



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

AGENDA

March 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a video conference -see link and call-in information on next page.
Please contact Sean Abbey sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us if you have questions.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:15	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Guest Introductions
4			Approval of Minutes Public Comments
5	7:15	8:00	SCC Vector Control: Mosquito Fish Presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program background presentation by Amanda Poulsen• Commissioner questions
6	8:00	8:10	Review Low Flow Fishing Closure Support letter sent to Board of Supervisors
7	8:10	8:30	Review draft 2022 Work Plan
8	8:30	8:45	Discuss May agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State level policy status for Bullfrog management• Agreement to Continue Virtual Meetings
9	8:45	9:00	Staff Reports
10			Commissioner Reports and Announcements
		9:00	Adjourn

Items of Interest:

1. Fish and Game Commission regulatory announcements: [New and Proposed Regulations - 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. Fish and Game Commission Jan 13th, 2022 meeting, Bullfrogs discussed in Item 6;
 - a. Minutes summary of discussion: [CA DFG: January 13, 2022 meeting summary \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - b. Full staff report, pages 17-18 & 82-139: [CA DFG: January 13, 2022 Meeting Binder \(ca.gov\)](#)
3. [Construction begins on mountain lion crossing on Highway 17 \(eastbaytimes.com\)](#)

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact Sean Abbey at (831) 454-2386 or TDD number (454-2123) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.

Commissioner and Public Participation Information and Guidelines

Pursuant to AB 361 and Cal. Gov. Code section 54953, due to the ongoing COVID 19 state of emergency and upon recommendation of the County Health Officer, public meetings of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee will be held virtually -- by teleconference only. No physical location will be available for these teleconference meetings; however, members of the public will be able to participate in the meetings via Microsoft Teams or by telephone using the information provided below.

If you have questions, please contact Sean Abbey at sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 916-318-9542](tel:+19163189542), [255646925#](tel:+1916255646925) United States, Sacramento

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Click on the “Click here to join the meeting” link above. If you are asked to join in the Teams with an application, click on “No thanks” and open in the browser. You should not need to download the application to join the meeting.

Commissioners are expected to have their camera on, but cameras are optional for public attendees.

Please join the meeting a few minutes BEFORE 7:00 pm so that we can start at 7:00 pm. Staff will open the video conference at 6:50 pm. Feel free to chat and say hello before 7:00 pm.

Meeting Roles and Rules:

All meeting attendees should keep their microphones on mute unless they are speaking.

Dave Somerton, Vice Chair, will lead the meeting. Vice Chair Somerton will announce each agenda item, identify who will be leading an item and introduce discussion and public comment periods.

Sean Abbey, staff, will assist with roll call, note taking, and tracking who wants to speak. Please allow time for staff to make notes about any decisions. Sean will monitor both email and text messages during the meeting.

There will be a public comment period for each item and the Chair will invite the public to participate at the appropriate time.

During a discussion, if 2 or more people speak at the same time, please defer to the person who speaks first. In any moment where we have some confusion due to multiple people wanting to speak, please pause and let the Chair take the lead. The Chair will call on someone to speak.

If you are having trouble joining the conversation, you can send a message to Sean (email sean.abbey@santacruzcounty.us) and he will call on people who want to comment.



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Meeting Minutes February 3, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

District	Commissioner	Status	Commissioner	Status
I	Chris Berry	P	Del Crawford	P
II	Sandra Baron	P	David Somerton	P
III	Liz Alter	P	Jon Jankovitz	P
IV	Matthew Wise	P	VACANT	
V	Jenni Gomez	P	Jen Michelsen	P

