



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

701 Ocean Street, Room 312, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3154 TDD/TTY -Call 711 www.sceeh.com
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AGENDA May 5, 2022, 7:00 PM

At the March 3 meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to return to in-person meetings. The May 5 meeting will be **held in the Redwood Conference Room, on the Fifth floor of 701 Ocean Street.**

PLEASE NOTE: Outside doors will be open from 6:45-7:30 and then closed and locked. If you require access after the doors close, staff can be contacted by calling 831-345-6090

Agenda Item #	Start Time	End Time	Description
1	7:00	7:15	Call to Order
2			Roll Call
3			Approval of Minutes
4			Public Comments
5	7:15	8:00	Invasive Species: Discussion of possible ordinance changes to manage the spread of invasive species in Santa Cruz County
6	8:00	8:30	Discuss opportunities for inter-commission coordination with the Water Advisory Commission and Commission on the Environment.
7	8:30	8:50	Discuss 2022 Work Plan / May agenda Items
8	8:50	9:00	Staff Reports: Low Flow Fishing Closure status Commissioner Reports and Announcements
9		9:00	Adjourn

Items of Interest:

1. Fish and Game Commission regulatory announcements: [New and Proposed Regulations - 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. Staff summary of Item 26 for FGC meeting on April 21, 2022: [Staff Summary April 20-21, 2022 \(ca.gov\)](#)
 - a. See page 8 for summary of changes suggested for San Lorenzo Low Flow closure

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

Meeting Roles and Rules:

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.

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 two 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.



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

Meeting Minutes March 3, 2022

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:02 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**

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

P = Present E = Excused A = Absent

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **Motion to Approve Minutes:** Baron, **Second:** Jankovitz,
- **All Ayes:** Minutes approved

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Jean Brockelbank: Voiced support for multiple aspects of the 2022 Workplan, specifically the following items: invasive species, riparian corridor protection, expanded significant tree ordinance, RCIS strategic plan, wildlife corridors and open spaces, and Vision Santa Cruz Wild,
- Michael Lewis: Wished to bring the North Coast Facilities Management Plan to the attention of the Commissioners. This plan would create a roadmap for recreational activities along the North Coast with possible impacts on wildlife:
 - [Solicitations: Reference # 21P3-005 \(santa-cruz.ca.us\)](#) Solicitation now closed
- Tracey Weiss, Executive Director of O'Neill Sea Odyssey: The school field trip program will be restarting this April for in person classes. The funding provided by the FWAC has allowed for equitable access to the program by paying for busing of students

5. **PRESENTATION ON MOSQUITO FISH BY SCC VECTOR CONTROL:** Amanda Poulsen, Assistant Vector Control Manager, provided background on the Vector Control program and the life cycle of disease carrying mosquitos. Vector Control is a division of the Agricultural Commission and has 5 field technicians. The program utilizes Western Mosquito fish to manage the population of mosquitos, which spend most of their life cycle in water. Mosquito Fishes are an invasive species in California and were originally introduced in the 1930s to control mosquitos in mass. The current program is very selective in deployment and only allows release to artificial containers, such as unused pools, private artificial ponds, and horse trays. Fish are not released to natural bodies of water and are not allowed in artificial bodies that maybe flooded. Individuals requesting fish are interviewed to determine suitability of the site. Once confirmed, individuals can pick up fish at the Vector Control office but are encouraged

to allow county staff to release the fish at the property. County staff will also collect fish that are no longer needed for free and return them to the programs breed stock. Fish were used to control mosquito breeding in pools left intact after the CZU fire. Commissioner questions and answers from Amanda Poulsen (AP) are as follows.

- **Somerton:** How well are staff able to trap fish? **AP:** Very well. Typically drain pool slightly and seine the pool with two staff. Any non-target species are placed back in water body.
- **Alter:** Are there other potential predators or dispersal methods? **AP:** Not as familiar with predators, but likely not many native predators. Humans are only known source of dispersal
- **Gomez:** How are mosquitos controlled in natural bodies that Vector Control monitors? **AP:** Typically, will educate property owners about possible changes to make the water body less suitable for mosquito breeding, but as last resort will use special type of bacteria to control mosquitos.
- **Gomez:** Ask to add language to informational material that: “these fish can out compete some **endangered** species”
- **Gomez:** Are fish being added to Lompico Pond, a county owned parcel with lots of mosquitos? **AP:** Will look into, but not many mosquitos present a few years back
- **Gomez:** Any methods recommended for controlling “Tree hole” mosquito? **AP:** Yes, apply garlic oil spray to the individual tree, but larger scale use would be difficult to do without pesticides. New traps are being considered that use special fungus that binds to female mosquito
- **Jankovitz:** Are their permit obligations for stocking a site and are biologists onsite to assess whether these sites are acceptable. **AP:** Oversight for this program is from programs staff biologist. No permits because fish are only applied to artificial bodies.
- **Jankovitz/Gomez:** Are there alternatives to having a person pick up fish? For example, only allowing a staff person to release fish. **AP:** We will be considering the removal of a pickup option and only allowing staff delivery, as is done in Contra Costa County. The pickup option has continued because many are repeat customers, and some don’t want staff to see their home. It also helps to save staff time.
- **Public Comment, Brockelbank:** Suggest customers take a picture of the water body prior to release.

