

<p style="text-align: center;">SAN BENITO COUNTY FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION</p>

Commissioners:

Richard Boomer (Chairman), Richard Place (Vice Chairman), Rani Douglas, Bruce Eisenman, Robert Kutz, Tom Manning, Jim Pacheco, Kate Woods, Jack Swallow, Gregg Zanella

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 23, 2017
6:00 PM**

Board of Supervisor's Chambers
Quarterly Meeting

The San Benito County Fish & Game Commission welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- *If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record. Please address the Commission as a whole through the Chair.*
- *If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.*

The San Benito County Fish & Game Commission welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation.

- *If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda. When addressing the Commission, please state your name for the record. Please address the Commission as a whole through the Chair.*
- *If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda please seek recognition from the Chairman prior to consideration of the item.*

- 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. ACKNOWLEDGE OF CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Opportunity to address the Commission on items of interest not appearing on the agenda. No action may be taken unless provided by Govt. Code Section 54954.2.**

<p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR AGENDA</p>
--

- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6. BUDGET REPORT

A. CLERK OF THE BOARD - C. GRAVES.

The Clerk of the Board will give an update on the current budget of the San Benito County Fish and Game Advisory Commission as prepared by San Benito County Budget Analyst, Melinda Casillas. SBC FILE NUMBER: 24.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

AGENCY REPORTS

8. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (B.L.M.) REPORT

A. CLERK OF THE BOARD - C. GRAVES

The Clerk will present the Commission with the report from Adam Wilde, Outdoor Recreation Planner, U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management. SBC FILE NUMBER: 755.

9. PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK REPORT

10. FISH AND GAME REPORT

A. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME

All correspondence received from the California Fish & Game Commission. SBC FILE NUMBER: 24

11. SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

A. SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF - T. LAMONICA

The Sheriff will provide an update to the commission on current fish and game issues within San Benito County. Recent poaching issues will be discussed. SBC FILE NUMBER: 110.

ADJOURNMENT:

THE FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION WILL ADJOURN UNTIL THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

As required by Gov. Code Section 54957.5 any public record distributed to the San Benito County Fish & Game Advisory Commission less than 72 hours prior to this meeting in connection with any agenda item shall be made available for public inspection at the office of the Clerk of the Board, San Benito County Administration Building, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, CA 95023. Public records distributed during the meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting if prepared by the County. If the public record is prepared by some other person and distributed at the meeting it will be made available for public inspection following the meeting at the office of the Clerk of the Board.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) the Board of Supervisors meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's office at (831) 636-4000 at least 48-hours before the meeting to enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.
--



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARGIE BARRIOS
District One

ANTHONY BOTELHO
District Two

ROBERT RIVAS
District Three

JERRY MUENZER
District Four

JAIME DE LA CRUZ
District Five

Item Number: A.

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2017

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Chase Graves

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Chase Graves

SBC DEPT FILE NUMBER: 24

SUBJECT:

CLERK OF THE BOARD - C. GRAVES.

The Clerk of the Board will give an update on the current budget of the San Benito County Fish and Game Advisory Commission as prepared by San Benito County Budget Analyst, Melinda Casillas.
SBC FILE NUMBER: 24.

AGENDA SECTION:

BUDGET REPORT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

BUDGETED:

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

CURRENT FY COST:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report.

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description

F&G Budget as of 12/31/16

Upload Date

1/18/2017

Type

Cover Memo

COUNTY OF SAN BENITO
FISH & GAME FUND (263)
AS OF 12/31/2016

BEGINNING CASH	7/1/2016	\$	3,879
REVNUE			
Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties	\$	18	
Interest	\$	-	
Cost Plan Credit	\$	-	
		\$	18
EXPENSES			
Services & Supplies	\$	-	
Cost Plan Charges	\$	-	
		\$	-
ENDING CASH	12/31/2016	\$	3,897

COUNTY OF SAN BENITO
FISH & GAME FUND (263)
AS OF 06/30/2016

BEGINNING CASH	7/1/2015	\$	2,304
REVNUE			
Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties	\$	316	
Interest	\$	11	
Cost Plan Credit	\$	1,248	
			\$ 1,575
EXPENSES			
Services & Supplies	\$	-	
Cost Plan Charges	\$	-	
			\$ -
ENDING CASH	6/30/2016	\$	3,879

San Benito County - Production

Trial Balance Listing by Fund

Through 01/03/17
Detail Balance Sheet Listing
Exclude Rollup Account

Account	Account Description	Balance Forward	MTD Debits	MTD Credits	Ending Balance	Prior Year MTD Balance
Fund 263.00.0000 - Fish & Game Fund.Non-Department.Non-Division						
Department 00 - Non-Department						
Division 0000 - Non-Division						
101.990000000	Cash Cash	3,896.88	.00	.00	3,896.88	3,156.68
310.101	Fund Balance Restricted	(.37)	.00	.00	(.37)	(.37)
340.101	Fund Balance Assigned	(2,302.99)	.00	.00	(2,302.99)	(2,302.99)
350.101	Fund Balance Unassigned	(.22)	.00	.00	(.22)	(.22)
	Division 0000 - Non-Division Totals	\$1,593.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,593.30	\$853.10
	Department 00 - Non-Department Totals	\$1,593.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,593.30	\$853.10
	P/Y Fund Equity Adjustment	(1,574.98)	.00	.00	(1,574.98)	.00
	Fund Revenues	(18.32)	.00	.00	(18.32)	.00
Fund 263.00.0000 - Fish & Game Fund.Non-Department.Non-Division		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$853.10
	Grand Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$853.10

San Benito County - Production

Budget Performance Report

10/17

Fiscal Year to Date 01/03/17

Include Rollup Account and Rollup to Base

Account	Account Description	Adopted Budget	Budget Amendments	Amended Budget	Current Month Transactions	YTD Encumbrances	YTD Transactions	Budget - YTD Transactions	% used/ Rec'd	Prior Year Total
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund	REVENUE									
Department 15 - County Administrative Office										
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission										
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration										
520	Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties									
520.501	Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties County Other Fines	500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	18.32	481.68	4	316.02
541	520 - Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties Totals	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	\$481.68	4%	\$316.02
541.001	Use of Money and Property									
541.001	Use of Money and Property Interest	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	+++	10.96
541 - Use of Money and Property Totals		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	+++	\$10.96
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	\$481.68	4%	\$326.98
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	\$481.68	4%	\$326.98
Department 15 - County Administrative Office Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	\$481.68	4%	\$326.98
REVENUE TOTALS		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	\$481.68	4%	\$326.98
EXPENSE										
Department 15 - County Administrative Office										
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission										
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration										
619	Services and Supplies									
619.174	Services and Supplies Office Supplies	500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00	0	.00
619.174	619 - Services and Supplies Totals	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	\$0.00
649	Other Charges									
649.101	Other Charges Cost Plan	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	+++	(1,248.00)
649 - Other Charges Totals		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	+++	(1,248.00)
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	(1,248.00)
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	(1,248.00)
Department 15 - County Administrative Office Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	(1,248.00)
EXPENSE TOTALS		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%	(1,248.00)
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund Totals		500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	18.32	481.68	4	326.98
EXPENSE TOTALS		500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00	0	(1,248.00)
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund Totals		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	(\$18.32)		\$1,574.98
Grand Totals										
REVENUE TOTALS		500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	18.32	481.68	4	326.98
EXPENSE TOTALS		500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00	0	(1,248.00)
Grand Totals		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.32	(\$18.32)		\$1,574.98

San Benito County - Production

Budget Performance Report

Date Range 07/01/15 - 06/30/16
Include Rollup Account and Rollup to Base

Account	Account Description	Adopted Budget	Budget Amendments	Amended Budget	Current Month Transactions	YTD Encumbrances	YTD Transactions	Budget - YTD Transactions	% used/ Rec'd
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund	REVENUE								
Department 15 - County Administrative Office									
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission									
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration									
520 Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties									
520.501 Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties County Other Fines		500.00	.00	500.00	5.39	.00	316.02	183.98	63
520.501 520 - Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties Totals		500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$5.39	\$0.00	\$316.02	\$183.98	63%
541 Use of Money and Property		.00	.00	.00	4.55	.00	10.96	(10.96)	+++
541.001 Use of Money and Property Interest		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.55	\$0.00	\$10.96	(\$10.96)	+++
541 - Use of Money and Property Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.94	\$0.00	\$326.98	\$173.02	65%
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.94	\$0.00	\$326.98	\$173.02	65%
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.94	\$0.00	\$326.98	\$173.02	65%
Department 15 - County Administrative Office Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.94	\$0.00	\$326.98	\$173.02	65%
REVENUE TOTALS		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$9.94	\$0.00	\$326.98	\$173.02	65%
EXPENSE									
Department 15 - County Administrative Office									
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission									
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration									
619 Services and Supplies									
619.174 Services and Supplies Office Supplies		500.00	.00	500.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00	0
619.174 619 - Services and Supplies Totals		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	0%
649 Other Charges									
649.101 Other Charges Cost Plan		(1,248.00)	.00	(1,248.00)	(312.00)	.00	(1,248.00)	.00	100
649 - Other Charges Totals		(\$1,248.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	(\$312.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	\$0.00	100%
Program/Section/Activity 1000 - Administration Totals		(\$748.00)	\$0.00	(\$748.00)	(\$312.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	\$500.00	167%
Division 3070 - Fish & Game Commission Totals		(\$748.00)	\$0.00	(\$748.00)	(\$312.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	\$500.00	167%
Department 15 - County Administrative Office Totals		(\$748.00)	\$0.00	(\$748.00)	(\$312.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	\$500.00	167%
EXPENSE TOTALS		(\$748.00)	\$0.00	(\$748.00)	(\$312.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,248.00)	\$500.00	167%
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund Totals		500.00	.00	500.00	9.94	.00	326.98	173.02	65
Fund 263 - Fish & Game Fund Totals		(748.00)	.00	(748.00)	(312.00)	.00	(1,248.00)	500.00	167
Grand Totals		\$1,248.00	\$0.00	\$1,248.00	\$321.94	\$0.00	\$1,574.98	(\$326.98)	
Grand Totals		500.00	.00	500.00	9.94	.00	326.98	173.02	65
REVENUE TOTALS		(748.00)	.00	(748.00)	(312.00)	.00	(1,248.00)	500.00	167
EXPENSE TOTALS		\$1,248.00	\$0.00	\$1,248.00	\$321.94	\$0.00	\$1,574.98	(\$326.98)	
Grand Totals		\$1,248.00	\$0.00	\$1,248.00	\$321.94	\$0.00	\$1,574.98	(\$326.98)	



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARGIE BARRIOS
District One
ANTHONY BOTELHO
District Two
ROBERT RIVAS
District Three
JERRY MUENZER
District Four
JAIME DE LA CRUZ
District Five

Item Number: A.

