

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 13-14, 2023

12B. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (WRC)**Today's Item**Information Action

Discuss referred topics and consider revisions to topics and timing. Consider approving draft agenda topics for the next committee meeting to be held on January 18, 2024 in Ontario.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Previous committee meeting | September 21, 2023; WRC |
| • Today consider approving agenda topics | December 13-14, 2023 |
| • Next committee meeting | January 18, 2024; WRC |

Background

WRC works under Commission direction to set and accomplish its work plan.

Committee Work Plan

Topics that have been referred by the Commission to WRC are displayed within a work plan for scheduling and tracking. The updated work plan is provided as Exhibit 1 and includes several proposed changes.

Completed Topics

There are three work plan topics that WRC completed by providing a final recommendation to the Commission and that staff requests to remove from the work plan:

- Wildlife areas/public lands regulations
- Wild pig validations regulations
- White sturgeon (2023 and 2024) emergency regulations

Updated Topics

The periodic and annual regulations topics — other than inland sport fishing — are proposed to reflect discussion during the May 2024 WRC meeting. In addition, the three discussions and updates topics are expected to carry over to the May 2024 meeting.

New Topics

Commission staff has no recommendations for new topics for Commission referral to WRC.

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024 in Ontario, with webinar and phone options. In addition to standing agenda items (Department updates and future agenda items), four topics are proposed for the next WRC meeting:

1. *Rulemakings*: Discuss and consider making recommendations for three potential rulemakings related to (1) inland sport fishing, (2) wildlife rehabilitation, and (3) a long-

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term regulation for white sturgeon fishing, all of which were vetted at previous WRC meetings.

2. *Take of Nongame Mammals*: Discuss concerns regarding indiscriminate take of nongame mammals.
3. *Shotgun Wads*: Initial discussion of plastic pollution caused by shotgun debris from waterfowl hunting.
4. *Waterfowl Hunting in Southampton Bay*: Initial discussion to explore potential regulation changes to address waterfowl hunting noise concerns specific to Southampton Bay, consistent with Commission direction at its October 2023 meeting.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation**

Commission staff: Approve the draft WRC agenda topics as proposed, and approve the updated WRC work plan, including any changes identified during today's meeting.

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan, updated December 4, 2023](#)

Motion

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission approves the topics for the January 18, 2024 Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, and approves the changes to the work plan, as discussed today.

California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC
Updated December 4, 2023

Note: Proposed changes to topics/timing are shown in blue underscore or strike-out font

TOPICS	CATEGORY	Sep 2023	Jan 2024	May 2024
Periodic and Annual Regulations				
Upland (Resident) Game Birds	Regulatory	X/R		<u>X</u>
Mammal Hunting	Regulatory	X/R		<u>X</u>
Waterfowl Hunting	Annual Regulatory	X/R		<u>X</u>
Central Valley Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory	X/R		<u>X</u>
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory	X/R		<u>X</u>
Inland Sport Fishing	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Regulations & Legislative Mandates				
Falconry	Referral for Review			
Restricted Species	Regulatory			
Wildlife Rehabilitation	Regulatory	X/R	<u>X/R</u>	
<u>Wildlife Areas/Public Lands</u>	<u>Regulatory</u>			
<u>Wild Pig Validations</u>	<u>Regulatory</u>	<u>X/R</u>		
<u>White sturgeon (2023 and 2024 emergency)</u>	<u>Information/ Regulatory</u>			
White Sturgeon (2025 regular)	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Special Projects				
<u>American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtle Stakeholder Engagement Project</u>	<u>Referral for Review</u>	<u>X/R</u>		
Discussions and Updates				
Take of Nongame Mammals	Referral for Review	X	X	<u>X</u>
Shotgun Wads (plastic pollution)	Referral for Review		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>
Waterfowl Hunting in Southampton Bay	Referral for Review		<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>

KEY: X Discussion scheduled X/R Recommendation potentially developed and moved to FGC