6. **REVIEW LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LOW-FLOW FISHING CLOSURES:** Commissioners had no comment on the final version of the letter. Has been sent before the Board of Supervisors for consideration at the March 8th meeting (was approved unanimously).

7. **DISCUSS DRAFT 2022 WORKPLAN:** Commissioners made comments on the revised draft 2022 Work Plan and provided some updates on objectives.

- **Crawford:** Doing Riparian Corridor background research for future discussions
- **Somerton:** Researching the groups with jurisdiction over Marine conservation to determine what possible roles of the county play.

8. **Discuss May Agenda:**

- Share hunting: Possibility for our county, but not for bow hunting, Victoria Bar manages the share hunting program. Property Owners enter an agreement with DFW to have highly regulated hunting on the property over 5 days.
- **Alter:** Distemper outbreak in Foxes
- **Crawford:** Invasive species,
- **Michelsen:** CalFlora, Ag Committee website has list of species
- **Baron:** general ordinance possibilities

- **Michelsen:** Rich Sampson, CalFire chief, was approached for March meeting, but unable to attend. May join may meeting. He oversees sig tree ordinance.
- **Vote to Continue or End 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 END virtual meetings with hybrid possibility:** Gomez, Second: Alter
 - **All Aye:** June meeting will be held in person with the possibility to return to virtual should the state return to lock downs

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9. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Staff Report: Highway 17 Wildlife Underpass began construction on 3/2/2022. Suggest making recommendations for other wildlife corridor projects that could be done on County managed roads. Public Works puts out a Capital Improvement Program document each fiscal year where a possible project could be listed for future consideration.: [SCC Public Works CIP 2020/21.pdf \(santa-cruz.ca.us\)](https://www.santa-cruz.ca.us/Portals/0/SCC%20Public%20Works%20CIP%202020/21.pdf)

10. ADJOURN. Motion to Adjourn: Michelsen, **Second:** Jankovitz
All Aye: meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Low-Flow Restrictions: South Central Coast Streams

- Add a minimum low flow target of 40 cubic feet per second at gauging station on San Lorenzo River
- Most heavily fished steelhead stream in coastal Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties
- One of the longest fishable sections of any stream in District 5
- Increases protection of Coho Salmon in Scott and Waddell creeks

- Renumber subsections (c)(2)-(9) to (c)(1)-(8) and correct other references.
- *Subsection 8.00(c)(3)*. Renumbered (6). The Department is proposing to incorporate a low-flow closure trigger of less than 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) measured at the U.S.G.S gauge (#11160500) in the San Lorenzo R. at Big Trees (in Henry Cowell Redwood State Park). Low-flow closure triggers based on publicly available stream gauging have been established and designated in Section 8.00 of the fishing regulations for other steelhead fisheries.
 - The rationale for such a regulation is that steelhead populations in these systems are already vulnerable and fishing at flows where passage is impeded may subject fish to higher contact rates with anglers due to their visibility and their movement being restricted and increase the likelihood that they experience adverse effects or suffer post-spawn mortality due to capture under potentially stressful environmental conditions. Low flow conditions are particularly likely to occur during dry and drought years, and water and air temperatures may be higher at such times which could increase the likelihood that contacted fish could suffer adverse effects. These types of impacts have the potential to negatively impact the population.
- **Section 29.85 Recreational Take of Crabs.**
 - *Subsection (a)*. Remove reference to the Recreational Crab Trap Validation “current year license” in anticipation of the upcoming 365-day fishing license implemented through changes in statute resulting from Assembly Bill 817 (Wood, 2021).

(c) Necessity of the Proposed Regulation Changes

The proposed regulations are necessary to align California’s inland sport fishery regulations with the Department’s current fisheries management goals and objectives, and to protect ESA-listed species including California Coastal Chinook Salmon, Northern California Steelhead, Central California Coast Steelhead, South-Central California Coast Steelhead, Central California Coast Coho Salmon, and Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Coho Salmon, from fishing induced mortality and injury.

(d) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

As stated in Fish and Game Code Section 1700, Conservation of Aquatic Resources, it is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local fisheries and distant water fisheries based in California in harmony with international law, respecting fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the ocean and other waters under the jurisdiction and influence of the state. The objectives of this policy 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 sport fish seasons, size limits, and bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations sport fish to ensure their continued existence.