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2017

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Chase Graves

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Chase Graves

SBC DEPT FILE NUMBER: 755

SUBJECT:

CLERK OF THE BOARD - C. GRAVES

The Clerk will present the Commission with the report from Adam Wilde, Outdoor Recreation Planner, U.S.D.I., Bureau of Land Management. SBC FILE NUMBER: 755.

AGENDA SECTION:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (B.L.M.) REPORT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Target shooting is allowed on much of the open land managed by the Central Coast Field Office with certain basic rules and restrictions. The Panoche Hills and Tumey Hills (Fresno County west of I-5) are popular places for target shooting during fall and winter months, but the majority of these areas are closed to vehicle access from mid-April until mid-October due to high fire danger. There are still places in the Tumey Hills you can reach that are open for target shooting that are west of Interstate 5 and can be accessed by taking Exit 368, for Panoche Road (The Apricot Tree is a good landmark).

There are limited locations along the Coalinga Road in San Benito County that are suitable for target shooting, although a trip there specifically for target shooting may not result in finding a satisfactory location.

The Williams Hill area in southern Monterey County west of San Ardo has several areas that are

suitable for and popular for target shooting.

In all of these locations you just need to observe some basic rules:

- Shoot only at targets (not household trash, glass bottles, trees, etc.) and remove **all** items you bring, including brass and shells.
- Shoot only where you have a safe backstop and clear line of sight between you and the target
- Don't shoot from or across roads or trails
- Don't shoot within 150 yards of houses, structures, etc., to include BLM campgrounds, trailheads, and bathrooms.
- Bring and use only legal firearms
- Shoot in a safe and responsible manner (e.g. no alcohol or drugs).

The entirety of Fort Ord National Monument near Monterey and Salinas is closed to target shooting, hunting, and the possession of firearms and other weapons.

If you need any more information about specific recreation areas, contact the Bureau of Land Management directly.

BUDGETED:

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

CURRENT FY COST:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report.

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARGIE BARRIOS
District One
ANTHONY BOTELHO
District Two
ROBERT RIVAS
District Three
JERRY MUENZER
District Four
JAIME DE LA CRUZ
District Five

Item Number: A.

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2017

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Chase Graves

SBC DEPT FILE NUMBER: 24

SUBJECT:

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME

All correspondence received from the California Fish & Game Commission. SBC FILE NUMBER:
24

AGENDA SECTION:

FISH AND GAME REPORT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Attached are all of the correspondence received by the Clerk of the Board's Office from the California Fish & Game Commission.

BUDGETED:

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

CURRENT FY COST:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive correspondence.

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Upload Date	Type
F&G 1	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 2	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 3	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 4	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 5	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 6	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 7	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 8	1/18/2017	Cover Memo
F&G 10	1/18/2017	Cover Memo

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell E. Burns, Member
Napa

Peter S. Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION NOTICE OF FINDINGS

Coast Yellow Leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2074.2 of the Fish and Game Code, the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), at its December 8, 2016, meeting in San Diego, California, accepted for consideration the petition submitted to list coast yellow leptosiphon as an endangered species. Pursuant to subdivision (e)(2) of Section 2074.2 of the Fish and Game Code, the Commission determined that the amount of information contained in the petition, when considered in light of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) written report, the comments received, and the remainder of the administrative record, would lead a reasonable person to conclude there is a substantial possibility the requested listing could occur.

Based on that finding and the acceptance of the petition, the Commission is also providing notice that the aforementioned species is a candidate species as defined by Section 2068 of the Fish and Game Code.

Within one year of the date of publication of this notice of findings, the Department shall submit a written report, pursuant to Section 2074.6 of the Fish and Game Code, indicating whether the petitioned action is warranted. Copies of the petition, as well as minutes of the December 8, 2016 Commission meeting, are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320, Sacramento, California 95814, phone (916) 653-4899. Written comments or data related to the petitioned action should be directed to the Commission at the aforementioned address.

Fish and Game Commission

December 13, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville
Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach
Russell E. Burns, Member
Napa
Peter S. Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 14, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a Notice of Findings regarding the petition to list coast yellow leptosiphon as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. This notice will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 23, 2016.

Sincerely,

Sheri Tiemann
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell E. Burns, Member
Napa

Peter S. Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 14, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action resulting from the Commission's August 25, 2016 meeting, when it made a finding pursuant to Section 2075.5, Fish and Game Code, that listing Livermore tarplant as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act is warranted. The notice of proposed regulatory action will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 23, 2016.

Please note the date of the public hearing related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Mr. Jeb Bjerke, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 651-6594 or email Jeb.Bjerke@wildlife.ca.gov, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheri Tiemann".

Sheri Tiemann
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections: 1904 and 2070 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 1755, 1904, 2062, 2067, 2070, 2072.7 and 2075.5 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 670.2, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Plants of California Declared to be Endangered, Threatened or Rare.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Section 670.2 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provides a list, established by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), of plants designated as endangered, threatened or rare in California. The Commission has the authority to add or remove species from this list if it finds that the action is warranted.

As required by Fish and Game Code Section 2075.5, subsection (e)(2), the Commission must initiate proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend subsection (a)(2) of Section 670.2, to add Livermore tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*) to the list of endangered plants.

In making the recommendation to list Livermore tarplant pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act, the Department identified the following primary threats: 1) recent and ongoing development and changes in land use; 2) impacts from invasive species; 3) recreation activities; 4) herbicide use; and 5) the vulnerability of small populations. More detail about the current status of Livermore tarplant can be found in the Report to the Fish and Game Commission, "Status Review of Livermore Tarplant (*Deinandra bacigalupii*)" (Department of Fish and Wildlife, April 2016).

The proposed regulation will benefit the environment by protecting Livermore tarplant as an endangered species.

Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found that the proposed regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. No other state entity has the authority to list threatened and endangered species.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in Rohnert Park, California, on February 8, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received on February 6, 2017. All comments must be received no later than February 8, 2017, at the hearing in Rohnert Park, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for

the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Sheri Tiemann at the preceding address or phone number. **Jeb Bjerke, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 651-6594 or email Jeb.Bjerke@wildlife.ca.gov, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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:

While the statutes of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) do not specifically prohibit the consideration of economic impact in determining if listing is warranted, the Attorney General's Office has consistently advised the Commission that it should not consider economic impact in making a finding on listing. This is founded in the concept that CESA was drafted in the image of the federal Endangered Species Act. The federal act specifically prohibits consideration of economic impact during the listing process.

CESA is basically a two-stage process. During the first stage, the Commission must make a finding on whether or not the petitioned action is warranted. By statute, once the Commission has made a finding that the petitioned action is warranted, it must initiate a rulemaking process to make a corresponding regulatory change. To accomplish this second stage, the Commission follows the statutes of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

The provisions of the APA, specifically Sections 11346.3 and 11346.5 of the Government Code, require an analysis of the economic impact of the proposed regulatory action. While Section 11346.3 requires an analysis of economic impact on businesses and private persons, it also contains a subdivision (a) which provides that agencies shall satisfy economic assessment requirements only to the extent that the requirements do not conflict with other State laws. In this regard, the provisions of CESA leading to a finding are in apparent conflict with Section 11346.3, which is activated by the rulemaking component of CESA.

Since the finding portion of CESA is silent to consideration of economic impact, it is possible that subdivision (a) of Section 11346.3 does not exclude the requirement for

economic impact analysis. While the Commission does not believe this is the case, an abbreviated analysis of the likely economic impact of the proposed regulation change on businesses and private individuals is provided. The intent of this analysis is to provide disclosure, the basic premise of the APA process. The Commission believes that this analysis fully meets the intent and language of both statutory programs.

Designation of Livermore tarplant as endangered will subject it to the provisions of CESA. This Act prohibits take and possession except as may be permitted by the Department, the Native Plant Protection Act, or the California Desert Native Plants Act.

Endangered status is not expected to result in any significant adverse economic effect on small business or significant cost to private persons or entities undertaking activities subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires local governments and private applicants undertaking projects subject to CEQA to consider de facto endangered species to be subject to the same requirements under CEQA as though they were already listed by the Commission in Section 670.2 (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380). Livermore tarplant has qualified for protection under the CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 since its formal scientific description in 1999.

Required mitigation as a result of lead agency actions under CEQA, whether or not the species is listed by the Commission, may increase the cost of a project. Such costs may include, but are not limited to, purchasing off-site habitat, development and implementation of management plans, establishing new populations, installation of protective devices such as fencing, protection of additional habitat, and long-term monitoring of mitigation sites. Lead agencies may also require additional actions should the mitigation measures fail, resulting in added expenditures by the proponent. If the mitigation measures required by the CEQA lead agency do not minimize and fully mitigate to the standards of CESA, listing could increase business costs by requiring measures beyond those required by CEQA.

- (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. The entire distribution of Livermore tarplant is limited to four occurrences in and near the city of Livermore, California. Because of this localized distribution, adding Livermore tarplant to the list of endangered species under CESA is unlikely to affect the creation or elimination of jobs or businesses within the state as a whole.

The Commission does not anticipate benefits to the health and welfare of California residents or to worker safety.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment by the protection of Livermore tarplant.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Representative Private Persons/Business:

Designation of threatened or endangered status, per se, would not necessarily result in any

significant cost to private persons or entities undertaking activities subject to CEQA. CEQA presently requires private applicants undertaking projects subject to CEQA to consider *de facto* endangered (or threatened) and rare species to be subject to the same protections under CEQA as though they are already listed by the Commission in Section 670.2 or 670.5 of Title 14, CCR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15380).

Any added costs should be more than offset by savings that would be realized through the informal consultation process available to private applicants under CESA. The process would allow conflicts to be resolved at an early stage in project planning and development, thereby avoiding conflicts later in the CEQA review process, which would be more costly and difficult to resolve.

Although it is unlikely that the listing of Livermore tarplant will have an adverse economic impact, it should be noted that most populations of Livermore tarplant occur on private property. Such private holdings are subject to possible sale and/or development, which could be impacted by this listing action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Other 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: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 13, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville
Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach
Russell Burns, Member
Napa
Peter Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 23, 2016

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Amending section 708.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to deer tagging and reporting, which is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 23, 2016.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2016/index.aspx>.

