

STAFF SUMMARY FOR JUNE 10-11, 2015

- E3. *California Rifle and Pistol Association Honors CDFW Assistant Chief Roy Griffith as Wildlife Officer of the Year, May 22, 2015*
- E4. *Shikar-Safari Club International Honors Lt. Sheree Christensen as Wildlife Officer of the Year, May 26, 2015*
- E5. *CDFW Awards \$21 Million in Grants for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects, Apr 30, 2015*
- E6. *Diverse Coalition Negotiating Historic Venture to Reintroduce Salmon to Sierra, May 7, 2015*
- E7. *Poachers Take Advantage of Drought Conditions to Target Juvenile Salmon, May 13, 2015*
- E8. *CDFW and Partners Investigate Decline in Pheasant Population, May 12, 2015*
- E9. *California Fish and Game Scientific Journal Completes 100th Anniversary Series, May 22, 2015*

Motion/Direction (N/A)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 28, 2015 6:46:57 PM PDT

Update 25: Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio Oil Response in Santa Barbara County, California.

Refugio and El Capitan state beaches remain closed to the public as the Unified Command continues to respond to the Refugio Oil Response in Santa Barbara County, California.

Camping reservations for El Capitan and Refugio state beaches have been cancelled through June 18, in an effort to expedite cleanup efforts. The date is subject to change as we continue to reevaluate and assess impacts every week.

As of 6 p.m. Thursday, the Unified Command has 1,193 people working together in support of the response. There are 18 boats, one barge, two helicopters, and one fixed winged aircraft working on cleanup operations. Cleanup crews have removed more than 10,480 gallons of oily water mixture, and our SCAT teams continue to comb the 27.56 miles of affected shoreline out of the 35.53 miles of surveyed shoreline.

As of 6 p.m., Thursday, cleanup crews have removed 251 cubic yards of oiled vegetation, 836.5 cubic yards of oiled sand and 2,000 cubic yards of oiled soil.

The public is advised to avoid contact with the oil and to keep pets away from the area where product has accumulated.

As of 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, a total of 39 live birds found affected by oil and 18 have died since the beginning of the response. In addition a total of 22 mammals have been found affected by oil and 10 have died.

The public should not attempt to rescue oiled wildlife. Untrained individuals who attempt to rescue wildlife may cause more harm than good and may injure themselves in the process. If oiled animals are scared back into the water by pets or people, their chances of survival decrease dramatically.

The Unified Command at the Refugio oil response is aware of the tarballs discovered on 6.5 miles of shoreline at El Segundo, Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo beaches, and is working closely with the South Bay Incident Unified Command in Los Angeles. Samples are being collected from the South Bay incident for analysis and fingerprinting to determine if the pollution in the South Bay is the result of the Refugio Oil Spill or if it is the result of another source.

For the safety of the cleanup crews and the public, Canada de Alegria to Coal Oil Point fisheries still remain closed until further notice and a safety zone is currently in effect around the fisheries, which extends from west of Coal Oil Point to west of Gaviota State Beach and seven miles out from the shoreline. Mariners in the vicinity may receive broadcasts via marine band radio channel 16.

A Federal Aviation Administration flight restriction is still in effect in the area of the response. Aircraft not directed as part of the response may not enter the airspace of Refugio State Beach. The restriction encompasses a five-mile radius around the park with a 1,000-foot ceiling. This includes the use of drone aircraft.

The Unified Command continues to monitor environmental and economic impacts. A claims line remains free and open to address personal and business losses due to the oil release.

The Unified Command would like to thank the volunteers from the community who stepped forward to receive the required training to help in cleanup efforts. These training classes will continue and members of the public interested in helping should call 1-800-228-4544.

- To report oiled wildlife: [1-877-823-6926](tel:1-877-823-6926)
- Volunteer information: [1-800-228-4544](tel:1-800-228-4544)
- Volunteers interested in signing up for cleanup operations are required to visit <https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/Spill-Archive/Refugio-Incident/Volunteer>
- Claims number: [1-866-753-3619](tel:1-866-753-3619)
- For more information: www.refugioresponse.com
- Refugio State Beach information http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=601
- El Capitan State Beach information http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=603

