



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

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION Report for Calendar Years 2015 and 2016

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 six times a year in March, May, June, September, November and December at 7:00 pm in the Fifth Floor Conference Room, Room 510, at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2016, the Commission consists of Chairperson Chris Berry, representing the 1st District, and Vice Chair Colin Noyes, representing the 3rd District. Other commissioners include Lois Robin, 1st District; Rogers Johnson and Sandra Baron, 2nd District; Jodi Frediani, 3rd District; Isaac Shikuma and Russel Maridon, 4th District; Matt Freeman and David Grant, 5th District.

Commission Staff

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

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2015 and 2016

The Commission followed closely the County's development of a Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance. The Commission discussed this issue at several meetings and submitted two comment letters to the Board.

The Commission continues to follow steelhead and coho salmon recovery efforts. Over the past two years, the Commission has reviewed and commented on the County's Steelhead and Coho Salmon Conservation Strategy, and heard updates about recovery projects and the completion of the Multi-Species Recovery Plan that includes Central California Coast Steelhead.

In 2016, the Commission recommended that the Board change their name from the Fish and Game Advisory Commission to the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission.

Over the past two years, communication among the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, Water Advisory Commission and Commission on the Environment has improved. The 3 commissions held a joint meeting in May 2015 and the chairs have met several times to discuss common interests. For example, the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission discussed trash in the Pajaro River several times. Staff then attended a Commission on the Environment meeting where it was decided that that commission will be leading the effort to track County policies for illegal dumping.

In 2015 and 2016, the Commission heard presentations about the San Lorenzo River Alliance, California Water Fix, Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, low flow fishing regulations, the Resource Conservation District's Soquel Creek Streamflow Stewardship Project, and local groundwater and streamflow enhancement projects. Commissioners and guests provided information on a wide range of topics, including a salmonella outbreak in pine siskins, the Soberanes Fire, mountain lion depredation permits and the Coast Dairies-Cotoni National Monument proposal.

In 2015, the Commission recommended funding to ten organizations that included bird walks along the San Lorenzo River, marine outreach signs on the Santa Cruz wharf, a video about climate change, a kiosk at Scott Creek beach and funding for marine education. In 2016, a public grants program has resulted in numerous quality proposals. The Commission will be making funding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in early 2017.

Additional Activities

The Commission provides a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or issues on fish and wildlife related issues. This type of activity is well suited to the Commission as many members of the public find it difficult to communicate their concerns to the appropriate agencies. In the past two years, the Commission heard public comments in support of changing the name of the commission to Fish and Wildlife.

Future Goals

The Commission will continue to follow the development of a cannabis cultivation ordinance, coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning, and riparian corridor enhancement. The Commission will continue to fund grant projects that benefit local fish and wildlife species and their habitat. The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Attendance 2015 and 2016

Commissioner	Mar '15	Apr '15	Sept '15	Nov '15	Dec '15	Mar '16	May '16	Aug '16	Sept '16	Nov '16	Dec '16
Berry	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Robin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Johnson	P	Ex	Ex	P	P	Ex	P	P	P	P	P
Baron	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Frediani	Ex	Ex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Noyes	Ex	P	P	P	Ab	Ex	P	Ex	P	P	Ex
Shikuma	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Maridon	P	P	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	P	P	P	Ex	Ab
Freeman	Ex	P	Ex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Grant	x	P	Ex	P	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	P	Ab	Ab

P = Present Ex= Excused Ab = Absent x = not on the commission