



# 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

June 3, 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](mailto:kristen.kittleson@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
5			Public Comments
6	7:15	8:00	Presentation and Discussion: Regional Conservation Investment Strategy – Grace Blakeslee, Regional Transportation Commission and Jodi McGraw, Jodi McGraw Consulting.
7	8:00	8:15	Discuss unhoused encampments in riparian areas
8	8:15	8:30	Discuss subcommittees for Work Plan
9	8:30	8:40	Discuss September agenda
10			Staff Report on Fish and Game Propagation Fund
11	8:40	9:00	Staff Reports
12			Review Correspondence
13			Commissioner Reports and Announcements
		9:00	Adjourn

### 9. 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. If you have questions, please contact Kristen Kittleson at [kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto: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,,987050745# United States, Sacramento

Phone Conference ID: 987 050 745#

[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](mailto:kristen.kittleson@santacruzcounty.us)) and she will call on people who want to comment.



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## FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION

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### Meeting Minutes May 6, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 7:01 pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
  - Present: Commissioners Berry, Crawford, Baron, Somerton, Alter, Wise, Buchwald, Gómez, Michelsen
  - Excused: Jankovitz
  - Absent: none
3. **GUEST INTRODUCTIONS:** Erin Seghesio, Mandy Ingham and Bill Stevens, NOAA Fisheries; Sean Cochran and Steve Schindler, CDFW
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Commissioner Somerton made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Alter seconded the motion. All aye, the minutes were approved; Commissioner Crawford and Buchwald abstained since they were not present at the last meeting.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None.
6. **Update on Status of Fishing Regulations and Potential Changes for Santa Cruz County.** Sean Cochran, CDFW, explained that the regulations for Inland Fisheries have been substantially updated, but that these changes do not affect Santa Cruz County. There has been a 5-year process to simplify and align fishing for non-anadromous fishing throughout the state, including trout fishing. For anadromous fisheries, including Santa Cruz County, there will be a separate process to simplify and align regulations, which will most likely result in a new fishing season of Jan.1-March 31 open all days of the week. There will be a public process for these regulation updates and Sean will provide information to the commission on when this is expected to happen and during the process. Bill Stevens, NOAA Fisheries, advocated for the implementation of low-flow fishing closures for Santa Cruz County. Sean will find out about the current status of these efforts and report back to the commission. Commissioner Wise asked about allowing only artificial lures with barbless hooks for San Lorenzo; Sean responded that this could be part of regulation changes.
7. **Coho Salmon- Species in the Spotlight.** Erin Seghesio, NOAA Fisheries, gave a presentation about coho salmon and recovery efforts, and along with Mandy Ingham and Bill Stevens, responded to questions. Snorkeling and spawning monitoring efforts were recently unfunded; Commissioner Alter asked about partnering with CSUMB; NOAA has been partnering with UCSC, but worth exploring this option. A very high priority is to develop a new conservation hatchery for coho salmon for the Santa Cruz Mountains Diversity Stratum. NOAA Fisheries estimated that it will cost \$300,000 for a feasibility study and an estimated \$25 million for the facility with annual operating costs of \$1-2 million. The existing conservation hatchery facility at Kingfisher Flat should be up and running by September.
8. **Discuss 2021 Work Plan; Questions for Regional Conservation Investment Strategy and June Agenda.** Work Plan discussion included value of the time spent on discussing the work plan and how the work plan can help direct efforts and motivate commissioner involvement. As a new commissioner, Commissioner Crawford reported that the Work Plan helped communicate issues that the commission is working on. General agreement to reduce future time spent on the Work Plan for 2021. Staff had provided Work Plan updated from March meeting to include impacts from homeless encampments on riparian areas. RCIS will be focus of June meeting; Chair Berry asked how recent Rail Trail decisions

could affect RCIS. Commissioner Baron asked Staff to communicate with Planning Dept on timeline for updating natural resource ordinances, to report back in June.

9. **Elect Chair and Vice Chair to start July 1, 2021.** Commissioner Somerton made a motion to nominate Chris Berry for Chair; Commissioner Baron seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, all aye; the motion passed. Commission Gomez made a motion to nominate David Somerton as Vice Chair; Commissioner Wise seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, all aye; the motion passed.
10. **Commissioner Reports and Announcements.** Captain Schindler reported that the State Fish and Game Commission approved statewide changes to the steelhead and coho salmon fishing regulations. CDFW will provide more information at the May meeting. Captain Schindler also reported that we have just one warden locally. Commissioner Buchwald provided information on striped bass in Pajaro River.
11. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

**County of Santa Cruz**  
**Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission**  
**2021 Work Plan**  
**Dated: May 6, 2021**

**Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS)**

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

Learn about RCIS process

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

Participate in public meetings.

Consider letter to BOS re: RCIS comments

Monitor development of final plan.

**Coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning**

Learn about 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.

**Public Grants Program**

Monitor - Fish and Game Propagation Fund balance

**Action** – Decide on fund amount to proceed with Public Grants program in 2021 (Sept)

**CZU Fire Recovery**

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.

**Riparian Corridor Protection and Enhancement**

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.

**Monarch butterfly conservation**

Learn more about monarch butterfly conservation and planting milkweed in coastal areas.

**Action** – develop Facebook or other social media posts about monarch butterfly conservation.

## **Wildlife Corridors and Open Space Conservation and Management**

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**

Action – Create a strategic plan for habitat and wildlife.

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

Learn about invasive species.

## **Oak Tree Protection**

Learn about how the County currently protects oak trees.

## **Expand Significant Tree Ordinance outside Coastal Zone**

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

## **Marine Protection**

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.

## **Cannabis cultivation ordinance**

Monitor implementation of Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance

## **Provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues**

Learn about what community considers important fish and wildlife topics.

Action – request CDFW to test fish in Pajaro for eating safety.