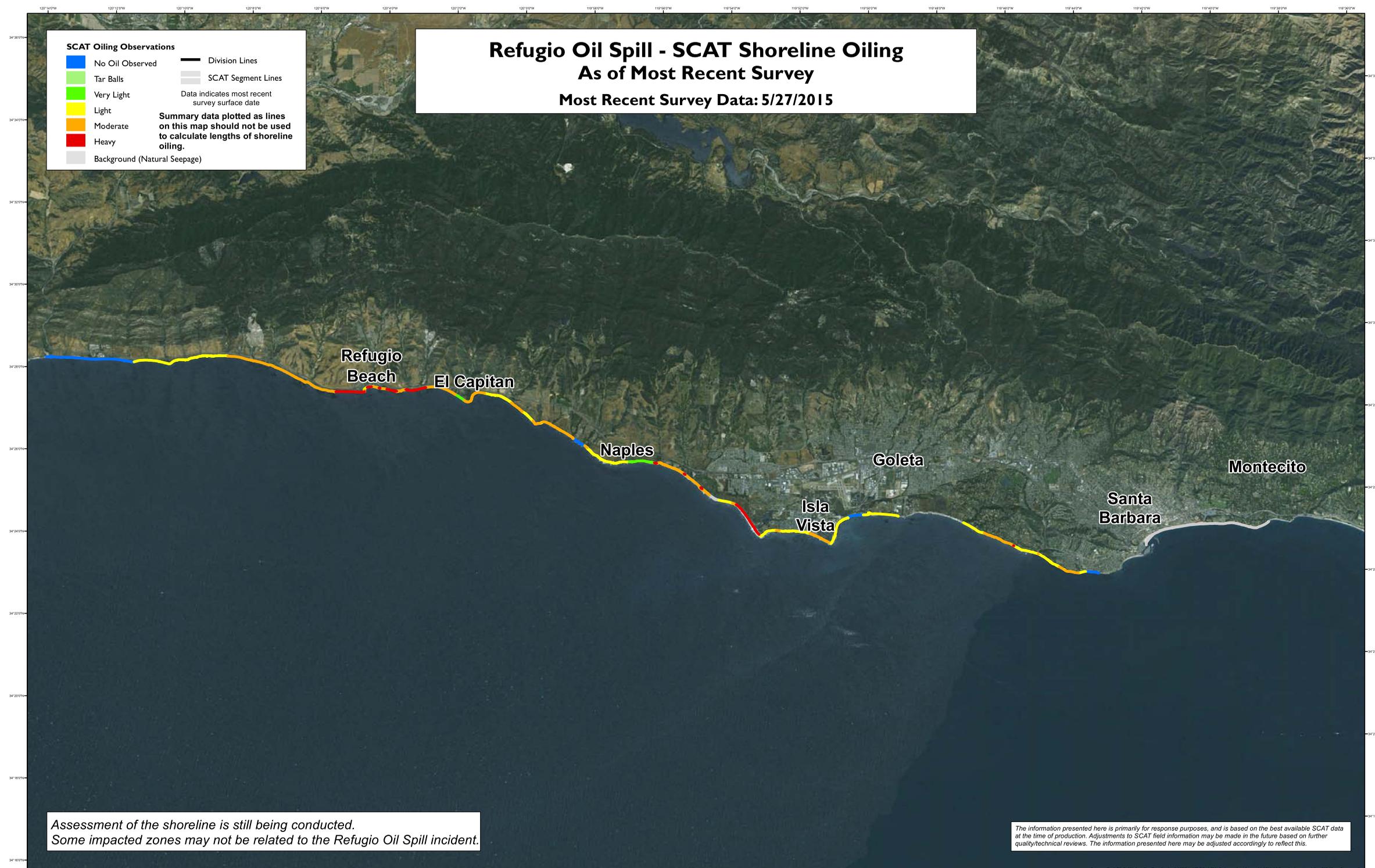
For more information contact:
Joint Information Center
reply@refugioresponse.com

Refugio Oil Spill - SCAT Shoreline Oiling As of Most Recent Survey

Most Recent Survey Data: 5/27/2015

SCAT Oiling Observations

■ No Oil Observed	 Division Lines
■ Tar Balls	 SCAT Segment Lines
■ Very Light	Data indicates most recent survey surface date
■ Light	Summary data plotted as lines on this map should not be used to calculate lengths of shoreline oiling.
■ Moderate	
■ Heavy	
 Background (Natural Seepage)	



Assessment of the shoreline is still being conducted. Some impacted zones may not be related to the Refugio Oil Spill incident.

The information presented here is primarily for response purposes, and is based on the best available SCAT data at the time of production. Adjustments to SCAT field information may be made in the future based on further quality/technical reviews. The information presented here may be adjusted accordingly to reflect this.



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
1700 K Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, California 95811
Telephone: (916) 445-9338
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DECLARATION OF FISHERIES CLOSURE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT
CAUSED BY AN OIL SPILL AFFECTING MARINE WATERS
Pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 5654, I find and declare that:**

I.

On May 19, 2015 a pipeline break occurred near Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, affecting shorelines to the east and west. The initial statement estimated that 500 barrels of heavy crude oil was released and the responsible party has been identified as Plains All American.

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) was informed of this spill. OEHHA recommended that a fisheries closure be initiated. On May 19, 2015 a closure was issued, prohibiting the catch and consumption of finfish and shellfish caught in the area of the closure.

II.

OEHHA has revised its recommendation regarding the geographic boundaries of the closed area. OEHHA is advising that fishers avoid fishing in areas where there is visible sheen on the water.

III.

THEREFORE, in consultation with OEHHA, I hereby amend the order of May 19, 2015 by extending the geographic boundaries of the closure to include coastal areas from Canada de Alegeria at the western edge to Coal Oil Point at the eastern edge. The closure boundary includes the shoreline and offshore areas between these points to 6 miles offshore. This closure is effective immediately. This closure prohibits the take of finfish and shellfish either from shorelines or from vessels on the water. Attached hereto is a map of the current closed area.

