



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMISSION 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Roles of the Commission

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to fish and wildlife, and also recommends projects for funding with the county's portion of Fish and Game fine monies. Recently, the County District Attorney Office, working with the Commission, has been successful in directing over \$100,000 in civil penalties and stipulated judgment fines from violations to Water and Fish and Game Codes into the Fish and Game Commission account. These funds are used for local stream enhancement projects as well as wildlife education.

Meeting Dates, Time and Location

The Commission meets the first Thursday of every month, except January and July, at 7:00 pm at 701 Ocean Street, Planning Department Conference Room, Santa Cruz.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2003, the Commission is made up of Chairperson Kevin Collins representing the 5th District; Vice Chair Philip Christ representing the 2nd District; and other Commissioners including Dennis Murphy and James Ritchey 1st District, Harlie Peterson 2nd District, Jodi Frediani and Homer "Bud" McCrary 3rd District, Frank Estrada 4th District, and Gary Lease 5th District. One vacancy exists in the 4th District.

Commission Staff

Donna Bradford, Resource Planner, with the Planning Department, is the administrative staff to the Commission.

Attendance:

See attached roster

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2003

The Fish and Game Advisory Commission funded a number of local fishery and wildlife projects. Allocations using regular fine monies were awarded to the Monterey Bay Salmon & Trout Project, for partial funding for the purchase of fish ultrasound imaging equipment; CalTIP for education outreach; Patricia McQuade , Pinto Lake Park to fund printing of educational materials, National Marine Fisheries Service for partial funding of a portable fish weir, and Bay Net Volunteer Docent Program to provide for recruitment and training materials.

The Commission received funds in the amount of \$100,000 from a stipulated judgment that specified the funding for remedial environmental and education projects in the San Lorenzo River Watershed. The Commission allocated these funds to the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District for removal of three fish passage barriers, the Mount Herman Conference Center for partial funding for the enhancement of an existing step pool structure to improve fish passage and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department for the engineered design and construction of a slough-wall at the existing toe of the Zayante Road landslide, Happy Valley School for the Branciforte Creek environmental science program, Mar Vista School of a steelhead Trout Education project, and San Lorenzo Valley High School's Watershed Academy.

The Commission continued to follow issues related to the listing of steelhead and coho salmon, including the Santa Cruz County FishNet 4C Implementation Plan, the posting of fishing regulation signs and provided comments on the proposed changes to the state sportfishing regulations for steelhead. In addition, the Commission followed several other topics of interest including the CALTIP Program, the removal of vegetation by PG&E at the base of high voltage power poles and the resultant erosion from the practice and the issues associated with farmed fish. In addition, the Commission attended An educational tour of the NOAA Fisheries facility in Santa Cruz.

Additional Activities

The Commission continued to provide a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or issues on fish and game 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.

Future Goals

The Commission will continue to fund grant projects that are of benefit to local fish and wildlife species and their habitat. The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and game issues, and will continue to support California Department of Fish and Game enforcement. The Commission will continue to review proposed legislation for listed species, with particular emphasis on recovery of these species.

Fish and Game Commission Attendance 2003

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ritchey	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	Ex	P	P
Murphy	P	Ex	P	P	P	Abs	X	P	P	P
Peterson	P	P	P	P	P	Ex	X	P	P	P
Christ	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P
Frediani	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	P	P	X	P	P	P
McCrary	P	P	P	Abs	P	P	X	P	P	Ex
Estrada	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	Ex	P
Castro	P	P	P	P	P	Res	---	---	---	---
Lease	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	P
Collins	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	P	Ex

P = Present
 Ex = Excused
 Abs = Absent
 Res = Resigned
 --- = Not on Commission
 X = Meeting Cancelled