

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey
Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles
Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay
Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
www.fgc.ca.gov

May 6, 2014



TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Sections 300 and 708, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to upland game bird, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on May 9, 2014.

Please note the dates of the public hearings relate to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Mr. Scott Gardner, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 801-6257, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Caren Woodson
Associate Government Program Analyst

Enclosure

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 203 and 355, of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret, or make specific sections 200, 202, 203.1, 215, 220, 355, and 356 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 300, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Upland Game Birds.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) provide general hunting seasons for taking resident and migratory upland game birds under Section 300. The Department is recommending six regulation changes under this section as follows:

1. Adjust annual number of sage grouse hunting permits by zone.

Current regulations under subsection 300(a)(1)(D)4. provide a number of permits for the general sage grouse season in each of four zones. At this time the Department has proposed a range of permits specific for all four hunt zones. The final permit numbers will be proposed in June after spring lek counts are completed and annual population data are analyzed. Permit ranges for sage grouse hunting in 2014 are recommended as follows:

East Lassen: 0-50 (two-bird) permits
Central Lassen: 0-50 (two-bird) permits
North Mono: 0-100 (one-bird) permits
South Mono: 0-100 (one-bird) permits

2. Administrative changes to subsection 300(a)(1)(D)5. to reflect the Department's change to application procedures for sage grouse permits under the new Automated License Data System (ALDS).
3. Establish a longer general archery season for pheasants.

Current regulations provide for a 23-day early pheasant archery season under subsection 300(a)(2)(A)1.a. and a 44-day general pheasant archery season under subsection 300(a)(1)(A)1.b.. The proposed regulation re-establishes a later pheasant archery-only season, and extends the season for 28 days, to allow for hunting opportunity both before and after the general pheasant season. However, archery equipment cannot be used on Type A and B wildlife areas during the pheasant and waterfowl seasons per subsection 551(b)(6).

4. Open Eurasian collared-dove season year-round statewide

In 2013, Eurasian collared-dove season was opened all year in Imperial County under subsection 300(b)(1)(C). The changes proposed by the Department for the 2014-2015 season, and thereafter, would extend the all year open season for Eurasian collared-dove to apply statewide.

5. Increase the maximum daily bag limit to 15 for mourning and white-winged doves in aggregate; of which no more than 10 may be white-winged doves.

The recommendations from the Pacific Flyway Council at the March 11, 2014, meeting was for the "Standard" regulatory alternative as prescribed by the mourning dove harvest strategy for doves in the Western Management Unit. In California, the daily bag limit for the Standard alternative is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in aggregate; of which no more than 10 may be white-winged doves.

6. Minor editorial changes are also provided for consistency and clarity. The Department also proposes to make the following editorial changes:

Correct two omissions of necessary text. Adding text to subsection 300(a)(1)(C) specifying: Species, 2. Seasons, 3. Daily Bag and Possession Limits. Also a new subparagraph is added to 300(a)(2)(C) specifying: 3. Area: Statewide.

The Eurasian collared-dove, spotted dove, and ringed turtle-dove are resident game bird species (per Fish and Game Code §3500 and 3683). For clarity and consistency, these species will be moved from under subsection 300(b), Migratory Upland Game Birds, to subsection 300(a), Resident Upland Game Birds.

Benefits of the Proposed Regulations

Adoption of sustainable upland game seasons, bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of upland game to ensure their continued existence.

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202, and 203, has the sole authority to regulate upland game bird hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found the proposed changes pertaining to hunting of resident game birds are consistent with Sections 550-553, 630, 703 and 4501 of Title 14. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the River Lodge Conference Center 1800 Riverwalk Drive, in Fortuna, California, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley, at 901 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, California, on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before July 24, 2014, at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 1, 2014. All comments must be received no later than August 6, 2014, at the hearing in San Diego, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Caren Woodson at the preceding address or phone number. **Scott Gardner, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone 916-801-6257, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from

the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposal clarifies and strengthens the enforceability of portions of the current regulation.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts the proposed action would have on the creation or elimination of jobs or businesses in California or on the expansion of businesses in California; and, does not anticipate benefits to worker safety, because the regulations propose only minor changes to current seasons and bag limits.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. The proposed regulations are intended to provide continued recreational opportunity to the public. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's upland game resources. The fees that hunters pay for licenses and stamps are used for conservation.