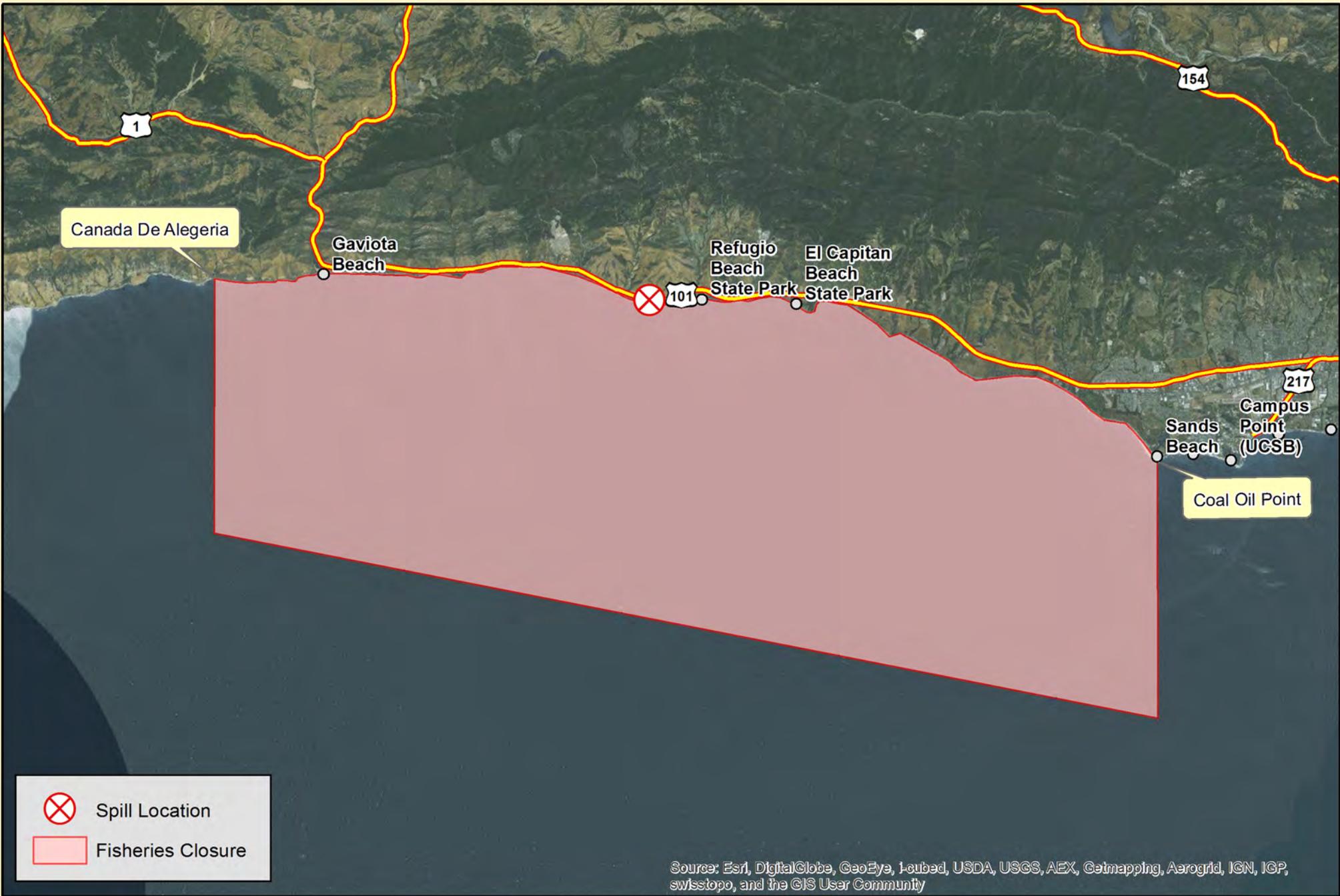
IV.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees or any other person.

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr., OSPR Administrator for
Charlton H. Bonham, Director

5/21/15 1235

Date/Time



 Spill Location
 Fisheries Closure

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community


 Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 Office of Spill Prevention and Response
 Data Source: OSPR GIS
 Requestor: L. Chumney
 Author: G. Ewing
 Date Created: 5/20/2015

Fisheries Closure Refugio Incident Santa Barbara County


 0 2 4 6 8
 Miles

Memorandum

Date: June 2, 2015

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Craig Shuman
Regional Manager
Marine Region

Subject: **Marine Region Department Information Item (Agenda Item 14(d)) for the June 10-11, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Regarding Restoration of Minhoto Marsh within the Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve**

This is an informational item only for the Fish and Game Commission with no action requested. Elkhorn Slough is owned by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) and operated in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the local non-profit Elkhorn Slough Foundation. The Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve (SMR) has been in place since the Central Coast Marine Protected Areas were adopted in 2007 and is a part of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The Elkhorn Slough estuary is one of the largest estuaries in California and contains the State's largest salt marshes south of San Francisco Bay. The slough provides important habitat for an exceptionally broad range of resident and migratory birds, fish, and other wildlife, and plays a crucial role in the local estuarine and nearshore food web. Over the past one hundred fifty years, fifty percent of the tidal salt marsh in Elkhorn Slough has been lost, much of it due to the diking and draining of wetlands for use as pasture land. The Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration Project proposes to restore 147 acres of tidal salt marsh, ecotone, and upland native grasslands. Restoration of the tidal salt marsh will be accomplished by adding sediment and raising the elevation of subsided marsh (now mudflats). This method has been used successfully in the San Francisco Estuary and along the Gulf of Mexico to restore tidal marshes.

The project will restore marsh to an elevation resilient to climate change, reduce tidal scour which continues to erode marsh areas, and improve scientific understanding of salt marsh restoration techniques for the benefit of future projects in Marine Protected Areas. The boundary of the Elkhorn Slough SMR extends to the mean high tide line, therefore some of the project area occurs along the edges of the SMR. However, the footprint of the SMR is not expected to change. A Mitigated Negative Declaration environmental document is in preparation and is expected to be ready for public review early this summer.

