



Humboldt County Fish & Game Advisory Commission MINUTES May 18, 2021

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 or 707.407.5747 email: nkaytis4@gmail.com up to two weeks following previous meeting. Online meeting via ZOOM.

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Clark at 6:33pm. Attendance: James Clark, John Clark, Loren Furber, Phil Grunert, (ab)Hollie Hall, Yadao B. Inong, Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Brad Smith, (ab)Jeff Stackhouse, Harry Vaughn, (ab)Mike Zamboni, Nancy Kaytis-Slocum. (ab)=absent.

The minutes from the previous meetings were not available.

Speakers

Phil Johnston is studying mountain lion/bear contact in Hoopa since 2016. 10 lions, 5 male, 5 female, have been collared. He is monitoring a 1200 square mile territory. He's recorded 20,000 GPS clusters, spending more than 4 hours in one place. He's found 100 feeding sites and set 59 trail cameras. He's also recorded 250 scent markings. This is a rugged area. A male may have a 250 square mile range. This covers an area all the way to Trinidad. Bears will steal from lions. Black bears have 100 square mile range = 3.5 bears per sq. mile. The ratio of lions to bears is 75-100. 90% of mountain lion kills are stolen by bears. Black bears have an indirect impact on deer populations. Black bears are supported by acorns, berries, and a large predation of fawns. When we have no rain more bears steal lion kills. Other species aren't able to feed on bear-stolen kills. There is a problem with illegal warfarin on weed grows. A wood rat can collect 30x a deadly amount; fishers eat wood rats, lion eats fisher, the warfarin kills the lion. There are cameras on marking areas, and can identify lions. There is a conflict with humans killing mountain lions: this orphans sub-adults. Females are in heat every 27 days for 6 to 8 days, with a three month pregnancy. Cubs have an 18 month dependency. Desperate sub-adults come into human territory, and can predate on humans. Relocation has mixed results. Commissioner Brad Smith asked how he could help monitor the mountain lions on a 45,000 acre hunting area he leases with others. Commissioner Kenny Priest asked what we can do to address black bears, since they are driving the deer population. Johnston: We need to look into the question more. Mountain Lions are shot on sight in Humboldt County. Need more funding to make his data irrefutable.

Current Issues

Grants: We have \$24,000 in our account. MOTION: (Romo/Furber) Move that we pay the secretary \$6000/year., as noted by law, and save back 3 years of funding for the Secretary; use \$6000 for grant funds this year. Vote: Yes, John Clark, Phil Grunert, Jim Clark, Brad Smith, Harry Vaughn, Kenny Priest, Ted Romo, Yadao Inong and Loren Furber – Unanimous. The Secretary will petition the Board of Supervisors on this issue.

Abatement: Commissioner Jim Clark led the discussion on this item. There is conflicting information on whether the property in Dinsmore will continue to be abated. Once vehicles are removed, that is just the start of abatement. Put this on the agenda as an action item.

Fish Health: Commissioner Yadao Inong reported juvenile fish kill in the Klamath River. High temperatures and polychete disease is killing them. This is not an acute problem yet, but may become one. Vaughn: Mike Belcher, Bureau of Reclamation, won't release water. Inong: system is

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completely stressed. Priest: above the confluence, a lot of fish are coming from way up – fish may have travelled 50 miles in bad water.

Traditional Bow Hunt: Much discussion on this item. We need more information. Suggest contacting wardens for their take on this. No action. Secretary will contact AJ Bolton.

Fish Farm: Commissioner Jim Clark reported that food for the fish will primarily be caught fish and he recommends an EIR on this.

Meeting ended: 8:40pm. Next meeting June 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Kaytis-Slocum
Secretary