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/ Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated:

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey
Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles
Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay
Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
www.fgc.ca.gov



June 17, 2014

TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Section 180.6, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to a minimum hole diameter for commercial hagfish traps, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on June 20, 2014.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Dr. Craig Shuman, Manager, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, telephone number (805) 568-1246, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Fonbuena
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 8403 and 9022 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific said sections of said Code, proposes to add Section 180.6, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to Pacific hagfish traps.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current statutes, California Fish and Game Code Sections 9000.5(a)-(d), 9001, and 9001.6, define the types of traps used in the hagfish fishery, require a general trap permit, specify maximum number of traps allowed by type, and prohibit possession of other species or gear while targeting or having in possession hagfish. No statute or regulation exists requiring a minimum hole diameter for hagfish traps.

The proposed regulation would require all traps used within the hagfish fishery to have a minimum hole diameter of 9/16 inch. Its purpose is to sustain the hagfish resource by promoting escapement of smaller, immature hagfish.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed regulation benefits the environment. Adoption of measures to ensure escapement of immature hagfish will help maintain sufficient populations of hagfish to ensure the continued sustainability of this resource.

EVALUATION OF INCOMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS:

Section 20, Article IV, of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Fish and Game Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to regulate the commercial take of finfish using traps (sections 8403 and 9022, Fish and Game Code). No other State agency has the authority to promulgate commercial fishing regulations. The proposed regulations are compatible with sections 180, 180.2, 180.4 and 180.5, Title 14, CCR, which address other aspects of commercial take of finfish using traps. The Commission has searched the CCR for any regulations regarding trap hole size diameter for the commercial take of hagfish and has found no such regulation; therefore the Commission has concluded that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley, 901 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, California, on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before July 24, 2014 at the address given below, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2014. All comments must be received no later than August 6, 2014, at the hearing in San Diego, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Sherrie Fonbuena at the preceding address or phone number.

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (805) 568-1246, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This is an export-only fishery, with very few participating fishery receivers. The demand from the primary importing country has been stable for several years and is increasing.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

No impacts are anticipated on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state, the creation of new businesses or elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses in California. The commercial fishery is influenced primarily by the foreign market demand for hagfish.

There is no anticipated change in benefit to the health and welfare of California residents. The fishery is entirely for foreign export, so the regulation is unlikely to affect the health and welfare of California residents.

The proposed regulation does not affect worker safety.

There are anticipated benefits to the environment by the sustainable management of California's hagfish resource.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission anticipates minor costs to some hagfish fishermen to drill larger holes in their current traps. Some fishermen already comply but the number is not known. The cost for the work to comply is estimated to be \$500.00 per fisherman.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.

(g) Costs Imposed on any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: June 6, 2014

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey
Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles
Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay
Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
www.fgc.ca.gov

June 17, 2014



TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Section 786.9, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to take of rare plants, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on June 20, 2014.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Mr. Craig Martz, Regulations Unit Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, telephone number (916) 653-4674, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheri Tiemann".

Sheri Tiemann
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission

Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Section 1907 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 1900, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912 and 1913 of said Code, proposes to add Section 786.9, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to take of rare plants.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) has not yet adopted regulations to be implemented by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to govern the take, possession, propagation, transportation, exportation, importation, or sale of rare or endangered plants under the authority of the Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA), (Fish & Game Code subsection (a) of Section 1907). Although the Department may permit the take of threatened and endangered plants under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and other statutes, the Department does not have the ability to permit take, possession, propagation, transportation, exportation, importation, or sale of rare plants.