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
June 2, 2015
Page 2

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager for the Department's Marine Region, by telephone at (805) 568-1246 or by email at Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov or Terry Palmisano, Environmental Program Manager, Lands and Wildlife Program, by telephone at (831) 649-2890 or by e-mail at Terry.Palmisano@wildlife.ca.gov.

ec: Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Dan.Yparraguirre@wildlife.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

April 23, 2015

Media Contacts:

Capt. Patrick Foy, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 508-7095

Janice Mackey, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8908

Six Wildlife Officers Receive Medal of Valor, California's Highest Honor

Six wildlife officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) were awarded the California Medal of Valor, the state's highest honor, at a ceremony today. The six are among 52 state employees receiving the medal for demonstrating extraordinary acts of bravery and heroism in order to save the life of another.

Governor Brown's Executive Secretary Nancy McFadden presented the awards.

"All of our officers are trained and ready to take on any challenge while working in a remote county, on a river or the ocean or patrolling in an aircraft," said CDFW Chief of Law Enforcement David Bess. "The officers whose actions are being recognized represent the integrity of the entire CDFW force and we are very proud of them."

There are more than 400 wildlife officers responsible for protecting California's natural resources, often working alone on nights, weekends and holidays. They face many challenges as they enforce the laws relating to fish, wildlife and habitat within the state and its offshore waters.

The following officers are being recognized:

Crew of the Patrol Boat *Bluefin*

On Feb. 10, 1996, while patrolling waters off the Santa Cruz coastline aboard the department's 65-foot patrol boat *Bluefin*, Lt. Doug Huckins (now retired), Wildlife Officers Gary Combes and John Ewald and U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class Richard King, overheard a radio call about a capsized boat in the area.

After a 15-minute dash to the scene, they found the white hull of an overturned boat in the surf line and several people in 50 degree water, including two surfers who had paddled out to assist the victims. The crew could see the surfers taking turns holding up four of the five victims. Both surfers and victims were nearing exhaustion and waving frantically for help in the 12-foot waves.

With no real training on how to affect a rescue of that nature within the surf zone, the entire crew risked themselves to save lives.

Huckins backed the *Bluefin* just off the surf line, while Combes and Ewald launched a rigid-hull-inflatable skiff. They maneuvered into the surf zone riding the backs of the swells, and managed to pluck three of the victims from the water. They rushed them back to the *Bluefin* before returning to locate the other victims, but none were found. Huckins and King recognized that all three victims were in advanced stages of hypothermia after having struggled in the frigid waters for almost 45 minutes, and got the men into the crew's survival suits for added warmth. The men were then airlifted by helicopter to a nearby hospital.

The two surfers had managed to get one victim to shore, but sadly a fifth victim drowned.

The rescued victims later visited Huckins. One of them told of becoming so exhausted he could no longer stay afloat – he sank once, then fought his way to the surface for what he knew would be his last

breath, and as he began to sink for the last time, a wildlife officer's hand came "out of nowhere" and pulled him to safety.

Wildlife Officer Kyle Kroll

On June 17, 2011, Wildlife Officer Kyle Kroll was patrolling the North Fork of the Feather River when he heard a 911 call over the county fire department radio. A vehicle had gone over a ledge and into the Feather River. Kroll was only five miles away and the nearest other rescue personnel were 45 minutes away.

Kroll arrived on scene and saw the vehicle was off a steep embankment and resting precariously on a rock in a section of the river with dangerous rapids. A severely injured husband and wife occupied the vehicle. Kroll determined he could not risk moving either passenger as the weight shift would have caused the vehicle to slip into the river. Kroll provided first aid and relayed pertinent information to emergency responders who were still many critical minutes away.

Kroll then secured the damaged vehicle with a tow strap and chain from his truck. He carefully waded into the swiftly moving river and attached them to the front and rear axles of the car. Assisted by a PG&E worker, Kroll tied the strap and chain to a tree and a rock in order to stabilize the vehicle and prevent it from falling into the river.

Rescue personnel and California Highway Patrol officers then arrived on scene. Because of the continued risk of the vehicle falling into the river, they provided Kroll with another chain, and he again went under the car and attached it to the axle, then to a tree. Only after securing additional straps and cables could the team work to extract the victims from the car and get them to safety.

Lt. Tony Spada

On July 24, 2013, Lt. Tony Spada was off-duty, riding his mountain bike on the south side of Ash Slough in Madera County. A woman ran from the bushes alongside the slough shouting, "My baby was swept away, help me!" Despite the fact he had no rescue equipment available, not even a life jacket, Spada dropped his bike, surveyed the scene and dove into the slough. He swam with the current approximately 50 to 70 yards downstream where he found two small girls hanging onto a branch to keep from being swept under a section of the slough with dense vegetation. Spada swam to their location and found it too difficult to rescue both children at the same time.

He located a safe exit point on the opposite side of the slough. Taking the smallest girl first, he placed her arms around his neck and proceeded to swim her across the slough to safety. He exited the waters, ran up stream and dove back into the water to rescue the second child in the same way.

Spada escorted the children over to officers of the Chowchilla Police Department who were waiting nearby. Both girls were treated for a mild case of hypothermia and shock.

Without Spada's heroic actions, there is no doubt these two young girls would have lost their lives.

Wildlife Officer Arthur Golden

On Oct. 12, 2012, Wildlife Officer Arthur Golden was driving home from training when he came upon a vehicle accident near Corcoran. A small pickup truck had gone off the road and down a steep embankment.

A bystander reported that the victim was pinned in the vehicle and not breathing. Golden quickly checked on the driver, then radioed for help at his vehicle and went back down the hill to the heavily damaged vehicle. Inside, the driver was unconscious and bleeding. The truck was perched precariously on a slope and ready to slide down, potentially rolling over.

