



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

6:00 PM

This meeting is held at the Elk's Club
445 Herrick Avenue
Eureka, CA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Paul Amato, Bruce Cann, Phil Grunert, Kelly McGittigan, Kelly Patton, Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, Jeff Stackhouse, Todd Wagner, Mike Zamboni and Nancy Kaytis-Slocum, Secretary. Six needed for Quorum.

Kenny Priest, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 6PM. These members were excused: Kelly Patton and Jeffery Stackhouse.

2. SPEAKER:

A. Supervisor Natalie Arroyo, 4th District.

Supervisor Natalie Arroyo introduced herself to the Commission and gave her background information. One of the things that she would like to see from us is our recommendations in goals of the general plan. If we could prioritize policies to the board especially on natural resources that would be especially helpful. Presently the county does not have much money. So now is the time to plan for when we do have money. The county and city of Eureka boat launching ramps are a problem. It was suggested that the Fire Department hose off the ramps for the time being. The Eel River dams have been providing long-term diversion. PG&E doesn't want them. They are a fish barrier. Van Arsdale and Scott dams are scheduled to be removed. They have an agreement with the Round Valley Tribe. This has been a difficult project. Lake County and Potter Valley are still fighting for water. The pulp mill demolition and remediation will happen in three to four years. Place the wind farm back on the agenda with Kelly McGittigan reporting. Supervisor Arroyo suggested placing the Supervisors on a five month rotation to attend our meetings.

3. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This portion of the meeting is reserved for people desiring to address the committee on matters not on the 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.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approve March 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

7. Fishing

- a. Appoint select to study fish cleaning stations, endowments, how to build and support ongoing needs.

Jake in Shelter Cove told Kenny Priest that their area has been designated of Special Biologic Significance. They have explored many different ways to dispose of the fish waste. Right now they are grinding and dumping the waste back into the water. Sector funding may be considered. Our Commission may be able to design a plan and get some costs so that when money is available we'll know what we can do with it. The harbor district has an ocean outflow; perhaps we can work with the Nordic fish farm after we figure out prices. Perhaps we can study successful fish cleaning stations and find out how they are handling the fish waste.

- b. PFMC –

The PFMC today voted to allow ocean and in-river recreational fishing season. The Sacramento River will not be open. This is a short 12-day season. The Commercial Fishermen decided not to go out.

OR/CA Border to latitude 40°10' N. (California KMZ) • June 7-8; • July 5-6; • July 31-August 3; • August 25-31 (C.6). In season action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook. All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Klamath Control Zone closed in August (C.4.d). See California State regulations for additional closures adjacent to the Smith, Eel, and Klamath Rivers. In 2026, the season opens May 1 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered in season (C.5). In season

action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March and/or April 2026 meeting.

B. Hunting

Commissioner Zamboni reported on Deer Hunting: B Zone tags – can only purchase one. After August it's first come, first serve.

- a. Elk Management in the North Coast Elk Management Unit. Elk Working Group. Commissioner Mike Zamboni will review the Klamath del Norte meeting minutes regarding elk management and increased hunting opportunity and give us a report.

Report not available.

C. Nordic Fish Farming –

No report.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Report to the Board of Supervisors
 - a. Frequency: every 3 months, every 6 months, or yearly.
 - b. Select dates to report
 - c. Select a subcommittee
 - d. Vote on results (see Action Item)

9. ACTION ITEMS

- A. MOTION: Written/Oral report to the Board of Supervisors (every 3 months, every 6 months, or yearly) on these dates: _____

MOTION: (Zamboni/Amato) Report to the Board of Supervisors twice a year. In the Spring we will make recommendations on Legislative updates; in the Fall we will report on fishing, hunting and other pertinent issues heard during the year. All in favor.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- B. AB411 There is a bill coming out of the Bay Area to allow mammalian composting in California. We will want to write a letter of support. – Jeffery Stackhouse

Stackhouse will report on this upon his return.

- C. Update on coyote hunting tags

Remove from agenda.

11. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Fishing and hunting regulations
- B. Legislative updates

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

- A. May 20, 2025

13. CARRYOVERS FROM MEETING

These become NEW BUSINESS for the next meeting.

Place the wind farm back on the agenda with Kelly McGittigan reporting.

These items were noted by Supervisor Natalie Arroyo

- Contact City of Eureka/ Humboldt Bay Fire about washing down the City boat launch ramps. I contacted City Manager Miles Slattery right away, and he said he would talk with harbor staff to "see what we can do". I'll let you know if I get any further updates.
- Contact Supervisor Starkey who serves on the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors and represents the Crescent City community to learn how they permitted their fish cleaning station and who manages the fish waste. Supervisor Starkey and I have an appointment next Wednesday morning when we will both be in Sacramento at a conference, so I'll ensure we discuss this. I'll let you know what I learn from her.
- Assist with possible brainstorming of grant funding sources for improvements to boat launch areas and fish cleaning locations around Humboldt County.
- Attend your meetings an additional 1-2 times per year. On that point, could you put us in a rotation by district so I can ensure we aren't having any Brown Act issues with multiple Supes coming? For example, since I came in April, I could plan to be on the agenda again in, say, September or October, with the other Supes scheduled for the times in between. That doesn't mean I'm unwilling to visit again sooner, but this could be helpful.
- I know there was interest in meeting with Harbor Commissioners also, and I'd suggest you all invite Craig Benson - he represents the same district as I do but as an elected Harbor Commissioner.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kenny Priest closed the meeting at 7:30PM.