerce in Fur. Any person who utilizes non-body-gripping traps for the take of furbearing mammals and nongame mammals for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur must comply with the provisions of subsections (g)(1) through (3) below.~~

~~(1)~~(f) Trap Number Requirement. Any person or their designee who traps furbearing mammals or nongame mammals shall obtain a trap number issued by and registered with the department by completing the Depredation Trap Numbering form provided by the department available on the department's website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Directory>. Information required by the form includes the current date, primary contact individual's first and last name, (if for a business, the name of the business); telephone number, residence or business address, or parcel number(s). All traps, before being put into use, shall bear only the current registered trap number or numbers of the person using, or in possession of those traps. This number shall be stamped clearly on the trap or on a metal tag attached to the chain of the trap or to any part of the trap.

(g) Use of Conibear Traps, Snares, Cage and Box Traps, Nets, Suitcase-type Live Beaver Traps and Common Rat and Mouse Traps for Purposes Unrelated to Recreation or Commerce in Fur. Conibear traps, snares, cage and box traps, nets, suitcase-type live beaver traps and common rat and mouse traps may be used by individuals to take authorized mammals for purposes unrelated to recreation or commerce in fur, including, but not limited to, the protection of property, in accordance with subsections (1) through (5) below. Except for common rat and mouse traps, all traps used pursuant to this subsection must be numbered as required by subsection (f) ~~(1)~~ above. ~~The prohibitions of subsections (c) and (d) above shall apply to any furbearing or nongame mammal taken by a conibear trap or snare pursuant to this subsection (g).~~

(1) Immediate Dispatch or Release. All furbearing and nongame mammals that are legal to trap must be immediately killed or released. Unless released, trapped animals shall be killed by shooting where local ordinances, landowners, and safety permit. This regulation does not prohibit employees of federal, state, or local government from using chemical euthanasia to dispatch trapped animals.

(2) Trap Visitation Requirement. All traps shall be visited at least once daily ~~by the owner of the traps or his/her designee~~ and animals removed by the owner or tenant of the premises, or by their authorized representative employees, agents or trapping service.

(A) Such ~~designee~~ representative shall carry on ~~his/her~~ their person written authorization, as owner's or tenant's representative to place and to check traps.

(B) In the event that an unforeseen medical emergency prevents the owner or tenant, or their representative ~~of the traps~~ from visiting traps another person may, with written authorization from the trap's owner, check traps as required.

~~The designee and the person who issues the authorization to check traps shall comply with all provisions of Section 465.5. Each time traps are checked all trapped animals shall be removed.~~

. . . *[No changes to subsections (g)(3) through (h)]*

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 219, 265, 3003.1, 3005.5, 4001, 4005, and 4009.5, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 110, 200, 203, 203.1, 265, 3003.1, 3005.5, 3950, 3965, 4000, 4001, 4004, 4005, ~~4009.5~~, 4150, 4152, 4180 and 4700, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 467, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 467. Annual Statement of Licensee. Trapping Reports.

~~All holders of trapping licenses must submit to the department a sworn statement or report by July 1 of his/her annual take of fur for the preceding trapping season. Statement or report shall show the number of each kind of furbearing mammals and nongame mammals taken, number sold, county in which furs were taken and the names and addresses of the persons to whom furs were shipped or sold. If the annual report is not received by July 1 following the most recent trapping year, or if it is not completely filled out, the trapper's license will be suspended. The commission shall be notified of any suspension and, subsequently, may revoke or reinstate applicant's license renewal application after written notice is given to the applicant and after he has been afforded an opportunity to be heard.~~

(a) Annual Statement of Licensee. All holders of trapping licenses shall submit to the department a sworn annual statement by July 1 following their previous license year's take of fur bearing mammals and nongame mammals on an Annual Statement of Licensee form provided by the department, available on the department's website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Directory>.

- (1) The Annual Statement Of Licensee shall include: the number taken of each kind of furbearing mammals and nongame mammals; the county in which each animal was taken; and whether take was lethal or nonlethal.
- (2) Licensees who did not take any furbearing or nongame mammals shall submit to the department a sworn annual statement by indicating "zero" or "no take".
- (3) A licensee shall ensure, to the extent possible, that trapping activities do not result in incidental take of wildlife. Any incidental take shall be reported by the licensee to the department with the required information for the species taken.
 - (A) If an animal is not injured as a result of incidental take, it shall be immediately released.
 - (B) If an animal is orphaned or injured as a result of incidental take, the licensee may transport the injured animal to the nearest permitted wildlife rehabilitator as provided in Section 679.2. The Annual Statement of Licensee shall record the name of the rehabilitator and the date of transfer if such action was taken.
 - (C) If an animal is killed as a result of incidental take, the licensee shall dispose of the carcass pursuant to all federal, state, and local jurisdiction requirements.
- (4) Take of State or Federal Threatened or Endangered Species. Any incidental take of state or federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate wildlife, or wildlife designated as fully protected in the State of California shall be reported by the licensee to the department with the required information for the species taken (if any), as set forth in subsection (a). The licensee shall also report any take to the nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Ecological Services Field Office within 7 calendar days of