Putting himself in great jeopardy, Golden reached through the smashed driver's side window to assess the victim's injuries and provide immediate medical care. While Golden was half-inside the truck, it slid

several inches down the hillside. Golden pulled the driver toward him to relieve the pressure on the downside truck door and stabilize the vehicle from rolling over onto both of them.

Shortly after, local fire and rescue arrived and fully extracted the man from the vehicle and got him to safety.

Video and high resolution photos of the wardens are available at <ftp://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/oceo>.

#

For more than two years, California has been dealing with the effects of drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit drought.ca.gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at saveourwater.com

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 21, 2015

Media Contact:

Jordan Traverso, CDFW Communications, (916) 654-9937

CDFW Takes Three Golds at Excellence in Communications Competition

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Alexia Retallack received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in public affairs from the State Information Officers Council (SIOC). Additionally, CDFW staff from the Office of Communications, Education and Outreach took top honors in three categories of the 2014 SIOC statewide competition for excellence in state government communications.

The SIOC awards ceremony held recently recognized the frontline of professionals in media relations within state government and showcased their importance in effectively delivering agency or department messages to the public. Honors were awarded in nine different categories ranging from writing to graphic design and audio/visual productions. The annual event encompassed 15 agencies and 120 individual entries.

"I'm so proud of the way CDFW delivers our message to our constituent groups and the general public," CDFW Deputy Director of Communications Jordan Traverso said. "Whether the message comes through a spokesperson in the field or on a DVD produced to showcase a program, our goal is to present the truest, clearest message as quickly as possible. The SIOC awards this team earned indicates they remain at the top of their game."

Highlighting the ceremony was the presentation to Retallack of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognized her dedication to the field of public information for nearly two decades. Starting in 1997, Retallack has served as an information officer, an associate editor and a marketing specialist. In 2009, she took over the public affairs unit at the Office of Spill Prevention and Response under CDFW.

In addition to the three Gold Awards, CDFW earned two Silver awards and two Honorable Mentions by the panel of judges.

Gold Awards

Outdoor California, January-February Issue (publication, magazine)
California Sea Otter Fund 2014 Campaign (media campaign)
Red-Legged Frog Named State Amphibian (writing, news release)

Silver Awards

Inside California's Emerald Triangle (writing, feature)
California Outdoors Q&As ("Best Bang for Your Buck")

Honorable Mentions

Nightingale's Call (writing, feature)
Special Centennial Volume of *California Fish and Game* (special publication)

Individual CDFW communications professionals honored included Marketing Specialists Dana Michaels, Harry Morse and Troy Swauger, Environmental Scientist Carrie Wilson, Audio-Video Specialist Debra Hamilton, Editor Vern Bleich and Communications Manager Kirsten Macintyre.

SIOC is a nonprofit organization offering professional development and networking opportunities for public information officers throughout California. Its annual competition for excellence in state government communications honor media-related professionals.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 22, 2015

Media Contacts:

Capt. Patrick Foy, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 508-7095

Kirsten Macintyre, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8988

California Rifle and Pistol Association Honors CDFW Assistant Chief Roy Griffith as Wildlife Officer of the Year

Since 2004, recently promoted Assistant Chief Roy Griffith of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has worked tirelessly to recruit and train new hunter education instructors from throughout California. During his 11 years as captain of California's Hunter Education Program, the number of certified instructors rose from 300 to more than 1,000. The California Rifle and Pistol Association (CRPA) recently recognized these efforts by naming him as their 2014 Wildlife Officer of the Year.

Griffith began his wildlife officer career with CDFW in 1990, working in Southern California's Chino District. He conducted extensive undercover operations as a member of the Special Operations Unit before changing his focus to the enforcement of laws related to habitat destruction. But he is best known for his role as captain of the Hunter Education Program, where his multi-generational approach and passion for "passing on the tradition" are evident to all who have worked with him.

When Griffith took the position of captain, California was experiencing a dramatic decline in the number of hunter education instructors. Griffith stepped up recruitment efforts, putting a special emphasis on bilingual outreach in order to reach prospective hunters who do not speak English as their first language. Now as Assistant Chief, Griffith continues to oversee the Hunter Education Program as part of his overall duties.

The all-volunteer cadre of hunter education instructors forms the framework for CDFW's efforts to promote safe and ethical hunting to the next generation. The program includes annual re-certification of all 1,000 hunter education instructors. During the recertification, they learn the most current hunting and firearm safety training standards aligned with the state's wildlife conservation needs and principles.

Hunter education instructors often volunteer for CDFW in many non-hunter education related venues, such as outdoor sporting shows, community events and anywhere else CDFW staff needs a hand.

Part of CRPA's mission is to ensure proper management and respect for our state's wildlife resources and to encourage public education concerning these resources. CRPA has regularly supported wildlife conservation, wildlife officers and hunting and firearms safety training statewide.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 26, 2015

Media Contacts:

Capt. Patrick Foy, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 508-7095

Janice Mackey, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8908

Shikar-Safari Club International Honors Lt. Sheree Christensen as Wildlife Officer of the Year

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lt. Sheree Christensen was recently selected by the Shikar-Safari Club International as the recipient of its 2014 Wildlife Officer of the Year award.

Each year, the club honors a wildlife officer who has shown exemplary conduct and initiative in the performance of his or her duties. Christensen was selected for her innate ability to lead by example. She has worked in Contra Costa and Alameda counties for more than 25 years and understands local natural resource issues better than anyone in the area. Christensen is known to take the extra step and share her experience and knowledge with those who work with her. She takes the time to teach other wildlife officers within and outside of her squad about San Francisco Bay Area natural resource issues, the laws that protect the resources and why those laws were enacted.