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - o **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Somerton, **Second:** Alter,
 - o **All Ayes:** Minutes approved
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
5. **LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LOW-FLOW FISHING CLOSURES:** Commissioners received background from Sean Cochran, the lead Fisheries Biologist for CA Fish and Wildlife: Bay Delta Region. DFW staff are attempting to establish a defensible criterion to close salmon fishing in the San Lorenzo River when flows are so low as to be harmful to salmon reproduction. Staff examined multiple criteria, including how passable critical riffles are at various flows, historic data from traps, and angler steelhead report cards. Based on this information, CA DFW staff plans to recommend 40 cubic feet/second (CFS) at the Henry Cowell stream gauge be the flow at which fishing is closed. Staff recommendations are going before the CA Fish and Game Commission on April 21st. FWAC Commissioners voted to approve a letter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) requesting a letter of support be submitted for that April 21st meeting. A 2018 letter on the same topic will be revised for the current situation and sent to the BOS.
 - o **Motion to Approve proposed letter:** Somerton, **Second:** Wise,
 - o **All Aye:** Revised Letter to BOS approved
6. **DISCUSS 2022 WORKPLAN:** Commissioners discussed the workplan for 2022 and what the priorities should be for the year. An updated workplan will be included in the March agenda.
 - o Add topics of Invasive species, share hunting of invasive species, and PG&E tree removal ordinance.
 - o Commissioner Baron to request update from Planning Dept on ordinance around the Oak tree protection
7. **DISCUSS MARCH AGENDA:**
 - o Request presentations from:
 - Rich Sampson of Calfire regarding significant tree ordinance

- Amanda Polson, the Vector Control Manager, regarding use of mosquito fish
- Review approved letter for Low Flow closure support
- **Vote to Continue Virtual Meetings:** The passage of AB 361, regarding the continuation of remote public meetings, requires Commissioners to hold a vote on whether the following criteria is true; 1) The State continues to be under a State of Emergency, and 2) local Health Officials continue to recommend physical distancing.
 - **Motion to Approve:** Michelson, **Second:** Somerton,
 - **All Aye:** March meeting will continue to be held completely by teleconference

8. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Commissioner Gomez: referring to an article published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, wanted to discuss the topic of mosquito fish. The fish are used to control mosquito, and mosquito born diseases, but are an invasive species. They have been observed consuming long toe salamander eggs in north county. Suggests this as a possible topic for future discussion.
- Commissioner Wise: Local group in south county are working to repair riparian areas around Tynan Lake to help mitigate the effects of farm runoff. They are also encouraging more sustainable farming practices to reduce the presence of phosphorus and nitrates, engaging county to do water testing.
- Commissioner Berry: Santa Cruz County has banned bull frog sales and now the state Fish and Game Commission is considering creating a similar measure statewide. Commissioner Berry will be providing some informational material at a later meeting.
- Commissioner Berry: The San Lorenzo River was at 57 CFS. This is lower than normal, but salmon have been observed moving up the river
- Commissioner Berry: During a meeting between City of Santa Cruz, DFW, and UCSC, it was decided to follow the example of the Pajaro Levee and install owl boxes
- Commissioner Berry: public draft of Salmonid HTP released

9. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Jankovitz, **Second:** Michelsen
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



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701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 FAX: (831) 454-3128

February 20, 2022

County of Santa Cruz
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Letter of Support for California Department of Fish and Wildlife's effort to finalize low flow angling closure standards for recreational steelhead fishery in Santa Cruz County

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors write a letter to the California Fish and Game Commission to convey our strong support for the currently proposed low flow target for temporary closures of recreational steelhead angling in Santa Cruz County waterways. During low flows, steelhead are unable to migrate and are more vulnerable to getting caught multiple times or getting caught while spawning.

In the 2021-2022 California Freshwater Sports Fishing Regulations Chapter 3, Article 4, Supplemental Regulations 8.00 Low Flow Restrictions, (c) South Central Coast Streams explains that steelhead streams "*will be closed to fishing when the department (DFW) determines that stream flows are inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating steelhead trout and salmon. Closed streams will be reopened when the department determines flows are adequate for fish passage*".

While most steelhead and salmon streams throughout California have finalized closure thresholds in the accepted Sport Fishing Regulations, efforts to analyze and propose low flow fishing standards in Santa Cruz County have been minimal until recent years.