Craig Stowers, Environmental Program Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 445-3553, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 200, 202, 203, and 1050 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 1050 and 4336 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 708.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to deer tagging and reporting requirements.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

The proposed amendments in Section 708.5 are intended to clarify the methods by which hunters may comply with mandatory deer harvest reporting. The amendments will: 1) eliminate "in person" delivery of report cards to the Department; and 2) add a provision stating "If a report card is submitted by mail and not received by the department, it is considered not reported."

Non-monetary benefits to the public

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate deer hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found the proposed changes pertaining to deer tag reporting are consistent with Sections 1.74, 361, 701, 702, 708.5 and 708.6 of Title 14. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

Benefits of the regulations

The proposed changes in reporting deer harvest will clarify that the Department cannot receive report cards "in person"; and that the responsibility for compliance, regardless of report cards lost in the mail, is on the hunter. This may provide an incentive for hunters to enter their own data online or to check their online accounts to assure compliance in a timely fashion. The report card contains important information which the Department uses to measure deer populations and other vital data essential to the exercise of its responsibilities.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other agency with the authority to regulate the use of dogs for hunting mammals. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California, on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. or, as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, California, on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 21, 2017. All comments must be received no later than February 8, 2017, at the hearing in Santa Rosa, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Craig Stowers, Environmental Program Manager, (916) 445-3553**, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed Use of Dogs for Pursuit regulations. Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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 proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact

directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action clarifies the methods available to individuals, not businesses, for the required reporting of their deer hunting activity.

- (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 anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents and to the state's environment. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources and the action contributes to the sustainable management of natural resources. Improved deer tag reporting will also improve the Department's ability to sustainably manage deer populations in the state.

The proposed action will not have significant impacts on jobs or business within California because no significant changes in hunting activity levels are anticipated. The proposed action does not provide benefits to worker safety.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action. Under the current regulation, hunters are required to report their deer hunting activity. The proposed action to amend the regulation clarifies the methods available to individuals for the required reporting and does not impose any additional cost to do so.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None
- (e) Other 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: None
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 15, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville
Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach
Russell Burns, Member
Napa
Peter Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 23, 2016

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Amending sections 360, 361, 362, 363, 364 and 364.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to mammal regulations, which is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 23, 2016.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2016/index.aspx>.

Craig Stowers, Environmental Program Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 445-3553, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 200, 202, 203, 3960, 3960.2 and 3960.4 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, and 207 of said Code, proposes to amend sections 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, and 364.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to mammal hunting requirements.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Subsection 360(b)

Existing regulations provide for the number of deer hunting tags for the X zones. The proposed action changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary at this time because the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because various environmental factors such as severe winter conditions can adversely affect herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, the final recommended quotas may fall below the current proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the most recent Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Deer: § 360(b) X-Zone Hunts Tag Allocations			
§	Zone	Current 2016	Proposed 2017 [Range]
(1)	X-1	760	0 - 6,000
(2)	X-2	175	0 - 500
(3)	X-3a	355	0 - 1,200
(4)	X-3b	795	0 - 3,000
(5)	X-4	460	0 - 1,200
(6)	X-5a	75	0 - 200
(7)	X-5b	50	0 - 500
(8)	X-6a	330	0 - 1,200
(9)	X-6b	310	0 - 1,200
(10)	X-7a	230	0 - 500
(11)	X-7b	135	0 - 200
(12)	X-8	210	0 - 750
(13)	X-9a	650	0 - 1,200
(14)	X-9b	325	0 - 600
(15)	X-9c	325	0 - 600
(16)	X-10	400	0 - 600

(17)	X-12	680	0 - 1,200
------	------	-----	-----------

Subsection 360(c)

Existing regulations provide for the number of deer hunting tags in the Additional Hunts. The proposed action provides a range of tag numbers for each hunt from which a final number will be determined, based on the post-winter status of each deer herd. These ranges are necessary at this time because the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because various environmental factors such as severe winter conditions can adversely affect herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, the final recommended quotas may fall below the current proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the most recent Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunts G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt) and J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 8 and continue for three (3) consecutive days and reopen on October 15 and continue for two (2) consecutive days, including the Columbus Day holiday. The proposal would modify the season to account for the annual calendar shift. The proposal would change the season dates to open on October 7 and October 14, for 3 and 2 consecutive days respectively, and include the Columbus Day holiday.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on the first Saturday in September and extend through the first Sunday in December and allows hunting on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and the day after Thanksgiving. The proposal would allow for the calendar shift and allow hunting on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on the last Monday in August and extend through December 31. The proposal would allow hunting to begin on August 28 and extend through October 1.

Minor editorial changes are necessary to provide consistency in subsection numbering, spelling, grammar, and clarification.

The proposed action changes the number of tags for all existing hunts (except those on military installations) to a series of ranges as indicated in the table below.

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts			
Tag Allocations			
§	Hunt Number (and Title)	Current 2016	Proposed 2017 [Range]
(1)	G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4)	2,710	0 - 5,000
(2)	G-3 (Goodale Buck Hunt)	35	0 - 50
(3)	G-6 (Kern River Deer Herd Buck Hunt)	50	0 - 100
(4)	G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20 Military*	20 Military*

(5)	G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt)	20 Tags Total* (10 Military & 10 Public)	20 Tags Total* (10 Military and 10 Public)
(6)	G-9 (Camp Roberts Antlerless Deer Hunt)	0	30 Tags Total* (15 Military and 15 Public)
(7)	G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	250 Military*	250 Military*
(8)	G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	200 Military*, DOD and as Authorized by the Installation Commander**	200 Military*, DOD and as Authorized by the Installation Commander**
(9)	G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	0 - 50
(10)	G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt)	300	0 - 300
(11)	G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	0 - 50
(12)	G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt)	25	0 - 100
(13)	G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt)	25	0 - 50
(14)	G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt)	300	0 - 300
(15)	G-39 (Round Valley Late Season Buck Hunt)	5	0 - 150
(16)	M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	0 - 75
(17)	M-4 (Horse Lake Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	5	0 - 50
(18)	M-5 (East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	5	0 - 50
(19)	M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	80	0 - 100
(20)	M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	0 - 150
(21)	M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	0 - 50
(22)	M-9 (Devil's Garden Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	15	0 - 100
(23)	M-11 (Northwestern California Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	0 - 200
(24)	MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	0 - 150
(25)	MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt)	150	0 - 150
(26)	J-1 Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	0 - 25

(27)	J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	0 - 30
(28)	J-4 Shasta-Trinity Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	0 - 50
(29)	J-7 (Carson River Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	0 - 50
(30)	J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	0 - 20
(31)	J-9 (Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	5	0 - 10
(32)	J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75 Tags Total* (15 Military & 60 Public)	85 Tags Total* (25 Military & 60 Public)
(33)	J-11 (San Bernardino Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	0 - 50
(34)	J-12 (Round Valley Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	0 - 20
(35)	J-13 (Los Angeles Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	0 - 100
(36)	J-14 (Riverside Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	0 - 75
(37)	J-15 (Anderson Flat Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	0 - 30
(38)	J-16 (Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	0 - 75
(39)	J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	0 - 25
(40)	J-18 (Pacific-Grizzly Flat Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	0 - 75
(41)	J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	0 - 40
(42)	J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20	0 - 20
(43)	J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50	0 - 80

**Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.*

***DOD = Department of Defense and eligible personnel as authorized by the Installation Commander.*

Section 361

Existing regulations provide for the number of deer hunting tags for existing area-specific archery hunts. The proposed action changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary at this time because the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because various environmental factors such as severe winter conditions can adversely affect herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, the final recommended quotas may fall below the current proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the most recent Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Existing regulations for Hunt A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either Sex Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on the first Saturday in October and end on November 11. The proposal would modify the season to allow for the annual calendar shift by opening the season on the first Saturday in October and ending on November 12.

Archery Deer Hunting: § 361(b) Tag Allocations			
§	Hunt Number (and Title)	Current 2016	Proposed 2017 [Range]
(1)	A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt)	1,945	[0 - 3,000]
(2)	A-3 (Zone X-1 Archery Hunt)	100	[0 - 1,000]
(3)	A-4 (Zone X-2 Archery Hunt)	10	[0 - 100]
(4)	A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt)	40	[0 - 300]
(5)	A-6 (Zone X-3b Archery Hunt)	70	[0 - 400]
(6)	A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt)	120	[0 - 400]
(7)	A-8 (Zone X-5a Archery Hunt)	15	[0 - 100]
(8)	A-9 (Zone X-5b Archery Hunt)	5	[0 - 100]
(9)	A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt)	50	[0 - 200]
(10)	A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt)	90	[0 - 200]
(11)	A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt)	45	[0 - 200]
(12)	A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt)	25	[0 - 100]
(13)	A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt)	40	[0 - 100]
(14)	A-16 (Zone X-9a Archery Hunt)	140	[0 - 500]
(15)	A-17 (Zone X-9b Archery Hunt)	300	[0 - 500]
(16)	A-18 (Zone X-9c Archery Hunt)	350	[0 - 500]
(17)	A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt)	100	[0 - 200]
(18)	A-20 (Zone X-12 Archery Hunt)	100	[0 - 500]
(19)	A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt)	25	[0 - 100]
(20)	A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	[0 - 1,500]
(21)	A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	100	[0 - 200]
(22)	A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	35	[0 - 75]
(23)	A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt)	30	[0 - 100]
(24)	A-27 (Devil's Garden Archery Buck Hunt)	5	[0 - 75]
(25)	A-30 (Covelo Archery Buck Hunt)	40	[0 - 100]
(26)	A-31 (Los Angeles Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	[0 - 1,500]
(27)	A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Archery Late Season Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	250	[0 - 300]
(28)	A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50 Tags Total* (25 Military & 25 Public)	50 Tags Total* (25 Military & 25 Public)

* Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

Section 362

The current regulation in Section 362, T14, CCR, provides for limited hunting of Nelson bighorn rams in specified areas of the State. The proposed amendments are intended to adjust the number of hunting tags for the 2017 season based on the Department's annual estimate of the population in each of the nine hunt zones. The Department's final recommendations will ensure that the take will be no more than 15 percent of the mature rams estimated in each zone in accordance with Fish and Game Code Section 4902.