Without hesitation, Christensen accompanies the wildlife officers she supervises on boat patrols, fish business inspections, decoy operations, wildlife checkpoints, undercover operations, investigating illegal streambed alterations and pollution incidents. She has been a leader in CDFW's tenacious effort to stop the illegal sale of prohibited, threatened and endangered species. Christensen has led many special enforcement details to target those who sell recreationally caught fish for personal profit. She prepares the detail plans, utilizing members of her squad, other CDFW squads and allied law enforcement agencies, and follows the cases from the investigation stage through the prosecution stage. Countless state resources have been protected by the tireless efforts of Christensen.

CDFW congratulates Lt. Christensen on this exceptional honor.

Shikar-Safari was founded in 1952 as a hunting organization but quickly recognized its potential to affect meaningful change in the area of wildlife conservation. Funds raised by the Shikar-Safari Club International Foundation are used to support various conservation projects in the United States and throughout the world.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

April 30, 2015

Media Contacts:

Jordan Traverso, CDFW Communications, (916) 654-9937

CDFW Awards \$21 Million in Grants for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects

Strengthening California's response to long-term climate change, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today announced the selection of 12 projects that will receive grant funding to restore wetlands that sequester greenhouse gases (GHGs) and provide other ecological benefits.

The grants are CDFW's first distribution of funds from California's cap-and-trade program for combating climate change, and represent a further step toward addressing climate change impacts on the state's biodiversity. Using cap-and-trade proceeds, CDFW and other state agencies are funding a diverse set of investments that will deliver GHG reductions as well as economic, health and environmental benefits.

The Wetlands Restoration for Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant Program focuses on projects with measurable objectives that will lead to GHG reductions in mountain meadow ecosystems, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and coastal wetlands and provide co-benefits such as enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, protecting and improving water quality and quantity, and helping California adapt to climate change.

CDFW received 27 proposals requesting a total of \$49 million in grants. All proposals underwent an initial administrative review; those that passed were then evaluated through a technical review process that included review by internal scientists, external academic experts, and a representative of the Air Resources Board. The proposals were scored based on criteria that included applicant qualifications, project description, greenhouse gas reductions, co-benefits, climate change considerations and scientific merit.

CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham approved 12 projects for \$21 million in funding to restore or enhance approximately 2,500 acres of wetlands and mountain meadows. Grant agreements will be finalized and work will begin in the current fiscal year.

"Wetlands are critically important fish and wildlife habitats," Bonham said. "They benefit the ecosystem, provide water storage and supply, and have one of the highest rates of carbon sequestration. Our department has a long history of habitat restoration, often in concert with many valued partners. This is an exciting opportunity to expand the traditional focus of fish and wildlife habitat conservation to achieving other important benefits to society."

The funded projects are:

- North Campus Open Space Wetlands Restoration, (\$999,989 to Regents of the UC Santa Barbara)
- Blue Carbon at Elkhorn Slough: Increasing Regional Carbon Sequestration Through Salt Marsh Restoration, (\$2,996,768 to Elkhorn Slough Foundation)

- Initiation of Thin-layered Sediment Augmentation on the Pacific Coast: An Action to Ensure the Long Term Availability of Coastal Salt Marsh for Carbon Sequestration/Storage, as well as to Support the Conservation of Habitat to Support Listed and Sensitive Wetland Species, (\$1,055,827 to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
- Sherman Island Wetland Restoration Project, (\$10,386,139 to Reclamation District 341)
- Restoration of the Carbon Storing Ecosystem in Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite National Park, (\$587,996 to Yosemite National Park)
- A Demonstration of the Carbon Sequestration and Biodiversity Benefits of Beaver and Beaver Dam Analogue Restoration Techniques, (\$539,672 to Center for Watershed Sciences, UC Davis)
- Yuba Headwaters Meadow Restoration, (\$567,480 to South Yuba River Citizens League)
- Developing a Protocol for Net Carbon Sequestration from Restoration of Eastern Sierra Meadows, (\$921,766 to California Trout, Inc.)
- Mountain Meadows Restoration Project at Greenville Creek and Upper Goodrich and Effects on GHGs, (\$679,566 to Plumas Corporation)
- Middle Martis Creek Wetlands Restoration, (\$594,176 to Truckee River Watershed Council)
- Truckee Meadows Restoration Project, (\$1,495,551 to Truckee River Watershed Council)
- Bean Meadow Restoration Project, (\$493,542 to Sierra Foothill Conservancy)

More information about the CDFW program can be found at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Wetlands-Restoration.

Funding for these projects comes from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, an allocation in the Governor's Budget of cap-and-trade auction proceeds to CDFW and other state agencies and departments. Cap-and-trade is a market based regulation that is designed to reduce GHGs from multiple sources. See more information about California's Cap-and-Trade Program.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 7, 2015

Media Contact: [Jordan Traverso](#), CDFW Communications, (916) 654-9937

Diverse Coalition Negotiating Historic Venture to Reintroduce Salmon to Sierra

Spring-run Chinook salmon could return to their historic spawning habitat on the North Yuba River under a still-developing agreement involving three agencies and three conservation groups. Working together as the “Yuba Salmon Partnership Initiative,” the coalition released a framework for such an agreement today.

