



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

February 4, 2021, 7:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a video conference -see link and call-in information on next page.

Please contact Kristen Kittleson kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us if you have questions.

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:00	Call to Order
2	7:00	7:05	Roll Call and Guest Introductions
3	7:05	7:10	Approval of Minutes
4	7:10	7:15	Public Comments
5	7:15	7:30	Report: District Attorney Edward Browne on equipment purchase for CDFW and enforcement cases
6	7:30	7:50	Report and Discussion: CDFW Low-Flow Fishing Closures
7	8:00	8:15	2021 Work Plan: Staff presentation and discussion
8	8:15	8:25	Discuss possible action to comment on USCS long range plan EIR and use of groundwater that could affect San Lorenzo lagoon
9	8:20	8:25	Review and discuss draft biennial report
10	8:25	8:30	CZU Fire status: toxic runoff control program, debris removal, storm impacts
11	8:30	8:35	Discuss salmonella outbreak among song birds
12	8:35	8:40	Staff Reports
13	8:40	8:45	Review Correspondence
14	8:45	9:00	Commissioner Reports and Announcements
		9:00	Adjourn

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Please see Fish and Game commission for regulatory announcements

<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/2021-New-and-Proposed>

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 Kristen Kittleson at (831)454-3154 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

The meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission will take place on a video conferencing system, Microsoft Teams, with a call-in option only. If you have questions, please contact Kristen Kittleson at kristen.kittleson@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,,715743655#](tel:+19163189542715743655) United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 715 743 655#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Click on the Microsoft Teams icon. 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 join with a video camera. Public attendees may choose to have their cameras on or off.

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.

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

Kristen Kittleson, 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. Kristen will monitor both her email and her 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 Kristen (email kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us) and she will call on people who want to comment.



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Meeting Minutes December 3, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:03 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
 - Present: Commissioners Berry, Morrow, Baron, Somerton, Alter, Wise, Buchwald, Gómez, Michelsen
 - Excused: none
 - Absent: none
 - Guest Introductions: Jon Jankovitz, Steve Kennedy
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Somerton made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. All aye, the minutes were approved.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Jon Jankovitz, the previous CDFW fishery biologist, reported that the background work was completed for implementing a low-flow fishing closures for Santa Cruz County .
5. **Public Grants Program.** Commissioners discussed proposals and finalized their scores. Staff compiled stores and presented a ranked list to the commission. Commissioner Gómez made a motion to fund the top five proposals; Commissioner Somerton seconded the motion. All Aye; the motion passed. The following projects will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for funding:
 - Transportation for Ocean Stewards
 - Waterproof Marine Mammal Ocean Users’ Guide
 - Watershed Rangers After-School Program
 - WOLF School Salamander Monitoring Project
 - Santa Cruz County Breeding Bird Atlas
6. **CZU Lightning Complex Fire.** The commission received a staff report on current post-fire issues, including the toxic runoff control program and extensive tree cutting by PG & E within the fire zone. Commissioner Michelsen made a motion to make minor edits to a draft letter about the PG & E tree cutting and send the letter to the Board of Supervisors; Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. All aye, the motion passed.
7. **Review and discuss draft biennial report.** Staff was unable to complete the draft report so this will be considered at the February 2021 meeting.
8. **Discuss 2020 Meeting Schedule.** The commission discussed the 2021 schedule and plan to meet 7 times in February, March, May, June, September, November and December. Staff will distribute and post the schedule.
9. **Commission Reports and Announcements.**
10. **Staff Reports**
11. **Review Correspondence**
12. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm.



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FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION **DRAFT Report for Calendar Years 2019 and 2020**

Roles of the Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to fish and wildlife, and also recommends projects for funding with the County's portion of Fish and Game Code fine monies and judgments.

Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Commission meets generally seven times a year in February, March, May, June, September, November and December at 7:00 pm in the Fifth Floor Redwood Conference Room, Room 520, at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz. Since May 2020, the commission has been meeting either as a phone or video remote conference.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2020, the Commission consists of Chairperson Chris Berry, representing the 1st District, and Vice Chair David Somerton, representing the 2nd District. Other commissioners include Aggie Morrow, 1st District; Sandra Baron, 2nd District; Liz Alter, 3rd District; Mathew Wise and Grant Buchwald, 4th District; Jenni Gómez and Jen Michelsen, 5th District.