the take and provide in writing his or her name, license number, date, species and sex (if known) of the animal taken, and exact location of the take as provided in 50 CFR 21.

(b) If the Annual Statement Of Licensee is not received by July 1 following the previous license year, or if the statement is incomplete, the trapper's license will be suspended, or the trapper's license application will be denied. The license or application will remain suspended or denied until the department receives the completed statement. Holders of trapping licenses may verify the reporting status of their current license by logging into Online License Sales and Services (available at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Online-Sales>) and selecting "License Reporting."

(c) Acknowledgement and Signature. In accordance with FGC Section 4008, "I certify under penalty of perjury that the information submitted in this Annual Statement of Licensee is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief that the wildlife described herein were legally taken and legally possessed. I understand that any false statement or omission may be subject to civil, criminal, and administrative penalties under the laws of the State of California." If an applicant signs the application electronically, the following language is included: "With accordance to California Civil Code §1633.5(b), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it."

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, ~~265~~, 1050, 4005, 4008, 4009.5 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections ~~110, 200, 201, 203, 203.1, 260, 265, 270, 275, 4000, 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4009.5, 4010, 4011 and 4012~~, 4150, 4152, and 4180 Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 474, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 474. Hours for Taking of Nongame Mammals.

(a) Nongame mammals may be taken at any time except as provided in this section. This section does not pertain to the legal take of nongame mammals with traps.

~~(a)-(b)~~ Area Closed to Night Hunting. Nongame mammals may be taken only between one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset in the following described area:

Beginning at a point where Little Panoche Road crosses Interstate 5 near Mendota; south on Interstate 5 to Highway 198; east on Highway 198 to Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to Interstate 5; south on Interstate 5 to the Los Padres National Forest boundary in Section 8, T 9 N, R 19 W, S.B.B.M near Fort Tejon Historical Monument; west along the National Forest boundary to Cerro Noroeste Road; northwest on Cerro Noroeste Road to Highway 33-166; north on Highway 33-166 to the Soda Lake Road; northwest on the Soda Lake Road and on the Simmler Soda Lake San Diego Creek Road to Highway 58 at Simmler; west on Highway 58 to the Cammotti Shandon Road; north on the Cammotti Shandon Road to the Shandon San Juan Road; north on the Shandon San Juan Road to Highway 41; northeast on Highway 41 to the Cholame Valley Road; northwest on Cholame Valley Road and Cholame Road to the Parkfield Coalinga Road in Parkfield; north on Parkfield Coalinga Road and Parkfield Grade to Highway 198; northwest on Highway 198 to the Fresno-Monterey county line; north along the Fresno-Monterey county and Fresno-San Benito county lines to the Little Panoche Road; north and east on the Little Panoche Road to the point of beginning at Interstate 5.

~~This section does not pertain to the legal take of nongame mammals with traps as provided for by Sections 461-480 of these regulations, and by Sections 4000, 4012, 4152 and 4180 of the Fish and Game Code. (This regulation supersedes Section 3000 of the Fish and Game Code.)~~

~~(b)-(c)~~ On privately-owned property, not included in ~~(a)-(b)~~ above, nongame mammals may be taken from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise only:

(1) by the landowner or ~~his agents~~, their tenant; or

(2) by persons who have in their immediate possession written permission issued by the landowner or their tenant to enter the property for the purpose of taking nongame mammals. ~~that states the permittee can trespass from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise on property under the ownership or control of such landowners or tenants.~~