When completed, the agreement would create a first-ever “collect and transport” program in California, like those successfully used for decades in Oregon and Washington to move salmon around dams too tall for fish ladders. The program would return spring-run Chinook salmon and possibly steelhead to more than 30 miles of the North Yuba River. Deep, cool pools on this stretch of the river provide ideal habitat for the species that summers in mountain streams before spawning in the fall. In addition, the agreement would create a program to enhance salmon and steelhead habitat in the lower Yuba River downstream of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Englebright Dam.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), American Rivers, Trout Unlimited and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance released a [“Term Sheet”](#) that will guide negotiations on a binding settlement agreement that would form the basis of salmon reintroduction and restoration programs. The non-binding Term Sheet defines principles for funding and fiscal responsibility, agrees to some limits on potential actions, and anticipates how the partners will seek to address numerous legal and regulatory requirements essential for the reintroduction to happen. In signing the Term Sheet, the partners commit to negotiating a more detailed and binding settlement agreement that they hope to complete by next year. They also commit to the use of a transparent, science-based process that offers opportunities for public input and response in developing the specifics of the anticipated programs.

“This initiative is an ambitious undertaking to restore spring-run Chinook and steelhead to miles of historic pristine habitat in the Sierra Nevada Mountains,” said Charlton H. Bonham, CDFW Director. “This long-term experiment has been successful in several Pacific Northwest states and we hope for a similar outcome in California. A project of this importance wouldn’t be possible without a robust partnership, and considering the state’s unprecedented drought, it couldn’t be happening at a more crucial time for these fish.”

The Yuba Salmon Partnership Initiative seeks to accomplish a major goal set forth in Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.’s [California Water Action Plan](#). This five-year plan, released in January 2014, spells out actions needed to restore California’s key ecosystems, and bring greater resiliency and reliability to its water resources. Directives in the plan include establishing fish passage around “rim” dams in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada that block historic salmon and steelhead habitat.

Director Bonham added, “Collaboration with Sierra County and other stakeholders will be important for us to ensure this program recognizes their needs.”

The salmon reintroduction program, if implemented as envisioned in the Term Sheet, would return salmon to spawning habitat in the North Yuba River using specially designed collection facilities and trucks. This would allow adult fish to bypass two dams northeast of Marysville: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Englebright Dam, built in 1941 to trap debris generated by hydraulic mining, and YCWA's New Bullards Bar Dam, built further upstream in 1970 to provide flood protection, water supply and power generation. The program would move juvenile salmon downstream in the winter and spring by gathering them in collection facilities above New Bullards Bar Dam and trucking them downstream past the dams to resume their journey to the Pacific Ocean. The reintroduction effort would focus first on spring-run Chinook salmon. If successful, a steelhead reintroduction could follow. Providing fish access to historical habitat is also a climate change adaptation strategy.

"Reintroducing spring-run Chinook to their historic habitat above dams on the Yuba River has been discussed for decades," said Will Stelle, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional Administrator. "Now this diverse coalition has reached agreement on the key terms to launch a successful program. We have a lot of work still ahead of us, and we will need to stay focused, given the urgency of getting these imperiled salmon back into their native habitat. The YSPI represents a major step forward, and we're excited to help make it happen."

The Term Sheet also envisions a program to analyze, prioritize and implement habitat actions in the Lower Yuba River downstream of Englebright Dam. These actions are likely to include improvement of riparian vegetation, measures to restore salmon spawning habitat and measures to improve rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, including the expansion of side channel and floodplain areas to promote rapid growth of young salmon before they migrate to the ocean.

"Reuniting salmon with their historic habitat into the North Yuba River through a collaborative, voluntary initiative is a worthwhile endeavor that we believe will ultimately benefit our environment, the people of Yuba County and all of California," said John Nicoletti, Chairman of the YWCA Board of Directors.

YCWA has agreed to pay up to \$100 million of total project costs, which are estimated at \$400-\$500 million, over the 50-year life of the program (2015 dollars). The Term Sheet defines additional commitments by the partners. These include support for various regulatory approvals that the project will require; evaluation of North Yuba River habitat suitability; evaluating collection and transport facilities; development of biological and habitat goals and objectives; and development of an adaptive management plan so that the program can be adjusted based on monitoring results.

The project promises to yield a wealth of scientific information that may aid other reintroduction efforts, other ecosystems and fisheries science overall. Once implemented, it would test whether "collect and transport" programs can contribute to the recovery of Central Valley salmon populations as they have contributed to the recovery of salmon populations in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Resources/Chinook/YSPI/.
For statements from coalition members click [YSPI Coalition Quote Sheet](#).

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 13, 2015

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Poachers Take Advantage of Drought Conditions to Target Juvenile Salmon

California wildlife officers patrolling the Sacramento River recently cited six suspects for unlawfully taking and possessing juvenile salmon, and using the young fish as bait to target sturgeon. All of the suspects initially denied use of salmon as bait, but wildlife officers were able to reel in their lines and show them the dead salmon on their hooks.

The alleged poachers worked during the early morning hours under the cover of darkness and focused their effort on sandbars on the Sacramento River in Yolo and Sacramento counties. The sandbars were recently exposed due to drought conditions. Wildlife officers from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Delta Bay Enhanced Enforcement Project (DBEEP), Special Operations Unit (SOU) and local squads continue to use the Governor's drought overtime support to step up patrols in these sensitive areas to protect salmon and sturgeon from poachers.

In the first case, a wildlife officer observed two subjects wading in the Sacramento River and using a large net to capture juvenile salmon near a sandbar created by the low flow conditions. They netted the small salmon for later use as bait to fish for sturgeon. The wildlife officer ultimately determined that the two anglers and one more fisherman used fishing rods baited with the juvenile salmon they'd caught. Tony Saetern, 25, Michael Anglero, 24, and Kao Saeyang, 28, all of Sacramento, were each cited for unlawful use of salmon as bait and unlawful possession of salmon out of season.

