



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health



Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission

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FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION Report for Calendar Years 2021 and 2022

Roles of the Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission (Commission) advises the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors (Board) on issues relating to fish and wildlife and recommends projects for funding with the County's portion of Fish and Game Code fine monies and judgments.

Meeting Dates, Time, and Location

The Commission generally meets seven times a year in February, March, May, June, September, November, and December at 7:00 pm. For all of 2021 and part of 2022, the commission meet remotely. Since June of 2022, the commission has used a hybrid format using both Teams and in-person at the Solarium at 1060 Emeline Ave, Santa Cruz.

Commission Structure

As of December 31, 2022, the Commission consisted of:

District	Commissioner	Commissioner
I	Chris Berry (C)	Samuel Adelson
II	VACANT	David Somerton
III	Liz Alter	Jon Jankovitz (VC)
IV	VACANT	VACANT
V	Jenni Gomez	Jen Michelsen

Commission Staff

Sean Abbey, Water Quality Specialist with Environmental Health, is the administrative staff person assigned to the Commission.

Annual Goals and Accomplishments – 2021 and 2022

Over 2021 and 2022, the Commission considered and made recommendations regarding a wide range of topics including; Low-Flow fishing closure criteria for the San Lorenzo River, updates on the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), use of mosquito fish to manage mosquitos by Vector Control, expansion of the County's Significant Tree Ordinance outside the Coastal Zone, the County Sustainability update, share hunting of invasive species, fish passage improvement work,

and the Cotani-Coast Dairies National Monument. The Commission also wrote letters to the Board of Supervisors on 3 topics.

1. Summarizing the environmental harms of homeless encampments in riparian areas
2. Supporting a Low-Flow fishing closure criteria for the San Lorenzo River
3. Recommend support for invasive species management.

The Commission continues to follow steelhead and coho salmon recovery efforts. Over the past two years, the Commission has supported state funding for coho recovery and has recommended grant allocations to support Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project, who are integral to coho salmon conservation in Santa Cruz County.

One of the primary tasks of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission is the Public Grants Program, an important funding source that supports local conservation organizations with small projects and outreach programs. This program relies on a portion of the revenue generated from the enforcement of the Fish and Game Code, through actions of local California Department of Fish and Wildlife wardens and the County's District Attorney.

- In 2021, the Commission recommended \$14,648 in funding for seven (7) projects that contributed to: rearing and releasing hatchery rainbow trout eggs by classrooms, a breeding bird atlas for Santa Cruz County, 4 conference scholarships to Salmonid Restoration Federation, a 4 – 5 day outdoor educational programs for 4,000 students, a 12-week afterschool program for 24 students, an educational course on squid anatomy and fishing practices, and a road repair effort for the Kingfisher Flat Salmon rearing facility.
- In 2022, the Commission recommended \$16,000 in funding for four (4) projects that contributed to: native animal rescue operations, creation of an environmental stewardship program, documenting salmonid movements in the San Lorenzo River, and emergency preparedness efforts at the Kingfisher Flat Salmon rearing facility.

Public Comments

The Commission provides a forum for members of the public to voice concerns or share information about fish and wildlife related issues. In the past two years, the Commission heard public comments that: support proactive management of wildfire prone areas to prevent hazardous materials found in homes and vehicles being burned, urge caution on use of goats for fire prevention, argue against the discussion of share hunting, support expansion of significant tree ordinance, support for RCIS strategic plan, gave notice of the North Coast Facilities Management Plan, gave notice of the restart of O'Neill sea odyssey program, updates on invasive bullfrog populations, the presence of chinook and coho salmon in local watershed, and warning about the reduction of wildlife habitat resulting from fire scaping.

Future Goals

The Commission scheduled 7 meetings for 2023 and plans to address a range of topics including, the County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, low-flow fishing closure regulations, the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), land and open space conservation and management,

invasive plants, climate change and wildlife conservation, coho salmon and steelhead recovery planning, and riparian corridor enhancement.

The Commission will continue to provide a forum for public input regarding fish and wildlife issues.

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission Attendance 2021 and 2022

2021

Commissioner	Feb	Mar	May	June	Sept	Nov	Dec
Berry	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Alter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Baron	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wise	P	P	P	E	P	P	A
Gómez	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Morrow	P	P	---	---	---	---	---
Jankovitz	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
Somerton	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Michelsen	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Buchwald	P	P	P	E	P	---	---
Crawford	---	---	P	P	P	P	P

2022

Commissioner	Feb	Mar	May	June	Sept	Nov	Dec
Berry	P	E	P	P	P	P	P
Alter	P	P	P	P	E	P	P
Baron	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wise	P	A	E	E	A	---	---
Gómez	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Jankovitz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Somerton	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Michelsen	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Crawford	P	P	---	---	---	---	---
Adelson	---	---	---	---	P	P	P

KEY: P = Present E= Excused A = Absent --- = not on the commission