Commission Staff

Kristen Kittleson, Resource Planner with Environmental Health, is the administrative staff to the Commission.

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2019 and 2020

Over 2019 and 2020, the Commission considered and made recommendations regarding a wide range of topics including; regulation of rodenticides, expansion of the County's Significant Tree Ordinance outside the Coastal Zone, PG & E Community Wildlife Safety Program, County's Strategic Plan, Pajaro River, special forests protection, invasive species, coho salmon conservation, Cotani-Coast Dairies National Monument, CZU Lightning Complex Fire and development of a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS). The Commission supported legislation to ban second generation anti-coagulate rodenticides and the state approved AB1778, California Ecosystems Protection Act of 2019 in August 2020.

The Commission continues to follow steelhead and coho salmon recovery efforts. Over the past two years, the Commission has supported state funding for coho recovery and has recommended grant allocations to improve hydrologic data for Scotts Creek and to the Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, who are integral to coho salmon conservation in Santa Cruz County.

One of the primary tasks of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is the Public Grants Program, an important funding source that supports local conservation organizations with small projects and outreach programs. This program relies on a portion of the revenue generated from the enforcement of the Fish and Game Code, through actions of local California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens and the County's District Attorney. Fines and settlements declined over several years and the Commission suspended the grants program in 2018-19. By taking a break, expenditures can be linked to actual revenue over the previous year, instead of anticipated revenue. During the same year, the State audited the fund and found that court fines were correctly getting deposited, but that criminal instead civil penalties, warden position vacancies and non-payment of fines were responsible for the reduction in revenue. With Covid-19 restrictions affecting the courts, revenue is expected to decrease again but should recover over time.

In 2019, the Commission recommended \$15,000 in funding for eight (8) projects that included: population monitoring for steelhead, creation of a breeding bird atlas for the local region, creation of education materials on local subjects, studying of the effects of recruiting predatory birds, transportation for students attending O'Neill Sea Odyssey program, wildlife rehabilitation, and the Scotts Creek hydrology study.

Additional Activities

The Commission provides a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or issues on fish and wildlife related issues. In the past two years, the Commission heard public comments about; the Significant Tree Ordinance, riparian conservation, non-lead ammunition education, fish rescues, stream flow data computation, low-flow fishing regulations, and the Highway 1 bridge at Scotts Creek.

Future Goals

The Commission scheduled 7 meetings for 2021 and plans to address a range of topics including low-flow fishing closure regulations, the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), land and open space conservation and management, invasive plants, climate change and wildlife conservation. The Commission will continue to follow coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning, and riparian corridor enhancement. The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Attendance 2019 and 2020

Commissioner	District	Feb '19	Mar '19	May '19	June '19	Sept '19	Nov '19	Dec '19
Berry	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Hoffman	I	---	---	P	P	P	P	P
Robin	I	P	P	P	P	Ex	P	P
Johnson	II	Ex	---	---	---	---	---	---
Baron	II	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Somerton	II	---	---	---	---	P	P	P
Frediani	III	P	Ex	---	---	---	---	---
Lee	III	P	P	Ab	P	P	P	P
Wise	IV	P	P	P	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Buchwald	IV	---	---	---	---	---	P	P
Cooley	IV	Ex	Ex	---	---	---	---	---
Gómez	V	---	---	P	P	P	P	P
Freeman	V	P	P	P	P	Ex	---	---
Michelsen	V	---	---	---	---	---	P	P

KEY: P = Present Ex= Excused Ab = Absent --- = not on the commission

Commissioner	District	Feb '20	Mar '20	May '20	June '20	Sept '20	Nov '20	Dec '20
Berry	I	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Morrow	I	---	---	P	P	P	P	P
Hoffman	I	P	P	P	Ex	---	---	---
Baron	II	P	Ex	P	P	P	P	P
Somerton	II	Ex	P	P	P	P	P	P
Lee	III	P	P	P	P	Ex	---	---
Alter	III	---	---	---	---	---	P	P
Buchwald	IV	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wise	IV	P	P	P	Ex	P	P	P
Michelsen	V	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Gómez	V	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

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