Preliminarily, the tag numbers are presented as ranges (e.g., [0-3]) in the table in subsection 362(d) of the amended Regulatory Text. Final tag quotas for each zone will be identified and recommended to the Fish and Game Commission at the April 26, 2017 adoption hearing.

Section 363

Amend Section 363, Pronghorn Antelope, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR).

In accordance with management goals and objectives, and in order to maintain hunting quality, tag quotas for Pronghorn Antelope hunts need to be adjusted annually. Current regulations specify the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for the 2016 season. This proposed regulatory action will amend subsection 363(m) providing the number of tags for hunting in 2017.

Preliminarily, the tag numbers are presented as ranges (e.g., [0-3]) in the table in subsection 363(m) of the amended Regulatory Text. Final tag quotas for each zone will be identified and recommended to the Fish and Game Commission at the April 26, 2017, adoption hearing.

Other minor changes to the regulatory text to reduce redundancy, improve accuracy and clarity are proposed.

Section 364

Existing regulations in Section 364, Title 14, CCR, specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt. In order to achieve elk herd management goals and objectives and maintain hunting quality, it is periodically necessary to adjust quotas, seasons, hunt areas and other criteria in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. The proposed amendments to Section 364 will establish 2017 tag quotas within each hunt area, adjusting for annual fluctuations in population number, season dates, and tag distribution.

The complete amended text is found in the amended Regulatory Text of Section 364 with the Initial Statement of Reasons.

Proposed Amendments:

- Establish the Goodale Tule Elk Hunt in the western part of the Independence zone. The Department is recommending adding a new subsection 364(d)(10)(A) establishing a Goodale General Methods Tule Elk Hunt.
- In order to achieve appropriate harvest levels and maintain hunting quality, it is necessary to annually adjust quotas (total number of tags) in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. Subsections 364(r) through (aa) specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt in accordance with management goals and objectives.

- **Modify Season Dates.** The Department makes many different times and seasons of the year available to the public. In order to provide opportunity for hunters, the Department modifies the calendar day for the start of individual hunts and the number of days of hunting. The proposed table sets forth the recommended days for each hunt.
- **Minor Editorial Changes** are proposed to improve clarity and reduce redundancy.

Section 364.1

Existing regulations in Section 364.1, Title 14, CCR, specify elk license tag quotas for each SHARE hunt. In order to achieve elk herd management goals and objectives and maintain hunting quality, it is periodically necessary to adjust quotas, seasons, hunt areas and other criteria, in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. The proposed amendments to Section 364.1 will establish 2017 tag quotas within each hunt adjusting for annual fluctuations in population number, season dates, and tag distribution.

- **Modify SHARE Hunt.** The Department is recommending establishing a new Goodale SHARE hunt in subsection 364(1)(10).
- **Modify Tag Quotas.** In order to achieve appropriate harvest levels and maintain hunting quality it is necessary to annually adjust quotas (total number of tags) in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. Section 364 regulations specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt in accordance with management goals and objectives.

Other minor editorial changes and renumbering have also been made.

Non-monetary benefits to the public

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate elk hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found the proposed changes pertaining to elk tag allocations are consistent with Title 14. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

Benefits of the regulations

Sections 360 and 361 - The deer herd management plans specify objective levels for the proportion of bucks in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by annually modifying the number of hunting tags. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the annual harvest and herd composition counts. Adjusting tag allocations in response to current deer herd conditions contributes to the sustainable management of healthy deer populations and the maintenance of continued hunting opportunities.

Section 362 - The Nelson Bighorn Sheep management plans specify objective levels for the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by annually modifying the number of tags. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the population surveys. Adjusting tag allocations in response to current herd conditions contributes to the sustainable management of healthy bighorn sheep populations and the maintenance of continued hunting opportunities.

Section 363 - The management plans specify objective levels for the antelope herds. These levels are maintained and managed in part by annually modifying the number of tags. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the population surveys. Adjusting tag allocations in response to current herd conditions contributes to the sustainable management of healthy pronghorn antelope populations and the maintenance of continued hunting opportunities.

Section 364 - The proposed elk regulations will contribute to the sustainable management of elk populations in California. Existing elk herd management goals specify objective levels for the proportion of bulls in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by annually modifying the number of tags. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from annual harvest and herd composition counts.

Section 364.1 - The proposed elk SHARE regulations will contribute to the sustainable management of elk populations in California. Existing elk herd management goals specify objective levels for the proportion of bulls in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by annually modifying the number of tags. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from annual harvest and herd composition counts in accordance with management goals and objectives.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other agency with the authority to regulate the use of dogs for hunting mammals. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California, on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. or, as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, California, on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 21, 2017. All comments must be received no later than February 8, 2017, at the hearing in Santa Rosa, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Craig Stowers, Environmental Program Manager, (916) 445-3553**, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed Use of Dogs for Pursuit regulations. Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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:

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 proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing deer hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

- (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 proposed action will not have significant impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs or the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within California because it is unlikely to result in a change in hunting effort. The proposed action does not provide benefits to worker safety because it does not address working conditions.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources. The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment in the sustainable management of natural resources.

- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None
- (e) Other 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: None
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 15, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell Burns, Member
Napa

Peter Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 23, 2016

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Amending section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to waterfowl regulations, which is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 23, 2016.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2016/index.aspx>.

Melanie Weaver, Senior Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 445-3717, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 202 and 355 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 202, 355, and 356 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Waterfowl regulations.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and establish daily bag and possession limits for waterfowl hunting.

The frameworks for the 2017-18 season have been approved by the Flyway Councils and will be considered for adoption at the Service Regulation's Committee meeting on October 25-26, 2016. The proposed frameworks allow for a liberal duck season which includes a 107 day season, 7 daily duck limit including 7 mallards but only 2 hen mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, and 3 scaup (during an 86 day season). Duck daily bag limit ranges, duck season length ranges and goose season length ranges have been provided to allow the Commission flexibility. Lastly, Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona in the Colorado River Zone and with those of Oregon in the North Coast Special Management Area. Based on the frameworks, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) provides an annual recommendation to the Fish and Game Commission.

The Department recommendations are as follows:

1. Modify the boundary descriptions in subsections 502(b)3 and 4 for the Southern California and Colorado River zones.
2. Allow the white-fronted goose season to be split into three segments in subsection 502(d)(1)B for the Northeastern California Zone.
3. Increase the daily bag limit for white geese in subsection 502(d)(4)(C) for the Colorado River Zone from 10 to 20 per day.

Minor editorial changes are also proposed to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks.

Non-monetary benefits to the public

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business and government.

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 Section 502 are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. No other State agency has the authority to promulgate waterfowl hunting regulations.

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for 2017-18			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Statewide	Coots & Moorhens	Concurrent w/duck season	25/day. 75 in possession
Northeastern Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup, Dark Geese and White Geese. White geese and dark geese may be split 3-ways.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese no more than 2 Large Canada geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	No longer than 105 days	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 105 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	No longer than 100 days	
Southern California Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	23/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 3 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	No longer than 100 days	
Colorado River Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback and Scaup.</i>	Ducks	101 days	7/day, which may include: 7 mallards no more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	24/day, up to 20 white geese, up to 4 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	101 days	
Balance of State Zone <i>Season may be split for Ducks, Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup and Dark and White Geese.</i>	Ducks	Between 38 & 100 days	[4-7]/day, which may include: [3-7] mallards no more than [1-2] females, 1 pintail, 2 canvasback, 2 redheads, 3 scaup. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Scaup	86 days	30/day, which may include: 20 white geese, 10 dark geese. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
	Geese	Early Season: 5 days (CAGO only) Regular Season: no longer than 100 days Late Season: 5 days (whitefronts and white geese)	
North Coast <i>Season may be split</i>	All Canada Geese	105 days except for Large Canada geese which cannot exceed 100 days or extend beyond the last Sunday in January.	10/day, only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limit triple the daily bag. Large Canada geese are closed during the Late Season.
Humboldt Bay South Spit (West Side)	All species	Closed during brant season	
Sacramento Valley	White-fronted geese	Open concurrently with general goose season through Dec 21	3/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas only	Waterfowl season opens concurrently with brant season.
Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
Northern Brant	Black Brant	Open Nov 8 extending for 37 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Balance of State Brant	Black Brant	Open Nov 9 extending for 37 days	2/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
Imperial County <i>Season may be split</i>	White Geese	Up to 102 days	20/day. Possession limit triple the daily bag.
YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS	(NOTE: To participate in these Youth Waterfowl Hunts, federal regulations require that hunters must be 17 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)		
	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	The Saturday fourteen days before the opening of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	Same as regular season

Summary of Proposed Waterfowl Hunting Regulations for 2017-18			
AREA	SPECIES	SEASONS	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Southern California Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Colorado River Zone		The Saturday following the closing for waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
Balance of State Zone		The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.	
FALCONRY OF DUCKS	SPECIES	SEASON	DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS
Northeastern Zone	Same as regular season	Between 38 and 105 days	3/ day, possession limit 9
Balance of State Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Southern California Zone		Between 38 and 107 days	
Colorado River Zone	Ducks only	105 days	

Benefits of the regulations

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with federal law and the sustainable management of the State's waterfowl resources. Positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters will be realized with the continued adoption of waterfowl hunting seasons in 2017-18.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other agency with the authority to regulate the use of dogs for hunting mammals. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, California, on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, California, on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 21, 2017. All comments must be received no later than February 8, 2017, at the hearing in Santa Rosa, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency

representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Melanie Weaver, Senior Environmental Scientist, (916) 445-3717**, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed Use of Dogs for Pursuit regulations. Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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 proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations would provide additional recreational opportunity to the public and could result in minor increases in hunting days and hunter spending on equipment, fuel, food and accommodations.

- (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. The proposed waterfowl regulations will set the 2017-18 waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within the federal frameworks. Little to minor positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters may result from the proposed regulations for the waterfowl hunting season in 2017-18.

The most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California (revised 2014), estimated that migratory bird hunters contributed about \$169,115,000 to businesses in California during the 2011 migratory bird hunting season. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulations is to sustainably manage waterfowl populations, and consequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources. The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment by the sustainable management of California's waterfowl resources. The Commission does not anticipate any impacts to worker safety because the proposed amendments will not affect working conditions.

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

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(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.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 15, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville
Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach
Russell Burns, Member
Napa
Peter Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 28, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to subsection (b)(91.1) of Section 7.50, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Lower Klamath River Basin sport fishing, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 30, 2016.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments. Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2016/index.aspx>.