As a partner in the recovery of salmonids in Santa Cruz County and a pro-angling group, we are excited by the efforts started by DFW in 2018 to bring scientific protocols to local angling regulations. Recent years of exceptional drought and low winter flow conditions have raised

concerns among County commissioners and the local angling community alike about potential adverse impacts of steelhead angling during critically dry conditions. The flashy hydrological nature of streams in Santa Cruz County increases the concerns of adverse impacts when adult salmonids enter the systems and are unable to further migrate due to low stream flows. Low flow fishing thresholds will provide and maintain angling opportunities, enhance protection of listed salmonids during stressful low flow conditions, and simplify regulations and make them consistent statewide.

Bay-Delta Region DFW fisheries staff have routinely presented to the Santa Cruz County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission about progress and status of fishing regulation updates. We look forward to progress and analysis by the DFW on regulation modification of Supplemental Regulation 8.00 (c) and urge the Board of Supervisors to support the California Fish and Game Commission's adoption of these standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Berry".

Chris Berry, Chair
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 312
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

County of Santa Cruz
Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission
2022 Work Plan
Dated: February 17, 2022

Public Grants Program

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

Action – Decide on fund amount and suggested request level for PGP in 2022

Invasive Species

Commissioners: Somerton, Gomez, Alter, Berry

Learn - Identify species, statuses

Action - Prioritize species for future actions

Action - Lend support to Watershed Management Agency

Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement

Commissioners: Berry, Jankovitz, Crawford, Baron

Monitor - progress on County efforts to develop a Riparian Enhancement Program

Monitor - how local agencies are dealing with homeless living in riparian areas.

Action – support riparian corridor enhancement when appropriate

Action – communicate importance of protecting riparian from homeless encampments for wildlife and water quality benefits.

Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning

Commissioners: Alter, Berry, Jankovitz, Wise

Learn - current status and research; impacts of CZU fire.

Monitor - low-flow fishing closure status and fishing regulation changes.

Monitor - progress for new coho salmon conservation hatchery.

Action – communicate with CDFW about fishing regulations.

Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone

Commissioners: Gomez, Michelsen, Crawford

Action – invite Rich Sampson to present on wildfire safety at March 2022 meeting and discuss Calfire perspective on expanding Significant Tree Ordinance.

Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)

Includes conservation for wildlife, fish, riparian, oak woodlands, idea of strategic plan for fish and wildlife

Commissioners: Michelsen, Berry

Learn - about RCIS process

Action – Discuss and comment to RCD/RTC on draft RCIS.

Action – Participate in public meetings.

Action – Consider letter to BOS re: RCIS comments

Monitor - development of final plan.

Explore Share Hunting in Santa Cruz County

Commissioners: Jankovitz, Gomez

Learn – with DFW, work with landowners to organize share hunts of invasive species (turkey, boar)

Action – Identify areas that could work for a share hunt location. Must be ~100-200 acres or more and not be in a “no shoot zone”. Possible location: Coast Dairies?

Marine Protection

Commissioners: Somerton, Alter

Learn - about new and ongoing marine protection issues.
what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Learn - about local juvenile great white sharks.

Action - take action when appropriate to support Marine Protection.

Monitor - new legislation and actions.

Oak Tree Protection

Commissioners: Baron, Gomez

Learn - about how the County currently protects oak trees.

CZU Fire Recovery

Commissioners; Baron, Michelsen

Learn - about fire recovery status and actions.

Monitor - PG & E's Community Wildfire Safety Program

Action – consider action to comment on post-fire recovery issues.

Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management

Commissioners: Alter

Monitor - Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods public access process.

Learn - about Cotoni-Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods forestry management.

Learn - about how conservation easements are being used in County.

Learn - about how much open space is in the County.

Learn - about how to support wildlife corridors.

Vision Santa Cruz Wild

Commissioners: Berry

Action – Create a strategic plan for habitat and wildlife.

Action – develop ways to education county residents about local fish and wildlife issues.

Learn - County General plan update is related to this item

PG&E Tree removal ordinance:

Commissioners:

Learn – *Status of ordinances*

Cannabis cultivation ordinance

Commissioners:

Monitor - implementation of Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

Provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues

Commissioners:

Learn - about what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Action – Be responsive to issues as they arise, report back to Board of Supervisors