

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

22B. Rulemaking Timetable Updates**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

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

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Commission approved rulemaking timetable June 17-18, 2026
- **Today, consider approving changes to the rulemaking timetable August 12-13, 2026**

Background

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

The Department requests five changes to the rulemaking timetable (Exhibit 1):

- Add a new "White Seabass Recreational Minimum Size Limit" rulemaking to amend sections 28.35 and 27.65. This rulemaking is necessary to bring white seabass fishing regulations in line with the latest scientific information available, which suggests the size at maturity for female white seabass is larger than the current 28-inch minimum size. The requested timeline is notice in October 2026, discussion in December 2026, and adoption in February 2027.
- Add a second 90-day emergency re-adoption for "Gear Restrictions for White Shark (Emergency)" in February 2027 and schedule a certificate of compliance rulemaking to make the emergency regulations indefinite, as heightened shark presence in California waters is expected to last longer than the emergency regulation period due to the forecasted strong El Niño. The requested timeline is notice in December 2026, discussion in February 2027, and adoption in April 2027.
- Add a new "Bighorn Sheep Hunting, 2027-2028 Season" rulemaking to amend Section 362, and add a new "Black Bear Hunting, 2027-2028 Season" rulemaking to amend sections 365, 366, 367.5, and 708.12. These periodic rulemakings are necessary to ensure hunt tags, quotas, and other applicable regulations adequately balance conservation and hunting opportunities based on species-specific data. The requested timeline is notice in December 2026, discussion in February 2027, and adoption in April 2027.
- Schedule the "Waterfowl Hunting, 2027-2028 Seasons (Annual)" rulemaking to amend Section 502. This annual rulemaking is necessary to align state regulations with federal rules as part of the Pacific Flyway Council process. The requested timeline is notice in December 2026, discussion in February 2027, and adoption in April 2027.
- Schedule the "Private Lands Management (PLM) Program" rulemaking, amending Section 601, for notice in December 2026, discussion in February 2027, and adoption in

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April 2027. This schedule will align the rulemaking timeline with regulatory changes for big game species in effect for summer 2027.

Staff requests four changes to the rulemaking timetable at this meeting:

- Change the name of the “Commercial Use and Possession of Native Rattlesnakes” rulemaking to “Commercial Use and Possession of Native Rattlesnakes for Exhibition” to better reflect the purpose and scope of the rulemaking.
- Change the name of the “Trapping Consistency with Statute” rulemaking to “Mammal Trapping Consistency with Statute” since the rulemaking does not contemplate any other kinds of trapping.
- For the proposed new “Bighorn Sheep Hunting, 2027-2028 Season” and “Black Bear Hunting, 2027-2028 Season” rulemakings, schedule Wildlife Resources Committee recommendations in September 2026.
- Add a new “American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtles” rulemaking under “Future Rulemakings: TBD.” At its December 2023 meeting, the Commission adopted a Wildlife Resources Committee recommendation to approve outlined strategies, including potential regulatory proposals, to address concerns associated with American bullfrog and non-native turtles in California.

The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) has one recommendation for the rulemaking timetable at this meeting:

- Postpone scheduling a second 90-day re-adoption of the “Gear Restrictions for White Shark (Emergency)” rulemaking and the associated “certificate of compliance” rulemaking — which would make the emergency provisions indefinite — until after the November 2026 MRC meeting. At its July 2026 meeting, MRC requested that the Department return to the November 2026 MRC meeting with an update and a recommendation regarding any need for a regular rulemaking and, if so, which measures to incorporate (see the staff summary for Agenda Item 9B). This timing recommendation differs from the Department’s current proposal but reflects MRC’s intent to allow additional time to monitor field operations under the existing emergency measures and to support coordinated development and discussion of a potential regular rulemaking.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Approve the proposed changes to the “Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions” as identified in this staff summary and Exhibit 2, using MRC’s recommendation for white shark gear restrictions, and any other changes identified during this meeting.

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

Exhibits

1. [Department memo, received July 16, 2026](#)

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2. ["Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions," dated July 31, 2026](#)

Motion

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 15, 2026

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

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

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

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

1. Please add a new rulemaking, "White Seabass Recreational Minimum Size Limit" amending sections 28.35 and 27.65 requesting to authorize notice at the October 2026 meeting, discussion at the December 2026 meeting, and adoption at the February 2027 meeting. This regulation would adjust the minimum size limit for white seabass, or another management measure recommended by the MRC, due to latest scientific information suggesting that the size at maturity for female white seabass is larger than the current 28-inch minimum size. The regulation would also likely consider adding a minimum filet length.
2. Please add two follow-up rulemakings for the existing emergency regulation, "Gear Restrictions for White Shark (Emergency)" adopted at the June 2026 Commission meeting:
 - Certificate of Compliance (standard) rulemaking requesting to authorize notice at the December 2026 meeting, discussion at the February 2027 meeting, and adoption at the April 2027 meeting; and
 - Second 90-day emergency re-adoption for the February 2027



meeting.

3. Please add the following periodic rulemakings for big game hunting, requesting to authorize notice at the December 2026 meeting, discussion at the February 2027 meeting, and adoption at the April 2027 meeting.
 - "Bighorn Sheep Hunting, 2027-2028 season" amending section 362; and
 - "Black Bear Hunting, 2027-2028 season" amending sections 365, 366, 367.5, 708.12.
4. Please add the annual rulemaking, "Waterfowl hunting, 2027-2028 seasons (Annual)" amending Section 502, requesting to authorize notice at the December 2026 meeting, discussion at the February 2027 meeting, and adoption at the April 2027 meeting. This is the standard waterfowl rulemaking that occurs annually as part of the Pacific Flyway Council updates.
5. Update the existing rulemaking heard in Wildlife Resources Committee meetings in 2026, "Private Lands Management (PLM) Program updates" requesting to authorize notice at the December 2026 meeting, discussion at the February 2027 meeting, and adoption at the April 2027 meeting.