~~(c)-(d)~~ Fallow deer, axis deer, sambar deer, sika deer, aoudad, mouflon, tahr and feral goats may be taken only from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 3000 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 3000, 4001, 4152 and 4180 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 478, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 478. Bobcat.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to hunt, trap, pursue, take or possess any bobcat without first procuring a hunting license and bobcat hunting tags, or depredation permit issued pursuant to Section 401 of these regulations as in subsection (b) below. ~~This Section shall not apply to bobcats taken for purposes of property protection pursuant to Section 4152 of the Fish and Game Code and Section 401 of these regulations.~~
- (b) ~~Hunting: The pursuit, take, or possession of a bobcat under the authority of a hunting license and a bobcat hunting tag shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 3960 of the Fish and Game Code, this Section, and sections 472, 473, 474, 475, 478.1 and 479 of these regulations. Bobcats may be taken statewide under the authority of a hunting license and bobcat hunting tags between October 15 through February 28. The bag and possession limit is five bobcats per season.~~
- (e)(b) Trapping: It shall be unlawful to trap any bobcat, or attempt to do so, or except as provided in Section 401 of these regulations. Bobcats taken pursuant to a depredation permit shall be disposed of as required in the permit. It shall be unlawful to sell or export any bobcat or part of any bobcat taken in the State of California. Any holder of a trapping license person who traps a bobcat that is not the target species identified in a depredation permit issued by the department shall immediately release any the bobcat to the wild that is healthy and unharmed. A bobcat trapped that is injured, diseased, or orphaned shall be transferred to a native wildlife rehabilitation permittee in accordance with Section 679.2 of these regulations.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 265, 4150, ~~and 4155~~, 4157, 4158 and 4181. Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 3960, 4150, ~~and 4155~~, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 479, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

§ 479. Bobcat Pelts and Fur Products.

- (a) Except for bobcats lawfully taken under a hunting license prior to January 1, 2020 and tagged with a completed bobcat hunting tag as set forth in Section 478.1 affixed to the pelt, or as provided in subsection 479(b), it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, whether for sale, export, or personal use, any bobcat pelt or part thereof taken in California without a department mark or shipping tag affixed to the pelt or part. Beginning November 20, 2015, the department shall not affix a department mark or shipping tag on any bobcat pelt.
- (b) It is unlawful for any person to import, receive from out-of-state, or receive for sale, any bobcat pelt, or parts thereof that is not:
 - (1) Marked with the current United States Fish and Wildlife Service Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species export or shipping tag (50 CFR Part 23) from the state of origin; and
 - (2) Accompanied by ~~an import declaration in accordance with Section 2353 of the Fish and Game Code, and~~ a Declaration of Importation of Dead Wildlife form DFW 901, executed and submitted to the Department on paper or online, as provided in Section 712.5, specifying the number and kind of raw pelts ~~in the shipment~~, the state in which the bobcats were taken, the license number under which they were taken and attesting that they were legally taken. ~~Demonstration of the declaration of entry, pelt ownership and proof of legal take and marking is required of anyone receiving bobcat pelts from out-of-state upon the request of the department.~~
 - (3) The person in possession of the bobcat pelts or parts thereof shall have in their possession the documents required herein and shall present the documents upon the request of the department.
- (c) It is unlawful for any person to import, receive from out-of-state, or receive for sale, the pelt of any furbearing or nongame mammal that is not accompanied by the Declaration of Dead Wildlife form DFW 901 as described in (b)(2).
- (d) A person who sells or trades a “used fur product” or an exempt “fur product” shall maintain a record of sale or trade for each item for at least one year. The record of sale for a used fur product shall contain at minimum the following information:
 - (1) The first and last name of the seller and first and last name of the buyer,
 - (2) The date, location and purchase price for the sale,
 - (3) A complete description each individual used fur product or exempt fur product including, brand and model name/number or identifying markings/labels applied, and
 - (4) The size, color, and species of furbearing or nongame animal(s) fur that comprising the fur product.

(5) In addition to the above information, a person who sells or trades an exempt “fur product” for religious purposes and/or traditional tribal, cultural, or spiritual purposes by a member of a federally recognized Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, shall indicate the tribal or religious affiliation allowing for the exemption to sell or trade a fur product.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 2353, 3003.1, 4150, ~~and 4155~~, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 2023, 2353, 3003.1, 4150, ~~and 4155~~, 4157 and 4158, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 696, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is hereby repealed:

§ 696. Fur Dealer and Fur Agent Licenses.

