

Commissioners

Michael Sutton, President
Monterey

Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles

Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay

Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director

1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 653-4899

(916) 653-5040 Fax

www.fgc.ca.gov

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Co-Chairs: Commissioner Baylis and Commissioner Kellogg

Meeting Summary

January 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6, West Sacramento**

Following is a summary of the subject meeting as prepared by staff.

Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Commissioner Baylis, who introduced Fish and Game Commission (Commission) staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff. Commissioner Kellogg arrived shortly after.

Commission Staff

Sonke Mastrup	Executive Director
Caren Woodson	Analyst

Department Staff

David Bess	Deputy Director and Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Eric Loft	Chief, Wildlife Branch
Craig Martz	Manager, Regulations Unit
Craig Stowers	Program Manager, Wildlife Branch
Kari Lewis	Program Manager, Wildlife Branch
Karen Mitchell	Program Manager, Fisheries Branch

Executive Director Mastrup outlined the procedures for the meeting, noting that the Committee is a non-decision making body that provides recommendations to the full Commission on non-marine items. He reminded participants that while the meeting was not live streamed via the Internet, it was being audio-recorded for posting to the website with a staff summary.

1. Discuss and approve final recommendations for the following planned rulemakings for 2015:
 - (A) Upland game bird regulations (Sections 300, 708, Title 14, CCR)

Craig Stowers summarized proposed changes in upland game hunting regulations, including annual adjustments to sage-grouse and a one-hour increase in shooting hours for turkeys from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

(B) Waterfowl regulations (Section 502, Title 14, CCR)

Craig Stowers summarized proposed changes in waterfowl hunting regulations, including increased bag limit or days for brant hunting depending on the winter assessment, in addition to a proposed range of season lengths and daily bag limits for ducks until the results of the California waterfowl breeding population survey is completed in May. Notably, for all migratory bird regulations, states will begin to modify their regulatory schedules to better comport with the rulemaking timeline established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, California will not make decisions based on current year data and will start the 2016 season regulations in December 2015.

(C) Wildlife rehabilitation regulations (Sections 679 and 703, Title 14, CCR)

Eric Loft summarized proposed changes in wildlife rehabilitation regulations to update and modernize the program.

WRC Recommendation: Following public comment, the WRC recommended that the Commission authorize staff to work with the Department to prepare rulemakings for upland game and waterfowl hunting, and wildlife rehabilitation regulations consistent with what has been presented and discussed today.

2. Identify and discuss initial recommendations for the following planned rulemakings for 2015:

(A) Department lands visitor pass (Sections 550, 550.5, 551, 630, 703)

Kari Lewis summarized proposed changes to DFW Lands Pass regulations to comply with recent statutory changes. The proposal would require visitors to purchase an annual or single-day parking pass for use at selected wildlife areas and ecological reserves.

Following public comment, WRC encouraged DFW to work with user groups to identify options that extend beyond the vehicle pass concept to better capture all non-consumptive users accessing these lands, and return with revised options for consideration at the WRC meeting in May.

(B) Sport fish regulations (Sections 200, et al., Title 14, CCR)

Karen Mitchell summarized proposed changes to inland sport fish regulations including separately defining kokanee and inland Chinook salmon, change the drawing dates for black bass fishing contests, to establish a low-flow angling restriction for the lower American River, and general clean-up. Several additional proposals are still under review by the Pacific Fishery Management Council which may or may not be submitted to WRC for consideration at the May meeting.

Following public comment, WRC encouraged DFW to consider disposal rules when considering file rules for salmon.

3. Update and discussion of possible changes to predator management policies/regulations, structural integrity issues (Sections 460, 465.5, and 472, Title 14, CCR)

Sonke Mastrup provided an overview of what WRC has charged staff with reviewing on predator management issues, but focusing today's discussion on structural concerns (Sections 460, 465.5, and 472, Title 14, CCR). DFW provided an update on the products being developed to manage the State's predators. April Wakeman and Jim Conrad, representing the San Diego County Wildlife Federation, provided a presentation on coyote and predator management strategies.

Following public comment, the WRC co-chairs underscored their desire to take a measured approach to reforming predator management policies, and directed staff to focus on proposals to fix the structural issues identified and discussed here today. In addition, WRC requested that DFW return to the meeting in May with recommendations about the three structural matters discussed here today.

4. Future agenda items

Caren Woodson summarized items for discussion at future WRC meetings, including continued consideration of predator management policies, updating wildlife rehabilitation regulations, feral pig management, and regulations to permit possession of game for processing into food.

Noelle Cremers, representing the California Farm Bureau Federation, requested time for a presentation on feral pigs when the WRC takes up the item.

5. Public forum

Received public comments.