



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission AGENDA November 19, 2019

The Commission meets the THIRD Tuesday each month from 6:30pm through 8:30pm. Agenda items and supporting info should be mailed to HCF&GAC; PO Box 922; Ferndale, CA 95536; Phone: 707.786.4902 email: nkaytis4@gmail.com up to two weeks following previous meeting. MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE ELK'S CLUB; 445 HERRICK AVENUE, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

1. Call to Order. Introduction of guests.
2. SPEAKER: Mitch Farrow, Ocean Ranch Project
3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Members of the public may address the Commission on any item of interest that is not on the current agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act (Govt. Code Section 54950 et seq.) action or Commission discussion cannot be taken on open time matters, other than to receive the comments, and if deemed necessary, to refer the subject matter to the appropriate agency or department, for follow-up and/or to schedule the matter on a subsequent Commission Agenda.
4. Approve minutes – August 20, 2019 and September 17, 2019 (MOTION). No quorum in October.
5. MODIFICATIONS: Change the order of, or drop an item.
6. CORRESPONDENCE – Scanned and emailed to commissioners as received. Passed around the table during the meeting. Copies will be made for the public if requested.
7. OLD BUSINESS – Reports

The Chair will (1) announce each item, (2) open for discussion by Commission, (3) Open for 3 min. each public discussion, (4) bring item back to the commission for discussion.

- a. Grants Requests for Grant Monies – Secretary Nancy Kaytis-Slocum
- b. Area River Updates: Potter Valley / Eel River water / Klamath River / Trinity River / Mad River – Commissioner Denver Nelson updates on area rivers including fish, water quality, dams, etc.
- c. Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge – Update by Commissioner Phil Grunert regarding the Refuge including handicap access, alterations being made by the refuge, successful hunts on the Refuge, etc.
- d. Oak and Meadow Management – Update by Commissioner Harry Vaughn on Oak and Meadow Management.
- e. Salmon Habitat Restoration – Harry Vaughn reports on salmon sightings off the South Fork of the Eel River.
- f. Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) proposals – Update by Commissioner Mike Zamboni on various fishery issues.
- g. Marine Life Protection Areas (MLPA) monitoring – Update by Mike Zamboni regarding new information or proposed laws.
- h. Crab Fishing – Commissioner Mike Zamboni discusses the crabbing industry.
- i. Cannabis – Commissioner Hollie Hall will report on any updates to the environmental impact of Cannabis to fish and wildlife habitat.
- j. Update on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act – Comm. Hollie Hall.
 - a. Results of Tuesday, November 12, the Board of Supervisors consideration of adopting a resolution supporting the application and expressing the Board's intent to work collaboratively with water users and stakeholders to form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.
- k. On land Fish Farming proposal: Commissioner Ted Romo will report on updates.

- l. Proposed aquaculture expansion is being considered in the North Bay – Commissioner Ted Romo will be reporting on this as it unfolds.
 - m. Wind Energy – Bear River project; California is promoting development of wind energy off the coast of Eureka, 10-20 miles out. Drag fishermen are concerned about anchoring. Commissioner Romo will report on this.
 - a. Report on letter sent in favor of offshore wind energy, with safeguards.
 - n. Report on California Coastal Commission meeting on August 7-9; Humboldt Bay dredging process. Commissioner Ted Romo.
 - o. Ocean Ranch Restoration Project: CDF&W Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Ocean Ranch Restoration Project – Commissioners Romo and Grunert will keep us up to date on this item.
 - p. Wolves introduced into Western California – Commissioner Mike Zamboni will report.
 - q. Elk Herd: Commissioner Mike Zamboni reports on updates to monitoring the herd(s)
 - r. Mountain Lions – Commissioner Mike Zamboni will report on the impact of mountain lions on livestock and game.
 - s. Juvenile Salmonid health in Upper Klamath River: Commissioner Yadao Inong will discuss and report on this subject.
 - t. Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission (HCFGAC) Commissioner Qualification and Name Update Proposal – Commissioner Jim Clark will present this. See attached.
8. NEW BUSINESS
- The Chair will (1) announce each item, (2) open for discussion by Commission, (3) Open for 3 min. ea. public discussion, (4) bring item back to the commission for discussion.
- a. Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council – Commissioner Harry Vaughn will report on this newly formed council.
 - b. ACTION: Rejection of ERRP pikeminnow by CDFW – Phil Grunert and Pat Higgins
 - i. Support (or not) sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors asking them to weigh in on the Pikeminnow in the Eel River problem
 - ii. Support (or not) including a draft resolution for the Board to adopt (see attached 8bii)
9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE. Any commissioner or guest can bring legislative updates to the attention of the Commission.
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS. Upcoming meetings, gatherings, new issues to consider having to do with fishing and hunting in Humboldt County or elsewhere.
11. NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA November 19, 2019. Razor Clam – Jeff Stackhouse