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

ec: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Robert Pelzman, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Eric Kord, Assistant Chief
Law Enforcement Division (Marine)

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
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Mario Klip, Game and Connectivity Program Manager
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Craig Shuman, Marine Regional Manager
Marine Region

Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director
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Ona Alminas, Env. Program Manager
Regulations Unit

David Thesell, Deputy Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

Gabe Lopez, Program Manager
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California Fish and Game Commission: Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions

July 31, 2026

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

Subject of Rulemaking	Title 14 Section(s)	TC Sacramento August 11, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 12, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 13, 2026	WRC Sacramento September 10, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 13, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 15, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 16, 2026	MRC Sacramento November 12, 2026	TC Sacramento December 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 15, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 16, 2026	WRC TBD January 13, 2027	FGC TBD February 17, 2027	FGC TBD February 18, 2027	MRC TBD March 18, 2027	TC TBD April 13, 2027	FGC TBD April 14, 2027	FGC TBD April 15, 2027	FGC Teleconference May 6, 2027	WRC TBD May 13, 2027	FGC TBD June 9, 2027
Central Valley Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(4), (43), (66), (80)																						
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(50)																						
<u>Waterfowl Hunting, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 (Annual)</u>	502												<u>N</u>		<u>D</u>				<u>A</u>				
Sport Fishing 2026	1.62, 1.73, 1.74, 2.10, 2.11, 4.20, 5.00, 5.65, 5.85, 5.88, 6.34, 6.35, 7.00, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 28.25, 28.30, 28.32, 28.35, 230, 701			A									E 1/1										
<u>Commercial Use and Possession of Native Rattlesnakes for Exhibition</u>	42.1, 43, 703			N				D					A					E 4/1					
Harpoons and Flying Gaffs for Recreational Tuna Fishery and Gear Marking in Commercial Harpoon Swordfish Fishery ⁴	28.38, 28.40, 28.90, 28.95, 107		D				A						E 1/1										
Process to Conform State Recreational Fishing Regulations to Federal Regulations, Including for Federal Groundfish	1.95,			N			A						EUF										
Gear Restrictions for White Shark Emergency	28.06, 28.65												EE 12/31										
Gear Restrictions for White Shark Emergency (First 90-day Extension)	28.06, 28.65						A						E 12/31				EE 3/31						
<u>Mammal Trapping Consistency with Statute</u>	251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478, 478.1, 479, 550, 550.5, 551, 630, 696			N				D					A					E 4/1					
Department Lands ²	550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630							N					D		A								
<u>White Seabass Recreational Minimum Size Limit</u>	<u>27.65, 28.35</u>						<u>N</u>					<u>D</u>				<u>A</u>							
<u>Bighorn Sheep Hunting, 2027-2028 season</u>	<u>362</u>				<u>R</u>								<u>N</u>		<u>D</u>				<u>A</u>				
<u>Black Bear Hunting, 2027-2028 season</u>	<u>365, 366, 367.5, 708.12</u>				<u>R</u>								<u>N</u>		<u>D</u>				<u>A</u>				
<u>Private Lands Management (PLM) Program</u>	601				R								<u>N</u>		<u>D</u>				<u>A</u>				

KEY
 CFGC = California Fish and Game Commission MRC = CFGC Marine Resources Committee WRC = CFGC Wildlife Resources Committee TC = CFGC Tribal Committee OAL = Office of Administrative Law
 EM = Emergency **EE = Emergency Expires** E = Anticipated Effective Date (**RED "X" = expedited OAL review**) EUF = Effective Upon Filing w/ Secretary of State
 N = Notice Hearing D = Discussion Hearing A = Adoption Hearing V = Committee Vetting R = Committee Recommendation
 1 = Considers MPA Petitions/sub-actions: 2023-22MPA (sub-actions 1, 2, 4, 6); 2023-25MPA (sub-actions 1, 3); 2023-26MPA (sub-actions 2, 3, 4); and 2023-31MPA (sub-actions 1, 2)
 2 = Considers CFGC Petition 2018-016(a) 3 = Considers CFGC Petition 2025-10 4 = Considers CFGC Petition 2024-04

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

July 31, 2026

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Future Rulemakings: Schedule to be Determined

Subject of Rulemaking	Title 14 Section(s)	TC Sacramento August 11, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 12, 2026	FGC Sacramento August 13, 2026	WRC Sacramento September 10, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 13, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 15, 2026	FGC Sacramento October 16, 2026	MRC Sacramento November 12, 2026	TC Sacramento December 14, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 15, 2026	FGC Sacramento December 16, 2026	WRC TBD January 13, 2027	FGC TBD February 17, 2027	FGC TBD February 18, 2027	MRC TBD March 18, 2027	TC TBD April 13, 2027	FGC TBD April 14, 2027	FGC TBD April 15, 2027	FGC Teleconference May 6, 2027	WRC TBD May 13, 2027	FGC TBD June 9, 2027
Possess Game / Process Into Food	TBD																						
American Zoological Association / Zoo and Aquarium Association	671.1																						
<u>American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtles</u>	<u>TBD</u>																						
Night Hunting in Gray Wolf Range (CFGF Petition 2015-010)	474																						
Electronic Report Cards	1.74, 5.79, 5.80, 5.81, 5.87, 5.88																						
Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices	TBD																						
Ridgeback Prawn Incidental Take Allowance	120(e)																						
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) ¹	632																						
Restricted Animal Caging Requirements and Materials ³	TBD																						

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