~~(a) Fur Dealer License. Every person engaging in, carrying on, or conducting, wholly or in part, the business of buying, selling, trading or dealing in raw furs of furbearing mammals or nongame mammals shall first procure a fur dealer license.~~

~~Each licensed fur dealer shall submit, not later than July 1, to the Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814 (or by postal delivery to P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090), an annual report on forms provided by the department.~~

~~(b) Fur Agent License. Any person employed by a licensed fur dealer to engage in the business of buying, selling, trading or dealing in raw furs only on behalf of the fur dealer, and not on his own behalf, shall first procure a fur agent license, providing that the fur dealer employing that person has submitted the annual report required in (a) above. Such licenses shall be valid for a term of one year from July 1, or if issued after the beginning of such term, for the remainder thereof.~~

~~(c) It shall be unlawful for any fur dealer or fur agent to purchase the raw fur of any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal from any person who does not hold a valid trapping license, fur dealer license, or fur agent license.~~

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 4009.5, 4042 and 4150, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 4009.5, 4030-4043 and 4150, Fish and Game Code.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT NAME California Fish and Game Commission	CONTACT PERSON Gabe Lopez	EMAIL ADDRESS fgc@fgc.ca.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916 737-4862
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400 Amend Sec 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, repeal Sec 696, T14 CCR re: Mammal Trapping Consistency			NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z

A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

☐ a. Impacts business and/or employees	☐ e. Imposes reporting requirements
☐ b. Impacts small businesses	☐ f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance
☐ c. Impacts jobs or occupations	☐ g. Impacts individuals
☐ d. Impacts California competitiveness	☒ h. None of the above (Explain below):

Mammal trapping has been illegal since 2019. Regulations are out of conformance with statutory changes made in 2019. See addendum.

If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.
If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.

2. The _____ estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:

(Agency/Department)

☐ Below \$10 million
☐ Between \$10 and \$25 million
☐ Between \$25 and \$50 million
☐ Over \$50 million <i>[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]</i>

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: _____

Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): _____

Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: _____

4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: _____ eliminated: _____

Explain: _____

5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☐ Statewide

☐ Local or regional (List areas): _____

6. Enter the number of jobs created: _____ and eliminated: _____

Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: _____

7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, explain briefly: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____
 - a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____
 - b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____
 - c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____
 - d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: _____
2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: _____
3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements.
Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted. \$ _____
4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ _____
 Number of units: _____
5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: _____
- Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ _____

C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: _____
2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☐ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?
 Explain: _____
3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____
4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: _____

D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

Regulation: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives: _____

4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs? ☐ YES ☐ NOExplain: _____
_____**E. MAJOR REGULATIONS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.****California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises **exceed \$10 million**? ☐ YES ☐ NO***If YES, complete E2. and E3******If NO, skip to E4***

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: _____

Alternative 2: _____

(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

☐ YES ☐ NO*If YES, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment \(SRIA\)](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: _____
_____The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: _____
_____The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: _____

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

☐ a. Funding provided in _____
Budget Act of _____ or Chapter _____, Statutes of _____

☐ b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of _____
Fiscal Year: _____

☐ 2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:

☐ a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in _____

☐ b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the _____ Court.

Case of: _____ vs. _____

☐ c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. _____

Date of Election: _____

☐ d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: _____

☐ e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: _____

Authorized by Section: _____ of the _____ Code;

☐ f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

☐ g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in _____

☐ 3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ _____

☐ 4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

☒ 5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

☐ 6. Other. Explain _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

It is anticipated that State agencies will:☐ a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.☐ b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the _____ Fiscal Year☒ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)\$ 3,206☐ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain _____
_____**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain _____

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE

The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.

AGENCY SECRETARY



DATE

8/6/2026*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER

DATE



STD. 399 Addendum
Amend Sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and
Repeal Section 696 of
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Regarding Mammal Trapping Consistency with Statute

Background

The proposed regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with current statute in California Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (added by Assembly Bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which makes it unlawful to trap any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibits the sale of the raw fur of any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses sold by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). Current regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements.

Fish and Game Code sections 4157 and 4158 (added by Assembly Bill 1254, 2019-20 legislative session) make it unlawful to hunt, trap, or otherwise take a bobcat, except under specified circumstances, including under a depredation permit. The bill's specified appropriation has been made by the legislature to the Department to develop a bobcat management plan to inform and coordinate management decisions regarding bobcat populations. Current regulations in Section 478 are outdated with respect to current statutory requirements for depredation of bobcats.

Fish and Game Code Section 2023 (added by Assembly Bill 44, 2019-20) became fully operative on January 1, 2023, and makes it unlawful to sell, offer for sale, display for sale, trade, or otherwise distribute for monetary or non-monetary consideration a fur product, as defined, in the state. The statute also makes it unlawful to manufacture a fur product in the state for sale. The statute exempts used fur products, as defined, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law. The statute requires a person that sells or trades any fur product exempt from this prohibition to maintain records of each sale or trade of an exempt fur product for at least one year, except as provided. Current regulations in Section 479 are out of date with respect to these requirements.