There are 64 species, subspecies and varieties of plants that have been designated as rare by the Commission. The proposed regulation will allow the Department to permit the take, possession, propagation, transportation, exportation, importation, or sale of rare plants using the same procedures and subject to the same conditions in Section 783 *et seq.*, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to incidental take permits; in Section 786 *et seq.*, Title 14, CCR, relating to Voluntary Local Programs; in Fish and Game Code Section 2800 *et seq.* relating to Natural Community Conservation Plans; or in Fish and Game Code Section 2089.2 *et seq.* relating to Safe Harbor Agreements. The proposed regulation will allow the person or entity seeking the take authorization to select which one of the four programs listed above that they would like to use. The proposed regulation will also allow the Department to permit the take, possession, propagation, transportation, exportation, importation or sale of rare plants for scientific, educational or management purposes pursuant to either Fish and Game Code subsection (a) of Section 2081 or Fish and Game Code Section 1002 *et seq.* and Section 650 *et seq.*, Title 14, CCR, at the Department's discretion.

The NPPA prohibits take, possession or sale of endangered or rare native plants (Fish & Game Code Section 1908), but includes exceptions for some activities, and the proposed regulation will not change or limit those existing exceptions. The proposed regulation also includes a "grandfather" provision for plans, permits, or other agreements that may have inadvertently authorized rare plant impacts in the past, and make such authorizations effective as of the day they were approved.

The proposed regulation will promote the purpose of the NPPA and intent of the Legislature to preserve, protect and enhance endangered or rare native plants of California by allowing the Department to permit the incidental take of rare plants where the take is minimized and fully mitigated or using the other mechanisms provided in the proposed regulation that will provide for protection, enhancement, conservation or other benefits to rare plants. The proposed regulation will provide more options, more certainty and less liability for the regulated community when it comes to completing projects, because the regulation will provide a way to undertake activities that are now prohibited because they may involve take, possession, propagation, transportation, exportation, importation or sale of rare plants. The proposed regulation will ensure that there is no confusing regulatory overlap that would require obtaining different permits with different standards and requirements under CESA and the NPPA for the same activity. The Department needs the ability to write scientific, educational, or management permits for rare plants to facilitate important scientific research and important conservation and management activities to

help prevent the extinction of rare plants.

The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the CCR and finds no other state agency regulations pertaining to the take of rare plants. Eighteen plants that are designated by California as rare are also designated as threatened, endangered or candidates under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), however the proposed regulation is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing federal regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be at the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley 901 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, California, on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before July 24, 2014 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2014. All comments must be received no later than August 6, 2014 at the hearing in San Diego. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Sheri Tiemann at the preceding address or phone number. **Craig Martz, Regulations Unit Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 653-4674, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This regulation will permit greater certainty and flexibility for business pursuits.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. In situations where take of rare plants was otherwise not allowed by law, the regulation will provide a mechanism for take that was otherwise unavailable, thereby increasing certainty and flexibility for businesses in California in situations where a rare plant could be taken by a project. The proposed regulation will not require a permit or other authorization for rare plants where the take is otherwise allowed by law, and therefore will not place an additional burden on business in those situations.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents from better protection of the State's natural resources. The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety from the proposed regulation. The Commission anticipates benefits to the environment through better regulation of the take of rare plants by the Department, and the ability of the Department to permit important research, conservation, and management actions for rare plants.

- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

In some situations where rare plants are present the proposed regulation will eliminate a barrier to pursuing the highest value use of land. The permit and mitigation costs to a representative private person or business would likely be offset by the increased returns on project that would have previously been prohibited due to the presence of a rare plant. For example, if a permit were to be issued to take, possess, propagate, transport, export, import or sell rare plants for activities that are not allowed by the NPPA exemptions (Fish & Game Code subsections (b) and (c) of Section 1907, Section 1912, and Section 1913.) by the same procedures and subject to the same conditions as an incidental take permit pursuant to Fish and Game Code subsection (b) of Section 2081, applying for and complying with such a permit would mean that the representative private person or business would have to minimize and fully mitigate the take allowed by the permit, and ensure adequate funding to conduct the minimization and full mitigation. This minimization and full mitigation could involve habitat restoration, the purchase and management of compensatory habitat, or the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank. The costs of complying with such a permit would vary depending upon the extent of the take being permitted, the extent and quality of the habitat being removed or disturbed, and other site specific factors.

To quantify the cost to an applicant to comply with a rare plant permit issued by the Department using the same procedures and conditions as in Fish and Game Code subsection (b) of Section 2081, the Department reviewed incidental take permits that were issued by the Department for threatened and endangered plant species from 2000 to present. The Department's records for many of these permits show that a security was required or other financial information was provided. The Department's records indicate that the average security or other cost for compliance with an incidental take permit that covers at least one threatened or endangered plant species is approximately \$879,000 per permit; however many of these permits also cover animal species, so the Department assumed that each species covered by an incidental take permit contributed equally to its cost. Therefore the average cost for the threatened and endangered plant species' contribution to an incidental take permit is approximately \$531,000.

However, because a representative private person or business could continue to avoid conducting any of the activities that are currently prohibited by the NPPA, they would not necessarily incur any additional costs that may be associated with obtaining and complying with authorization to take, possess, propagate, transport, export, import or sell rare plants provided by the proposed regulation.

Since 2000 there have been an average of 4 incidental take permits issued by the Department per year that cover at least one threatened or endangered plant species. There are approximately 42 percent as many rare plants (64) as there are threatened and endangered plants (154). Applying this proportion to the average annual number of incidental take permits covering at least one threatened or endangered plant species we estimate that approximately 1.7 incidental take permits covering at least one rare plant could be issued per year. Because incidental take permits often cover multiple different species, this does not necessarily indicate that 1.7 additional permits will be issued per year.

- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated:

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey
Jack Baylis, Vice President
Los Angeles
Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay
Richard Rogers, Member
Santa Barbara
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
www.fgc.ca.gov

June 17, 2014



TO ALL INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES:

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to sections 163 and 164, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to harvest of herring and harvesting of herring eggs, which will be published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on June 20, 2014.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Mr. Ryan Bartling, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, telephone number (707) 576-2877, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Sheri Tiemann
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 1050, 5510, 8389, 8550, 8552.1, 8553 and 8555, of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 713, 1050, 7850, 7850.5, 7852.2, 7881, 8043, 8053, 8389, 8550, 8550.5, 8552, 8552.1, 8552.2, 8552.3, 8552.4, 8552.5, 8552.6, 8552.7, 8552.8, 8553, 8554, 8555, 8556, 8557, and 8559 of said Code, proposes to amend sections 163 and 164, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to the commercial herring fishery.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Sections 163 and 164, Title 14, CCR, specify that herring may be taken for commercial purposes only under a revocable permit, subject to such regulations as the Fish and Game Commission shall prescribe. Current regulations specify: permittee qualifications; permit application procedures and requirements; permit limitations; permit areas; vessel identification requirements; fishing quotas; seasons; gear restrictions; and landing and monitoring requirements. Annual fishing quotas are necessary to provide for a sustainable fishery. The proposed regulatory changes in Section 163 will establish the fishing quotas for Crescent City Area, Humboldt Bay and Tomales Bay; and for the 2014-2015 season in San Francisco Bay:

- Set the Crescent City Area quota at zero (0) tons or maintain status-quo of 30 tons.
- Set the Humboldt Bay quota at zero (0) tons or maintain status-quo of 60 tons.
- Set the Tomales Bay quota at zero (0) tons or maintain status-quo of 350 tons.
- Replace the language shall "not exceed" with shall "be" with respect to the quotas selected for the Crescent City Area, Humboldt Bay and Tomales Bay.
- Set the San Francisco Bay quota for the 2014-2015 season between zero (0) and 10 percent of the 2013-2014 San Francisco Bay spawning biomass estimate for Pacific herring as provided in the 2014 Draft Supplemental Environmental Document (DSED).
- A minor editorial change will be made to Section 164 indicating a change in the revision date (Rev 2/14) because of a minor revision to the HEOK Royalty Report Form FG 143 HR.