The Elk's Club, at 445 Herrick Avenue in Eureka, is wheelchair accessible, and disabled parking is available in the parking lot. The Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission is committed to providing equal access to all through the provision of accommodations for individuals with disabilities as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). With 72 hours prior notice, a request for reasonable accommodation or modification can be made. Please contact the Secretary, Nancy Kaytis-Slocum at 707.786.4902 or by email nkaytis4@gmail.com or the Humboldt County ADA Coordinator at 707-445-7266, toll free 844-365-0352 or by email at ada@co.humboldt.ca.us.

AGENDA ITEM 7t -- October 15, 2019 DRAFT

Humboldt County Fish and Game Advisory Commission (HCFGAC) Commissioner Qualification and Name Update Proposal

The following suggested changes are to clarify and make consistent the Humboldt County Ordinance, web page description, and range of interests of the HCFGAC, specifically regarding non-game species. The changes will not affect the function of the HCFGAC.

The current qualifications for appointment to the HCFGAC are that prospective commissioners have an "interest in county issues regarding fishing and game hunting" and state that the HCFGAC's function is "to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in all matters concerning fish and wildlife within the County of Humboldt." It currently appears that the function of the HCFGAC extends beyond the commissioner qualifications.

Since the HCFGAC's reorganization in 1964 the public interest and appreciation in wildlife has shifted from hunting and fishing to observation. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife 5-year surveys, total dollars spent on wildlife watching exceeds hunting by a factor of about five to one, depending on the region. Recreational fishing has also declined since 1964. These changes in how the public enjoys fish and wildlife should be taken into account in the name of the Commission and commissioner qualifications.

The following changes are proposed:

1. 224-1. Establishment of Commission.

The Fish and ~~Game~~ Wildlife Advisory Commission of the County of Humboldt is hereby established. (Ord. 682, § 1, 7/8/1969; Ord. 2050, § 1,(date of approval))

2. The wording for the qualifications for commissioner on the official HCFGAC web page be changed from having an "Interest in county issues regarding fishing and game hunting" to Interest in county issues regarding fish and wildlife.

These changes would make the interests of commissioners consistent with the function of the HCFGAC "to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in all matters concerning fish and wildlife within the County of Humboldt." The change would also show the HCFGAC scope of interests to be similar to that of state and federal wildlife agencies.

Agenda item 8bii

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Resolution In Favor of Managing Sacramento Pikeminnow in the Eel River

Whereas, the Eel River is one of the most important ecosystems in Humboldt County and the region, and

Whereas, the salmon and steelhead runs of the Eel River are legendary and important economically and culturally for County residents, and

Whereas, predatory Sacramento pikeminnow were introduced to the Eel River basin, rose into the millions, and became major predators on salmon and steelhead juveniles, and

Whereas, the pikeminnow also substantially reduced other native fish such as suckers and sculpins, with unknown ecological impact, and

Whereas, the people of the Eel River basin want to see the pikeminnow controlled, if not eliminated, and

Whereas, the Eel River Recovery Project (ERRP) has worked with fisheries scientists to design a study of the pikeminnow in a key South Fork Eel River reach, and

Whereas, study results from annual dives from 2016 to 2019 have established baseline and trend data of the pikeminnow population, and

Whereas, there is a significant number of large adult pikeminnow in the reach posing substantial risk of predation of all native fish species, and

Whereas, the largest pikeminnow are aggregated in just four pools in the 12 mile study reach, likely in response to otter predation, making them vulnerable to extraction by a team of spear fishermen, and

Whereas, scientists who devised the study recommend removing the largest adult pikeminnow from the study reach for a period of ten years, the life span of the pikeminnow, which would constitute a press disturbance and possible permanently set the pikeminnow population back, and

Whereas, ERRP has a pool of qualified divers and spear fishers ready to remove adult pikeminnow as volunteers at no cost to the State of California, and

Whereas, ERRP will continue to monitor pikeminnow population trends for 10 years, including size and age, so that the experiment can be stopped if the results are not those desired in a process known as adaptive management, and

Whereas, ERRP has applied to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for a Scientific Collectors Permit to remove adult pikeminnow, and

Whereas, CDFW has turned down the ERRP SCP permit application; therefore;

Be It Resolved, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors asks that the California Fish and Game Commission to reverse the CDFW staff decision to deny ERRP an SCP and allow management of undesirable invasive species, the Sacramento pikeminnow, annually by ERRP from 2020 to 2030.