Economic Impact Statement

Section A. Estimated Private Sector Cost Impacts

Question 1. Answer: h. None of the above

The proposed regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with new statute in California Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (added by Assembly Bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which 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 furbearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses sold by the department. Current

regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements.

The proposed regulations are not expected to cause any economic impacts on businesses or private individuals. The proposed change for tag marking requirements for traps would bring regulations into compliance with the current trap marking requirements in Fish and Game Code Section 465.5, and thus does not introduce a new economic impact as legal trap users (such as for pest control) are already complying with this statutory requirement. Similarly, the proposed change for expanding the list of species that must be reported by licensed trappers only adds to the annual report that licensed trappers must already complete and submit to the Department.

Fiscal Impact Statement

Section B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

Answer: 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate): \$3,206.25

The Department and Commission anticipate that the proposed regulation may have some fiscal savings in the current State fiscal year. Approximately 23 hours of staff time is expected to be saved by making the regulation of nonconforming trappers an automatic process rather than one that is manually implemented, resulting in approximately \$3,206 in annual fiscal savings. The savings are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Fiscal Savings to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Classification	Median Hourly Rate	Hours Saved	Fiscal Savings
Analyst I	\$56.55	2	\$113.10
Attorney IV	\$145.03	20	\$2,900.60
Career Executive Assignment	\$192.55	1	\$192.55
Total			\$3,206.25

Hourly rates: Department's Budget Branch

Proposed Amendments to California Trapping Regulations

Presentation to the California Fish and Game Commission



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

Summary of Proposed Changes

- **Align** Title 14 with Fish and Game Code including **removing** references to activities and requirements that are no longer allowed or relevant under revised statutes and **adding** required documentation for fur products.
- **Allow Department** to reinstate trapping licenses upon receipt of annual reports
- **Specify** whether take was lethal, and if injured or orphaned wildlife is transferred to a licensed rehabilitator.



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

Effective January 2020



AB44

Effective January 2023



AB1254

Effective January 2020



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 – Depredation Trap Number

Statute indicates that it is unlawful to set or maintain a trap that does not bear a number or other identifying mark in a manner specified by the department.

Our amendments add instructions for private individuals to obtain a “Depredation Trap Number” issued by and registered to the department, when trapping for the purpose of preventing damage or wildlife conflict.



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
- To indicate when incidental take results in an orphaned or injured animal being transferred to a permitted wildlife rehabilitator.



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)
- Indicate how trappers may verify the reporting status of their trapping license by visiting Online License Sales and Services



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 – Bobcat Pelts

- Broaden, to include furbearing and nongame mammal pelts and fur products; add reference to the Declaration of Importation of Dead Fish or Wildlife Form DFW 901.
- ***No new fur product(s) may be manufactured** *from the fur of a furbearing or nongame animal in California* **since 2020.**
- Add reference to documentation requirements for the sale or trade of a “used fur product” containing in part or in whole, the fur of any furbearing or nongame mammal
 - *specific information required of a bill of sale for a 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

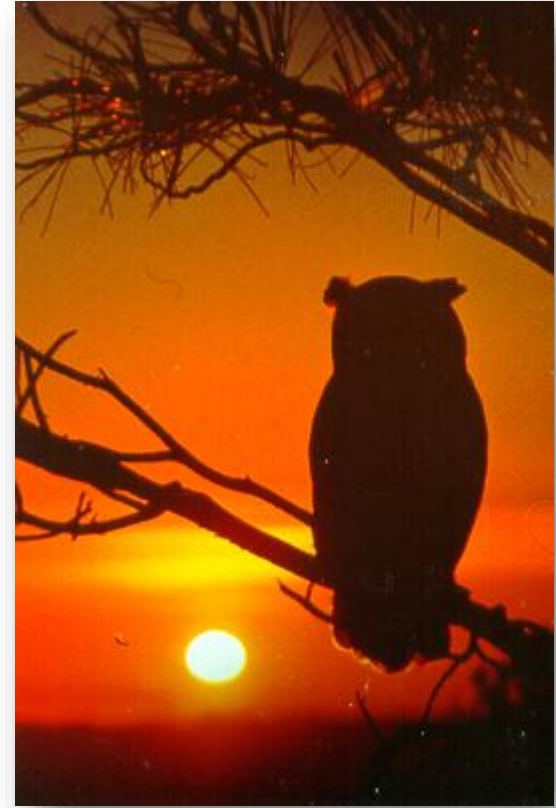
Department proposes to update bobcat regulations to *remove*:

- 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