Wade Sinnen, Senior Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Mr. Sinnen can be reached by telephone at (707) 822-5119 or by email at Wade.Sinnen@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Caren Woodson
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections: 200, 202, 205, 215, 220, 240, 315, and 316.5 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 205, 215, and 316.5 of said Code, proposes to amend subsection (b)(91.1) of Section 7.50, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview – Inland Fisheries

The Klamath River Basin, which consists of the Klamath River and Trinity River systems, is managed through a cooperative system of State, federal, and tribal management agencies. Salmonid regulations are designed to meet natural and hatchery escapement needs for salmonid stocks, while providing equitable harvest opportunities for ocean sport, ocean commercial, river sport and tribal fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for adopting recommendations for the management of sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (three to 200 miles offshore) off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. When approved by the Secretary of Commerce, these recommendations are implemented as ocean salmon fishing regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon sport (inside three miles) and the Klamath River Basin sport fisheries which are consistent with federal fishery management goals.

Two tribal entities within the Klamath River Basin, the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe, maintain fishing rights for ceremonial, subsistence and commercial fisheries that are managed consistent with federal fishery management goals. Tribal fishing regulations for the river are promulgated by the Hoopa and Yurok tribes.

For the purpose of PFMC mixed-stock fishery modeling and salmon stock assessment, salmon greater than 22 inches are defined as adult salmon (ages 3-5) and salmon less than or equal to 22 inches are defined as grilse salmon (age 2).

Klamath River Fall-Run Chinook Salmon

Klamath River fall-run Chinook Salmon (KRFC) harvest allocations and natural spawning escapement goals are established by the PFMC. The KRFC harvest allocation between tribal and non-tribal fisheries is based on court decisions and allocation agreements between the various fishery representatives.

The 2017 KRFC in-river sport fishery allocation recommended by the PFMC is currently unknown. All proposed closures for adult KRFC are designed to ensure sufficient spawning escapement in the Klamath River Basin and equitably distribute harvest while operating within

annual allocations.

Klamath River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon

The Klamath River System also supports Klamath River spring-run Chinook Salmon (KRSC). Naturally produced KRSC are both temporally and spatially separated from KRFC in most cases.

Presently, KRSC stocks are not managed or allocated by the PPMC. The in-river sport fishery is managed by general basin seasons, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations. KRSC harvest will be monitored on the Lower Klamath River in 2017 and ensuing years by creel survey.

KRFC Allocation Management

The PPMC 2016 allocation for the Klamath River Basin sport harvest was 1,110 adult KRFC. Preseason stock projections of 2017 adult KRFC abundance will not be available from the PPMC until March 2017. The 2017 basin allocation will be recommended by the PPMC in April 2017 and presented to the Commission for adoption prior to its April 2017 meeting.

For public notice requirements, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) recommends the Commission consider an allocation range of 0 – 67,600 adult KRFC in the Klamath River Basin for the river sport fishery. This recommended range encompasses the historical range of the Klamath River Basin allocations and allows the PPMC and Commission to make adjustments during the 2017 regulatory cycle.

The Commission may modify the KRFC in-river sport salmon harvest allocation which is normally 15 percent of the non-tribal PPMC harvest allocation. Commission modifications need to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PPMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

The annual KRFC in-river harvest allocation is split into four geographic areas with subquotas assigned to each. They are as follows:

1. for the main stem Klamath River from 3,500 feet downstream of the Iron Gate Dam to the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec -- 17 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
2. for the main stem Klamath River from downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth -- 50 percent of the sport fishery allocation;
3. for the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the Highway 299 West bridge at Cedar Flat -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation; and
4. for the Trinity River downstream from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar to the confluence with the Klamath River -- 16.5 percent of the sport fishery allocation.

The spit area (within 100 yards of the channel through the sand spit formed at the Klamath River mouth) closes to all fishing after 15 percent of the total Klamath River Basin quota has been taken downstream of the Highway 101 bridge.

These geographic areas are based upon the historical distribution of angler effort and ensure equitable harvest of adult KRFC in the upper Klamath River and Trinity River. The subquota system requires the Department to monitor angler harvest of adult KRFC in each geographic area. All areas will be monitored on a real time basis except for the following:

Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and the Trinity River: Due to funding and personnel reductions, the Department will be unable to deploy adequate personnel to conduct harvest monitoring in the Klamath River upstream of Weitchpec and in the Trinity River for the 2017 season. The Department has reviewed salmon harvest and run-timing data for these areas. Based on this review, the Department has developed a Harvest Predictor Model (HPM) which incorporates historic creel survey data from the Klamath River downstream of Iron Gate Dam to the confluence with the Pacific Ocean and the Trinity River downstream of Lewiston Dam to the confluence with the Klamath River. The HPM is driven by the positive relationship between KRFC harvested in the lower and upper Klamath River and the Trinity River. The HPM will be used by the Department to implement fishing closures to ensure that anglers do not exceed established subquota targets.

Current Sport Fishery Management

The KRFC in-river sport harvest allocation is divided into geographic areas and harvest is monitored under real time subquota management. KRSC in-river sport harvest is managed by general season, daily bag limit, and possession limit regulations.

The Department presently differentiates the two stocks by the following dates:

Klamath River

1. January 1 through August 14 - General Season KRSC. For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Klamath River downstream of the Highway 96 bridge at Weitchpec to the mouth.
2. August 15 to December 31 - KRFC quota management.

Trinity River

1. January 1 through August 31 – General Season KRSC.
For purposes of clarity, daily bag and possession limits apply to that section of the Trinity River downstream of the Old Lewiston Bridge to the confluence with the South Fork Trinity River.
2. September 1 through December 31 – KRFC quota management.

The daily bag and possession limits apply to both stocks within the same sub-area and time period.

Proposed Changes

No changes are proposed for the general (KRSC) opening and closing season dates, and bag, possession and size limits.

No changes are proposed for the Klamath River spit area.

No changes are proposed for the Blue Creek area.

The following changes to current regulations are proposed:

KRFC QUOTA MANAGEMENT: Seasons, Bag and Possession Limits

For public notice requirements, a range of KRFC bag and possession limits are proposed until the 2017 Klamath River Basin quota is adopted. As in previous years, no retention of adult KRFC salmon is proposed for the following areas, once the subquota has been met.

The proposed open seasons and range of bag and possession limits for KRFC salmon stocks are as follows:

1. Klamath River - August 15 to December 31
2. Trinity River - September 1 to December 31
3. Bag Limit - [0-4] Chinook Salmon – of which no more than [0-4] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over 22 inches total length.
4. Possession limit - [0-12] Chinook Salmon of which [0-12] fish over 22 inches total length may be retained when the take of salmon over 22 inches total length is allowed.

Necessity: The recommended ranges allow the Commission to make the final adjustments for alignment with the federal 2017 regulatory process. The final KRFC bag and possession limits will align with the final federal regulations to meet biological and fishery allocation goals specified in law or established in the PPMC Salmon Fishery Management Plan otherwise harvest opportunities may be reduced in the California ocean fisheries.

OTHER

Other changes are proposed for clarity and consistency.

Benefits of the regulations

It is the objective of this State to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State for the benefit of all the citizens of the State. In addition, it is the objective of this State to promote the development of local California fisheries in harmony with federal law respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and inland waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the State. The objectives of this practice include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species of aquatic organisms to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use. Adoption of scientifically-based Klamath River Basin salmon seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of salmon to ensure their continued existence.

The benefits of the proposed regulations are conformance with federal law, sustainable management of Klamath River Basin fish resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on

sport salmon fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to promulgate sport fishing regulations (Sections 200, 202, 205, 315, and 316.5, Fish and Game Code). Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other State regulations related to sport fishing in the Klamath River Basin.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rhonert Park, California, on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be teleconference originating in the Fish and Game Commission conference room, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 7, 2017. All comments must be received no later than April 13, 2017, at the teleconference hearing. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Caren Woodson at the preceding address or phone number. **Wade Sinnen, Senior Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (707) 822-5119, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal

regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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 proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations are projected to have minor impact on the net revenues to local businesses servicing sport fishermen. If the 2017 KRFC quota is reduced, visitor spending may correspondingly be reduced and in the absence of the emergence of alternative visitor activities, the drop in spending could induce business contraction. However, this will not likely affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The preservation of Klamath River salmon stocks is necessary for the success of lower Klamath River Basin businesses which provide goods and services related to fishing. The proposed changes are necessary for the continued preservation of the resource and therefore the prevention of adverse economic impacts.

- (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:

- (c) The proposed regulations range from no fishing of KRFC adult salmon to a Klamath River Basin salmon season similar to 2016. The Commission anticipates some impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in California. The potential employment impacts range from 0 to 45 jobs which are not expected to create, eliminate or expand businesses in California. The Commission anticipates impacts on the creation, elimination or expansion of businesses in California ranging from no impact

to reduced revenues to approximately 30 businesses that serve sport fishing activities. However, the possibility of growth of businesses to serve substitute activities exists. Adverse impacts to jobs and/or businesses would be less if fishing of steelhead and grilse KRFC salmon is permitted than under a complete closure to all fishing. The impacted businesses are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed action is to increase sustainability in fishable salmon stocks and, consequently promoting the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities for a salmon sport fishery encourages a healthy outdoor activity and the consumption of a nutritious food.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's salmonid resources.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety because the proposed action does not affect working conditions.

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

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(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.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 13, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell Burns, Member
Napa

Peter Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 28, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to subsection (c) of Section 27.80, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to ocean salmon sport fishing, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 30, 2015.

This is the first of two notices relating to ocean salmon sport fishing and pertains to the ocean salmon sport fishing regulations for May-November, 2017. A separate notice pertaining to the April 2017 ocean salmon sport fishing regulations will also be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 30, 2015.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2016/index.aspx>.

Barry Miller, Environmental Scientist, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Mr. Miller can be reached at (707) 576-2860 or Barry.Miller@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Caren Woodson
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections: 200, 202, 205, 220, 240, 316.5 and 2084 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 205, 316.5 and 2084 of said Code, proposes to amend subsection (d) of Section 27.80, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Ocean Salmon Recreational Fishing on and after May 1, 2017.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview – Inland Fisheries

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) coordinates west coast management of recreational and commercial ocean salmon fisheries in the federal fishery management zone (three to 200 miles offshore) along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The annual PFMC ocean salmon regulation recommendations are subsequently implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) effective on May 1 of each year.