Benefits of the Regulation

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment and the health and welfare of California residents. The proposed regulation changes are intended to set annual harvest quotas within a range that will maintain sustainable herring populations for their ecological values and commercial use. Maintaining a sustainable herring fishery encourages consumption of a nutritious food.

Consistency with State or Federal Regulations

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. Section 20, Article IV, of the State Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Fish and Game Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to regulate the commercial take of herring (sections 8550 and 8553, Fish and Game Code). The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the California Code of Regulations and finds no other state

agency regulations pertaining to the commercial take of herring. There are no comparable federal regulations for the commercial harvest of herring.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be at the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley 901 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, California, on Wednesday, August 6, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before July 24, 2014 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on July 31, 2014. All comments must be received no later than August 6, 2014 at the hearing in San Diego. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Sheri Tiemann at the preceding address or phone number. **Ryan Bartling, Marine Region, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (707) 576-2877, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The Department is providing the Commission analyses on five potential 2014-2015 quota options for San Francisco Bay ranging from zero to 10 percent of the 10-year average biomass estimate of 52,000 tons (see attached Economic Impact Assessment, EIA). The potential incremental changes to total State economic output for the no

change, zero (0) ton, 2,444 ton, 2,600 ton, or 5,200 ton quota, options are: none, \$(6,874,000), \$(2,378,000), \$(2,091,000), and \$2,691,000, respectively, relative to 2013-2014 season's 3,737 ton quota and the ex-vessel price per ton.

No adverse incremental economic impacts to businesses in California would occur under a quota allocation of 3,737 tons or more. Moreover, given the recent market conditions for herring roe (increasing demand overseas and higher prices), any allocation of 3,737 tons or less could affect the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This is evident in the recent market reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, showing a 78 percent increase (by weight) in exports of Pacific herring products from California in 2013, relative to 2012. The corresponding increase in nominal dollar value of exports of Pacific herring products from California was about 59 percent (unadjusted for inflation).

Since no commercial herring fishing activity has taken place in Tomales Bay, Humboldt Bay, and Crescent City Harbor in the last six years, we conclude no adverse incremental economic impacts to businesses under the recommended zero quota allocation for these three areas.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

Any quota option over 3,737 tons will result in positive incremental contributions to employment for the State: for example, an increase of about 38 jobs for a quota of 5,200 tons (see attached EIA). Conversely, a zero (0) ton or 2,444 ton allowable quota could adversely impact as many as 97 to 33 jobs in the fishing industry and related industries. This is based on an employment multiplier of 27 jobs per each million dollar change in direct output from commercial herring fishing activities.

Most commercial herring industry participants are small businesses (as defined in California Government Code Section 11342.610), which may incur a detriment under a quota option less than 3,202 tons for San Francisco Bay. This 3,202 tons was the total harvest of Pacific herring landed during the 2013-2014 season, though the allowable quota was higher at 3,737 tons.

It is unlikely that any of the proposed quota options would alone cause the elimination of existing businesses in the State. This is in light of the favorable market conditions currently enjoyed by the herring processors and exporters. Given these promising market trends, it is possible that any quota option over 3,737 tons could potentially encourage investment, expansion, and creation of some new businesses in the State.

Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment and the health and welfare of California residents. The proposed regulation changes are intended to set annual harvest quotas within a range that will maintain sustainable herring populations