A few nights later, wildlife officers observed a suspect using a hand light and dip net to unlawfully capture and keep multiple juvenile salmon in the same area of the Sacramento River. The officers watched as a total of three suspects in the group appeared to use the salmon as bait for fishing. Officers contacted the suspects and found two of them in possession of fishing rods with hooks baited with the salmon. As the officers were conducting the investigation, a sturgeon was hooked on another fishing rod belonging to the group, was landed and released. Officers found the group in possession of a Snapple beverage bottle containing 14 additional juvenile salmon for later use as bait.

Nai Poo Saechao, 36, of Antelope and Lai C Saechao, 27, of Sacramento, were both cited for unlawful use of salmon as bait, possession of salmon out of season and an overlimit of salmon. Vincent Sai Poo Saechao, 23, of Antelope, was cited for unlawful method of take of salmon.

"During this time of year, juvenile salmon are migrating downstream to the Delta and are vulnerable to this type of poaching as they seek shelter from prey fish close to shore," DBEEP Warden Byron Trunnell explained. "Salmon season is closed on the Sacramento River, and nets are not an authorized method of take for game fish in inland waters."

The unlawful practice of catching juvenile salmon for bait has long been a concern and is an enforcement priority this time of year. Poaching pressure on salmon is particularly harmful now, given California's current drought situation. CDFW and numerous other agencies on both the state and federal levels are taking action wherever possible to support the long-term viability of salmon populations of the Sacramento River watershed.

CDFW appreciates legitimate anglers and asks for the public's help in apprehending those who are taking advantage of our natural resources. Illegal activity can be reported through the CDFW Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters (CalTIP) line at 888-334-2258, or via email or text (please see www.dfg.ca.gov/enforcement/caltip.aspx for details).

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For more than two years, California has been dealing with the effects of drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit drought.ca.gov.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at saveourwater.com.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 12, 2015

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CDFW and Partners Investigate Decline in Pheasant Population

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently hosted a pheasant ecology workshop to examine possible causes of a decline of the state's pheasant population over the last 25 years.

Held in cooperation with Pheasants Forever, the workshop convened more than 45 state and federal scientists, public and private land managers, and representatives from Ducks Unlimited and the California Waterfowl Association.

Participants reviewed research from scientists at the US Geological Survey and heard from pheasant experts from across the nation. Data collected showed that contributing factors to the decline include changes in agricultural practices, growth of forested habitats in historic wetland and grassland environments, climate change and predation from increasing raven populations.

"The combination of modern analysis tools and on-the-ground land management techniques helped us chart a map forward, which is especially important during the drought," said CDFW Upland Game Program Scientist Matt Meshriy. "We look forward to collaborating with Pheasants Forever and other conservation partners interested in this species."

The workshop, held on April 30 and May 1, included presentations by Dr. Les Flake of South Dakota State University and Senior Research Biologist Dave Musil of Idaho Fish and Game. CDFW managers from six state wildlife areas and federal partners from the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complexes also presented reports on site-specific conditions that described the breadth of habitat challenges facing pheasants and other upland nesting bird species throughout the state.

Pheasants were introduced in California in the 1890s and adapted well in the agricultural regions of the state. By the mid-1960s, about 250,000 hunters were spending about 800,000 days afield in pursuit of this game bird. Since the mid-1990s, populations have been steadily declining. In 2010, only about 30,000 pheasant hunters spent about 100,000 days afield.

Pheasants Forever is the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to upland habitat conservation. Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever have more than 140,000 members and 700 local chapters across the United States and Canada. Chapters are empowered to determine how 100 percent of their locally raised conservation funds are spent; the only national conservation organization that operates through this truly grassroots structure. Since its creation in 1982, Pheasants Forever has spent \$577 million on 475,000 habitat projects benefiting 10 million acres nationwide.

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California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

May 22, 2015

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California Fish and Game Scientific Journal Completes 100th Anniversary Series

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) just published the fourth and final 100-year special anniversary issue of the highly respected scientific journal *California Fish and Game*.

Print copies of the latest issue, focusing on special fisheries, and the three previous issues on native plants, marine life and terrestrial wildlife, are available for purchase through Aug. 31. Volumes 1, 2 and 4 are \$6.47 each, plus tax and shipping. Volume 3 is \$8.25, plus tax and shipping.

All four issues are also available for download at no charge. Links to both options can be found at www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/journal/contents.html.

The newly released special fisheries issue includes both historical accounts and the results of original research on fisheries ecology conducted by CDFW scientists, as well as by scientists in other resource management agencies, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations. It features an introduction by Fran Pavley, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, and additional remarks co-authored by CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham and E. Philip Pister, retired CDFW fisheries biologist.

In her introduction to the fisheries issue, Pavley writes, "This topic is appropriate—or perhaps ironic—in this third year of severe drought, when fresh water supply is a critical issue for all Californians. The drought's effects may be even more severe on wildlife than on humans, since fish and animals can't store, import pump groundwater, or buy water in bottles. They live or die with what nature (and sometimes we) can provide."

California Fish and Game is an internationally recognized research publication read primarily by scientists in the fields of conservation, ecology and natural resource management. It focuses on the wildlife of North America's west coast (primarily California) and the eastern North Pacific Ocean, but occasionally includes material from elsewhere. It is the longest continuously running scientific journal in California.

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