California's recreational salmon fishing regulations need to conform to the federal regulations to achieve optimum yield in California under the federal Salmon Fishery Management Plan. The Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopts regulations for the ocean salmon recreational fishery in State waters (zero to three miles offshore) which are consistent with these federal fishery management goals.

Present Regulations

Regulations for 2016 [subsections 27.80(c) and (d)] authorized ocean salmon recreational fishing seven days per week north of Horse Mountain including Humboldt Bay from May 16 through May 31, June 16 through June 30, July 16 through August 16, and September 1 through September 5, 2016. Between Horse Mountain and Point Arena, ocean salmon recreational fishing was authorized seven days per week from April 2 to November 13, 2016. Between Point Arena and Pigeon Point, ocean salmon recreational fishing was authorized seven days per week from April 2 to October 31, 2016. Between Pigeon Point and Point Sur, ocean salmon recreational fishing was authorized seven days per week from April 2 to July 15, 2016. For areas south of Point Sur, ocean salmon recreational fishing was authorized seven days per week from April 2 to May 31, 2016. The bag limit for all areas in 2016 was two fish per day (all species except coho). The areas north of Point Arena had a minimum size limit of 20 inches total length. The area between Point Arena and Pigeon Point had a minimum size limit of 24 inches total length through April 30, 2016 and 20 inches total length thereafter. Areas south of Pigeon Point had a minimum size limit of 24 inches total length. Since the existing regulations pertained only to the 2016 season, amendment of these regulations is essential to allow for any fishing in State waters during 2017.

Proposed Regulations

Two separate Commission actions are necessary to conform State regulations to federal rules that will apply in 2017. This proposed regulation would amend subsection 27.80(d), establishing salmon fishing regulations for May 1 through the end of 2017. Recreational salmon fishing regulations for the month of April 2017 will be considered in a separate

rulemaking action, tentatively scheduled for adoption in March 2017.

For public notice purposes and to facilitate Commission discussion, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing the following regulations to encompass the range of federal ocean salmon regulations that are expected to be in effect on or after May 1, 2017. This approach will allow the Commission to adopt State ocean salmon recreational fishing regulations to conform to those in effect in federal ocean waters.

1. North of Horse Mountain and in Humboldt Bay: The season, if any, may occur within the range of May 1 through September 30, 2017.
2. Between Horse Mountain and Pigeon Point: The season, if any, may occur within the range of May 1 to November 12, 2017.
3. South of Pigeon Point: The season, if any, may occur within the range of May 1 to October 1, 2017.
4. For all areas, the proposed daily bag limit will be from zero to two fish, and the proposed minimum size will be from 20 to 26 inches total length.

The exact opening and closing dates, along with daily bag limit, minimum size, and days of the week open will be determined in April 2017 by the Commission considering federal regulations and may be different for each subarea.

Benefits of the regulations

The benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with federal law, sustainable management of ocean salmon resources, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational ocean salmon fishing.

Consistency and Compatibility with State Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. The legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to adopt sport fishing regulations in general (Sections 200, 202 and 205, Fish and Game Code) and salmon sport fishing regulations specifically (Section 316.5, Fish and Game Code). The proposed regulations are consistent with regulations for sport fishing in marine protected areas (Section 632, Title 14, CCR) and with general sport fishing regulations in Chapters 1 and 4 of Subdivision 1 of Division 1, Title 14, CCR. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found no other State regulations related to the recreational take of salmon in the ocean.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One Doubletree Drive, Rhonert Park, California, on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be teleconference originating in the Fish and Game Commission conference room, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 29, 2017 at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 7, 2017. All comments must be received no later than April 13, 2017, at the teleconference hearing. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

The Initial Statement of Reasons, text of the regulations, as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Caren Woodson at the preceding address or phone number. **Barry Miller, Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (707) 576-2860, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout can be accessed through our website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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:

Although the recommendations of the PFMC for the 2017 ocean salmon season are unknown at this time, the Department anticipates that recreational salmon fishing effort will be similar to the 2015 season. For the purpose of evaluating potential economic impacts of the 2017 ocean salmon regulations, the Commission analyzed possible reductions in ocean salmon recreational effort ranging from 0-percent (no change) to a 5-percent and a 10-percent reduction from the number of angling trips in 2015. The base year used for estimating the 2017 economic impacts is the 2015 salmon season, the latest full year of economic data.

The projections conducted for 2017, representing 100-percent (82,000 angler days), and 95-percent (77,900 angler days), and 90-percent (74,000) levels of ocean salmon angling effort, are not likely to precipitate significant statewide adverse economic impacts directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. Additionally, any reduction in angling opportunity would be undertaken with the intent of ensuring the health of the resource and thus also preventing longer term adverse economic impacts.

Data from the Department indicate that during the 2015 salmon season, recreational fishermen participated in 82,000 angler days of ocean salmon fishing and generated an estimated \$13.7 million (2016\$) in total economic output to the State. The projected levels of fishing effort for the 2017 salmon season are 82,000 angler days, 78,000 angler days, and 73,800 angler days, equivalent to 100-, 95-, and 90-percent levels of effort, respectively. With these projected 2017 levels of angler effort, the associated fishing expenditures by fishermen would generate an estimated \$13.7 million, \$13 million and \$12.3 million (2016\$) in total economic output for the State, respectively. Thus, relative to the 2015 salmon season, the total incremental effects (direct, indirect, and induced) of the 2017 projections on State economic output range from no change (the same \$13.7 million); a 5-percent decrease (-\$684 thousand); to a 10-percent decrease (-\$1.4 million) in total economic output from the recreational ocean salmon fishery.

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:

Approximately 111 jobs were indirectly supported by recreational ocean salmon angling during the 2015 salmon season. Thus, relative to the 2015 salmon season, the 2017 projections (100-, 95-, and 90-percent levels of effort) represent potential

incremental effects on employment ranging from zero new jobs (no change) to a loss of 6 to 11 jobs statewide; the potential incremental effects on the creation or elimination of businesses is anticipated to range from no impact to insignificant impacts on the elimination of businesses in the state. A 10-percent decrease in angling effort may have minimal impacts in some localized areas that lack industry diversification and have a heavy reliance on recreational fishing and tourism; and potential incremental effects on the expansion of businesses range from no effect to the minor contraction of some business activities in the recreational ocean salmon fishing areas.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Salmon sport fishing contributes to increased mental health of its practitioners, provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of California's natural resources.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment in the sustainable management of salmon resources.

Additional benefits of the proposed regulations are concurrence with federal law, and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational ocean salmon fishing.

The Commission does not anticipate benefits to worker safety.

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

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(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.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 13, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners

Eric Sklar, President

Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President

McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member

Huntington Beach

Russell E. Burns, Member

Napa

Peter S. Silva, Member

Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director

1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 653-4899

www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

December 28, 2016

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Section 28.20, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Pacific halibut sport fishing, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 30, 2016.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Melanie Parker, Environmental Scientist, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Ms. Parker can be reached at (831) 649-2814 or Melanie.Parker@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Fonbuena
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 205, 219, 220, 240 and 316 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 200, 202, 203.1, 205, 207, 215, 219, 220 and 316 of said Code; 50 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 300, Subpart E; and 50 CFR 300.66, proposes to amend Section 28.20, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to recreational fishing for Pacific halibut.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Pacific halibut is internationally managed under the authority of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 between the United States of America and Canada. Pacific halibut along the United States west coast is jointly managed through the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in conjunction with the west coast state agencies. The PFMC coordinates west coast management of all recreational and commercial Pacific halibut fisheries in United States waters through the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP), which constitutes a framework for recommending annual management measures. NMFS is responsible for specifying the final CSP language and management measures in federal regulations (50 CFR Part 300, Subpart E and the Federal Register) and noticing them on its halibut telephone hotline. Federal regulations for Pacific halibut are applicable in federal waters (three to 200 miles offshore) off Washington, Oregon, and California. Each state adjacent to federal waters adopts corresponding fishery regulations for their own waters (zero to three miles offshore).

For consistency, the Commission routinely adopts regulations to bring State law into conformance with federal and international law for Pacific halibut.

At its November 2016 meeting, the PFMC recommended changes to the 2017 CSP and recreational Pacific halibut fishery in California. The November PFMC regulatory recommendation and NMFS final rule will be considered by the Commission when it takes its own regulatory action to establish the State's recreational Pacific halibut fishery regulations for 2017.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is proposing the following regulatory changes to be consistent with PFMC recommendations and the CSP for Pacific halibut regulations in 2017. This approach will allow the Commission to adopt State recreational Pacific halibut regulations to conform in a timely manner to those taking effect in federal ocean waters on or before May 1, 2017.

The proposed regulatory changes modify Pacific halibut regulations to allow for timely conformance to federal fisheries regulations and inseason changes. The proposed regulatory changes would modify the seasons to include a range from May 1 to October 31 which may include periodic closures, and update the reference to the Federal Register specifying the 2017 federal quota amount. The final regulation will conform to the season established by federal regulations in May 2017.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

The benefits of the proposed regulations are: consistency with federal regulations, the sustainable management of California's Pacific halibut resources, and health and welfare of anglers.

Evaluation of Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to adopt sport fishing regulations (Fish and Game Code, sections 200, 202, and 205) and Pacific halibut fishing regulations specifically (Fish and Game Code, Section 316). The proposed regulations are consistent with regulations for sport fishing in marine protected areas (Section 632, Title 14, CCR) and with general sport fishing regulations in Chapters 1 and 4 of Subdivision 1 of Division 1, Title 14, CCR. Commission staff has searched the CCR and has found no other State regulations related to the recreational take of Pacific halibut.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Sonoma, One DoubleTree Drive, Rohnert Park, California.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a teleconference hearing originating in the Fish and Game Commission conference room, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. Interested persons may also participate at the following locations:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conference Room, 50 Ericson Court, Arcata, California;
- Department of Fish and Wildlife, Conference Room, 4665 Lampson Avenue, Los Alamitos, California; and
- Department of Fish and Wildlife Conference Room, 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, California.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 12:00 noon on April 7, 2017. All comments must be received no later than April 13, 2017, at one of the teleconference hearing locations listed above. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

Availability of Documents

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout format can be accessed through the Commission's website at www.fgc.ca.gov. The regulations as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Sherrie Fonbuena at the preceding address or phone number. **Melanie Parker, Environmental Scientist, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone**

(831) 649-2814, email Melanie.Parker@wildlife.ca.gov, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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 Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the regulatory action does not substantially alter existing conditions.

- (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 in California, the creation of new businesses, the elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses in California.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Providing opportunities to participate in sport fisheries fosters conservation through education and appreciation of fish and wildlife.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's Pacific halibut resources.

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety.

Additional benefits of the proposed regulations are consistency with federal regulations and promotion of businesses that rely on recreational Pacific halibut fishing.

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

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(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.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 20, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President
Saint Helena

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President
McKinleyville

Anthony C. Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

Russell E. Burns, Member
Napa

Peter S. Silva, Member
Chula Vista

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870

December 8, 2016

NOTICE OF PROPOSED EMERGENCY ACTION

Emergency Abalone Take Reduction Due to Harmful Environmental Conditions

Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(1), the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) is providing notice of proposed emergency action with regard to the above-entitled emergency regulation.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), the adopting agency provide a Notice of the Proposed Emergency Action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulatory action with the agency. After submission of the proposed emergency to OAL, OAL shall allow interested persons five calendar days to submit comments on the proposed emergency regulations as set forth in Government Code Section 11349.6.

Any interested person may present statements, arguments or contentions, in writing, submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail, relevant to the proposed emergency regulatory action. Written comments submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail must be received at OAL within five days after the Commission submits the emergency regulations to OAL for review.

Please reference submitted comments as regarding "Abalone Take Reduction" addressed to:

Mailing Address: Reference Attorney
Office of Administrative Law
300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1250
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Fish and Game Commission
Attn: Sheri Tiemann
1416 Ninth Street, Rm. 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

E-mail Address: staff@oal.ca.gov
Fax No.: 916-323-6826

fgc@fgc.ca.gov

For the status of the Commission's submittal to OAL for review, and the end of the five-day written submittal period, please consult OAL's website at <http://www.oal.ca.gov> under the heading "Emergency Regulations."

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINDING OF EMERGENCY AND
STATEMENT OF PROPOSED EMERGENCY REGULATORY ACTION

Emergency Action to
Amend subsections (b) and (c) of Section 29.15,
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Emergency Abalone Take Reduction Due to Harmful Environmental Conditions

Date of Statement: December 8, 2016

I. Statement of Facts Constituting the Need for Emergency Regulatory Action

The recreational red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) fishery is one of California's most successful and popular fisheries, and is economically important, particularly to Sonoma and Mendocino counties where approximately 95 percent of the multi-million dollar fishery takes place. Over 25,000 fishermen participate in the fishery each year. Red abalone may be taken with a sport fishing license subject to regulations prescribed by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission).

Under existing statute (Fish and Game Code Section 5521) and regulation (Section 29.15, Title 14, CCR), abalone may only be taken for recreational purposes north of a line drawn due west magnetic from the center of the mouth of San Francisco Bay, except in the closed Fort Ross area. The current regulation also specify the season, hours, daily and annual limits, special gear provisions, measuring devices, abalone report card requirements, and minimum size. Red abalone may only be collected by skin diving (without SCUBA) or rock picking during low tides, so that a deep-water refuge population is maintained to enhance productivity of the fishery. The recreational red abalone season is scheduled to open April 1, 2017.

In 2005, the Commission adopted the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) pursuant to requirements in statute (Fish and Game Code Section 5522), to provide a cohesive framework for recovering depleted abalone populations in southern California, and for managing the northern California fishery and future fisheries, including red abalone. The ARMP articulates a framework for sustaining abalone populations based largely on densities, catch, size, and reproductive success as triggers for adjusting total allowable catch (TAC) and engaging other management measures. Using criteria described in the ARMP, the TAC is adjusted when specific triggers are met, through various management actions such as changes to daily bag limits, seasonal limits, and season length.

In 2013, when average densities in northern California fell below established triggers and site closure triggers were met, the Commission took action to adjust the TAC from 280,000 to 190,000, with the goal to sufficiently reduce take such that densities would stop declining and eventually recover to target densities. The

Commission also took management action to meet the adjusted TAC by amending the annual limit for abalone north of the Mendocino/Sonoma county line from 24 to 18, amending the annual limit south of the Mendocino/Sonoma county line from 24 to 9, and moving the start time for fishing from one half hour before sunrise to 8:00 a.m. The Fort Ross area was closed to abalone fishing as a result of hitting the closure trigger. The new regulations went into effect in 2014, resulting in a 35 percent decline in take to approximately 148,000; in 2015, take was down 31 percent from 2013 at approximately 155,000.

In 2015, a combination of unprecedented environmental and biological stressors began to take their toll on abalone populations, including warmer-than-normal waters and decreasing food resources, leading to starvation conditions. Throughout 2016, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has conducted surveys, visual assessments, and histological sampling of north coast abalone, and has also been documenting citizen reports of unhealthy or moribund abalone within the fishery. The Department has identified wide-sweeping changes in the density, occurrence, size and health of red abalone and the kelp upon which it depends for food. Specifically, the Department has found:

- **Warm Water Conditions and Kelp and Algae Declines.** Red abalone are herbivores that live on rocky reefs in kelp forests, eating red and brown algae. In 2014, the kelp forests in the abalone fishery region declined by 93 percent due to extreme warm water conditions and an unprecedented increase in herbivorous red and purple sea urchin populations. Unlike abalone, sea urchin populations are generally resilient to food shortages and can survive longer, such that even if water conditions cool, grazing pressure from surviving sea urchins may still keep kelp from wide-spread recovery. Warm water conditions persisted through 2015, impacting kelp recovery and abalone health. Recently there has been some improvement in kelp growth with cooler water this year, but the warm water appears to be returning this fall and current kelp canopies are still very sparse compared to normal years. Recent oceanographic reports suggest that warm-water conditions may return again in 2017.
- **Starvation Conditions.** Red abalone are susceptible to starvation when kelp and algal abundances decline. Kelp and other algal species are being actively cleared from rocky bottom habitat that is dominated by purple sea urchin, which is greater than sixty times more abundant now than prior to 2013. Urchin populations increased, in part, due to large-scale loss of predatory starfish species in 2013 due to sea star wasting disease. Bull kelp and other algal food sources for abalone have remained at extremely low levels since 2014; the large number of purple urchins is likely keeping kelp recovery confined to very limited areas.

Abalone have been observed stacked on top of each other in shallow water, which could be attributed to either abalone moving from deeper water to shallower water where algae is slightly more abundant, or abalone trying to graze whatever algae is growing on the shells of other abalone; shells were observed to be unusually clean of algal growth.

Recent evidence indicates the starvation conditions have not yet abated; additional impacts are expected through the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

- **Density Declines.** In spite of the Commission's 2013 actions to reduce take and recover densities, the actions were ineffective in preventing densities from continuing to decline, from an average of 0.47 per square meter (m^2) in 2013 to 0.44 per m^2 in 2016. The Department believes the density decline is largely due to the environmental conditions described herein.
- **Deep-Water Refuge.** Deep-water refuge is believed to be a critical component in maintaining a highly productive recreational fishery. Deep-water abalone are generally safe from take and can be a source of both adults to replace abalone removed from shallower waters and larvae to enhance abalone reproduction rates. Summer of 2016 surveys showed dramatic reductions in abalone densities in deep water refuges (greater than 28 foot depths). The average density of deep-water red abalone populations over the past four years has declined below the ARMP management trigger and increases the risk that the fishery is not sustainable. It should be noted that abalone movement from deep water into shallow water or from cryptic locations to exposed shallow areas can give the impression that abalone populations are stable or have increased if the absence of abalone in deeper waters is not considered.
- **Abalone Health, Reproduction, and Mortality.** The abundance of warm water, coupled with a lack of algae, has severely impacted the health and reproductive development of abalone. Fishermen and the public have reported weak, shrunk, and dying abalone, as well as unusually high numbers of empty shells of all size classes throughout 2016. Department surveys revealed more than 25 percent of catch at 10 survey sites had body mass that was shrunk (meat smaller than the shell). Reductions in body mass lead to reduced reproductive fitness; just a 20% reduction in body mass can reduce reproduction by 60-90 percent. Red abalone require approximately 12 years to grow to minimum legal size, so that multi-year gaps in reproduction will be observed in the fishery for years to come. Furthermore, recent laboratory feeding studies of starved wild red abalone indicate that reproductive capability may take more than one year to recover to normal levels after algal conditions improve.

The weakened condition of abalone may also reduce their ability to withstand normal storm waves during the winter of 2016 – 2017, and increase mortality. Both 2015 and 2016 were poor reproduction years compared with previous average or good years, which may put future sustainability of the fishery at risk. Lack of kelp and other algae greatly reduces cover for red abalone, making them easier to locate by fishermen.

Existence of an Emergency and Need for Immediate Action

The Department considered the following factors in determining whether an emergency exists: The magnitude of potential harm; the existence of a crisis situation; the immediacy of the need; and whether the anticipation of harm has a basis firmer than simple speculation. Department field surveys in 2015 and 2016 demonstrate that all these factors have been met. The Department is proposing emergency regulatory action because the urgency of the situation requires actions to go into effect prior to the start of the upcoming 2017 season, to allow adequate time to communicate the changes to affected stakeholders and amend abalone report cards. The Department will also recommend making the proposed emergency regulations permanent pursuant to a standard rulemaking because the impacts from the harmful conditions are expected to be long-lasting.

Studies, Reports, or Documents Supporting Factual Emergency

The Department relied on the following documents in proposing this emergency rulemaking action:

- (1) The Abalone Recovery and Management Plan
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/ARMP>

Department staff has documented critical negative impacts to red abalone fishing grounds:

- (1) A dramatic decline in sea stars, important sea urchin predators, due to sea star disease.
- (2) A dramatic decline (93 percent) of the kelp canopy in Sonoma and Mendocino counties in 2014.
- (3) A dramatic increase (60 times) in the density of purple sea urchins in 2015, increasing competition with abalone for food.
- (4) Warm seawater conditions in Sonoma and Mendocino counties in 2014 and 2015.
- (5) A lack of kelp, which increases the efficiency of fishing efforts in shallow habitats.
- (6) A decline in deep-water abalone densities.
- (7) Continued decline in overall average abalone densities in spite of significant take reductions implemented in 2014.

Department staff has documented critical negative impacts to red abalone health:

- (1) Visual abalone body health scores for abalone taken in the fishery during the spring of 2016 show that more than 25 percent of abalone were shrunk in body mass at sites in northern California.
- (2) Body condition index declined at Van Damme State Park by 20 percent, but no significant difference was observed at Fort Ross in summer of 2016 (60 abalone per site).

- (3) Department staff and abalone fishermen have observed weak abalone washed up on shore and easy to remove from the rocks as well as many new shells of all size classes, indicating increased natural mortality.

Department staff has documented critical negative impacts to red abalone reproduction:

- (1) Gonad index declined significantly at Van Damme State Park and at Fort Ross in the summer of 2016 (60 abalone per site).
- (2) Small numbers of larval abalone observed in plankton surveys in Sonoma and Mendocino counties in 2015.
- (3) Small numbers of newly settled abalone observed in coralline-covered rock samples from Sonoma and Mendocino counties in 2015.
- (4) Few juvenile (< 21 millimeter) red abalone observed in artificial reefs in Van Damme State Park in 2015.

Regulatory Proposal

The ARMP provides the framework for regulatory proposals that should be designed to maintain the sustainability of the resource and fishery. The Department makes the following determinations in regards to the ARMP:

- (1) The existing TAC is 190,000 (amended 2013).
- (2) The deep density trigger requires 25 percent reduction in TAC, which equates to reducing TAC from 190,000 to 142,500.
- (3) Average densities continue to decline leading to a second trigger requiring an additional 25 percent reduction in TAC, which equates to reducing it from 142,500 to 106,875.
- (4) The new TAC would be 107,000 (rounding to the nearest thousand).
- (5) While considerable uncertainty exists under the current conditions regarding how the abalone population will respond, all factors are currently negative. Marine protected areas provide a benefit in protecting a segment of the population from fishing pressure, but do not necessarily help the fishery or the stock in terms of the current negative environmental conditions that are affecting both.

The proposed regulation to achieve the specified TAC are based on catch patterns, human behavior, and the many uncertainties of future conditions. Public input to date indicates reductions in take should primarily come from the annual limit rather than the daily limit. Season changes can produce savings, but because efforts can shift to other months, yield is unpredictable and likely less than otherwise expected. Considerable uncertainty exists regarding the response by fishermen to new restrictions and, therefore, actual take. Table 1 provides an analysis of likely take using changes to the annual limit along with some season reductions. Fishermen have consistently and clearly indicated that a reduction to the daily bag limit is considered an action of last resort and therefore has not

been considered or recommended in this regulation change as other options provide reasonable alternatives for likely achieving the specified TAC.

Table 1. Estimated take based on changes to annual limit and with season length reductions

Target TAC = 107,000 Daily Bag limit = 3	Annual Limit				
	6	9	12	15	18
Estimated Catch	93,000	119,000	136,000	149,000	155,000
Estimated Catch + November Closure	91,000	118,000	135,000	147,000	155,000
Estimated Catch + November Closure + April Closure	80,000	104,000	119,000	129,000	136,000

Based on the analysis summarized in Table 1, the Department proposes:

- a. Reduce annual limit from 18 to 12, with the exception that the lower limit of "not more than 9 abalone of the yearly trip limit may be taken south of the boundary between Sonoma and Mendocino Counties" found in subsection 29.15(c) will continue to apply.
- b. Reduce season by closing November and April
- c. Estimated take = 119,000

The Department understands the importance of the recreational red abalone fishery and its sustainability. The Department's recommendation is proposed as a result of discussions at the November 15, 2016 Marine Resources Committee, which is designed to achieve the desired take reduction through fewer days on the water (season length) and a lower total take opportunity (annual limit) in the open area above the Mendocino/Sonoma county line.

The Department's recommendation is based on the numerous uncertainties and risks involved and the impacts to fishermen from such dramatic reductions. The current environmental conditions are unprecedented and the impacts to the abalone resource are yet to be fully realized or understood. Not implementing significant reductions in take risks pushing an already stressed population below sustainable levels. We have already witnessed the consequences of inaction, which resulted in the imposition of a statutory moratorium of the fishery south of San Francisco since 1997.

The Department expects a larger savings the first year with a rebound the following year; this is not unusual behavior when drastic changes are made to recreational fisheries. The Department is not recommending closure of the abalone fishery because abalone population densities (0.44 abalone per m²) are above the ARMP's fishery closure trigger of 0.3 abalone per m².

In the absence of this emergency regulation, take of abalone at current levels would continue during the coming season on abalone populations that have declined below minimum sustainable levels prescribed in the ARMP for the deep water (refuge) segment of their range. These emergency regulations are designed to protect broodstock during this period of harmful environmental

conditions when abalone is exceptionally vulnerable to both high natural and fishing mortalities. This period is clearly one of reduced productivity of the abalone population and it is uncertain how long the unfavorable conditions will persist. Even with improved environmental conditions, the fishery will remain at risk due to reduced productivity for more than one year. The decline of the deep-water refuge population, coupled with ongoing starvation conditions and subsequent poor abalone body condition, presents an emergency situation requiring immediate management action to protect the fishery.

The Commission received public input on a potential emergency action at the November 15, 2016 meeting of the Marine Resources Committee, where the Department reported on the most recent survey findings, and at the Commission's December 7-8, 2016 meeting.

II. 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 determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (b) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (c) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (d) 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.
- (e) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

III. Authority and Reference

The Commission proposes this emergency action pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 240, and 5520 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret, or make more specific sections 200, 202, 205, 220, 240, and 5520 of said code.

IV. Section 240 Finding

Pursuant to Section 240 of the Fish and Game Code, the Commission finds that the adoption of this regulation is necessary for the immediate conservation, preservation, or protection of birds, mammals, reptiles, or fish (abalone).

Informative Digest (Plain English Overview)

The recreational red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) fishery is one of California's most successful and popular fisheries, and is economically important, particularly to Sonoma and Mendocino counties where approximately 95 percent of the multi-million dollar fishery takes place. Over 25,000 fishermen participate in the fishery each year. Red abalone may be taken with a sport fishing license subject to regulations prescribed by the Fish and Game Commission (Commission).

Under existing statute (Fish and Game Code Section 5521) and regulation (Section 29.15, Title 14, CCR), red abalone may only be taken for recreational purposes north of a line drawn due west magnetic from the center of the mouth of San Francisco Bay, except in the closed Fort Ross area. The current regulation also specifies the season, hours, daily limits, special gear provisions, measuring devices, abalone report card requirements, and minimum size. Red abalone may only be collected by skin diving (without SCUBA) or rock picking during low tides. The recreational red abalone season is scheduled to open April 1, 2017.

The Department has identified wide-sweeping changes in the density, occurrence, size and health of red abalone and the kelp upon which it depends for food. Specifically, the Department has found warm water conditions, kelp and algae declines, starvation conditions, abalone density declines, movement from deep-water refuge, and negative impacts on abalone health, reproduction and mortality.

To determine whether an emergency exists, the Department considered the following factors: The magnitude of potential harm; the existence of a crisis situation; the immediacy of the need; and whether the anticipation of harm has a basis firmer than simple speculation. Department field surveys in 2015 and 2016 demonstrate that all these factors have been met.

The Department has confirmed that management triggers under the Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) have been reached calling for a reduction of fishery catch and is recommending this reduction be approved due to harmful environmental conditions for abalone.

Proposed Regulatory Action

The proposed emergency regulation will reduce the take of abalone within the entire fishery to levels anticipated to be sustainable under current environmental conditions.

Acting under the guidance contained in the ARMP, the Department requests the Commission take emergency action to reduce allowable take by amending abalone subsections (b) and (c) of Section 29.15, Title 14, CCR, to reduce the red abalone allowable annual take from 18 to 12 abalone, with the exception that the lower limit of "not more than 9 abalone of the yearly trip limit may be taken south of the boundary between Sonoma and Mendocino Counties" found in subsection 29.15(c) will continue to apply, and to close April and November to fishing.

Benefits: The proposed emergency reduction within the abalone fishery will benefit the environment by protecting the valuable abalone resource from excessive fishing mortality, which will allow the resource the opportunity to rebuild and be sustainable for the future.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations: The Legislature has delegated authority to the Commission to promulgate sport fishing regulations (Fish and Game Code, sections 200, 202, and 205). No other state agency has the authority to promulgate such regulations. The Commission has conducted a search of Title 14, CCR and determined that the proposed regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations and that the proposed regulations are consistent with other sport fishing regulations and marine protected area regulations in Title 14, CCR.

Regulatory Language

§ 29.15. Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 29.15. Abalone.

(b) Open Season and Hours:

(1) Open Season: Abalone may be taken only during the months of April, May, June, August, September, and October ~~and November~~.

(2) Open Hours: Abalone may be taken only from 8:00 AM to one-half hour after sunset.

(c) Bag Limit and Yearly Trip Limit: Three red abalone, *Haliotis rufescens*, may be taken per day. No more than three abalone may be possessed at any time. No other species of abalone may be taken or possessed. Each person taking abalone shall stop detaching abalone when the limit of three is reached. No person shall take more than ~~48~~ 12 abalone during a calendar year. In the Open Area as defined in subsections 29.15(a) and 29.15(a)(1) above, not more than 9 abalone of the yearly trip limit may be taken south of the boundary between Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

[No changes to subsections (a) and (d) through (h)]

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 202, 205, 210, 220, 240, 5520, 5521, and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 202, 205, 220, 5520, 5521, 7145 and 7149.8, Fish and Game Code.



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARGIE BARRIOS
District One

ANTHONY BOTELHO
District Two

ROBERT RIVAS
District Three

JERRY MUENZER
District Four

JAIME DE LA CRUZ
District Five

Item Number: A.

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2017

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Chase Graves

SBC DEPT FILE NUMBER: 110

SUBJECT:

SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF - T. LAMONICA

The Sheriff will provide an update to the commission on current fish and game issues within San Benito County. Recent poaching issues will be discussed. SBC FILE NUMBER: 110.

AGENDA SECTION:

SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

BUDGETED:

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

CURRENT FY COST:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report.

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:



SAN BENITO COUNTY AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL FORM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARGIE BARRIOS
District One
ANTHONY BOTELHO
District Two
ROBERT RIVAS
District Three
JERRY MUENZER
District Four
JAIME DE LA CRUZ
District Five

Item Number:

MEETING DATE: 1/23/2017

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:

SBC DEPT FILE NUMBER:

SUBJECT:

**THE FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION WILL ADJOURN UNTIL THE NEXT
SCHEDULED MEETING**

AGENDA SECTION:

ADJOURNMENT

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

BUDGETED:

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

CURRENT FY COST:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL: