

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission

Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 203, 1050, and 3005.5 of the Fish and Game Code, and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 1050, 3003.1, 3005.5, 3007, 4000, 4150, 4152, 4156, 4157, 4158, 4180, Fish and Game Code; proposes to amend sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479, and repeal Section 696, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to mammal trapping consistency with statute.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

The amendments to Section 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478 and 479 and removal of section 696 of Title 14, California Code of Regulations are necessary to maintain consistency with new statute in Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly bill 273, 2019-20 legislative session) which made it unlawful to trap any furbearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibits the sale of the raw fur of any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken. The bill eliminated the Licensed Fur Dealer and Licensed Fur Agent licenses that the department previously sold. Current regulations in sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474 and 696 are also out of date with respect to these requirements. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has requested the proposed amendments for the purpose of updating trapping regulations to be consistent with statute. It is necessary that the Fish and Game Commission:

- Ensure consistency with Fish and Game Code Section 4001, which prohibits recreational or commercial fur trapping and the sale of raw fur, and remove outdated references to discontinued fur dealer/agent licenses.
- Update bobcat-related regulations to match requirements in Sections 4157 and 4158, including restrictions on bobcat take and alignment with the development of the bobcat management plan.
- Align regulations with Section 2023, which prohibits the sale, trade, and manufacture of most fur products, and ensure record-keeping requirements for exempt fur products are reflected accurately.

Proposed Regulatory Changes

Amend Section 251.5

Revise Section title, remove reference to an outdated permit for the possession of a mountain lion, remove reference to the recreational trapping of mammals and update terms for consistency with statute.

Amend Section 465.5

Remove conditional reference to body gripping traps and update to state that no traps, body gripping or otherwise, are lawful for recreational use. Remove stipulation for trap type when stating the prohibition on purchase, barter or exchange of raw fur. Make minor clarifying changes to the language referencing a tenant or designee, who will accomplish depredation trapping. Reference to a new form "DFW 1389e" is added, to aid individuals in obtaining the referenced "trap number issued by and registered with the department" in new subsection (f).

Amend Section 467

Update to state that trappers shall report their take of furbearing and nongame mammals rather than their take of fur. Specify that trapping reports shall specify whether "take" was lethal or

nonlethal. Update the stated penalty for non-reporting for consistency with Fish and Game Code Section 4008.

Amend Section 474

Revise Section title clarifying that these provisions are relevant to the taking of 'nongame mammals' and clarifying that take on private property is only allowed for the owner, tenant, or a person in possession of written permission.

Amend Section 478

Hunting of bobcat is unlawful unless under specific permits or depredation is occurring. Trapping of bobcat is unlawful except under depredation. It is unlawful to sell or export any pelt or part of bobcat taken under a depredation permit.

Amend Section 479

It is unlawful to possess any pelt or part without a department mark or shipping tag not legally taken prior to 2020. If the bobcat or parts are imported from outside California, the pelt must have a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag, or be accompanied by a Declaration of Importation with proof of lawful take.

It is unlawful for the pelt of any other furbearing mammal imported to California to be possessed without a Declaration of Importation form. Persons who sell or trade "used fur product" must maintain complete records of each item. The sale and trade of fur products for religious purposes to Native American Tribes is exempt.

Repeal Section 696

This section is repealed in its entirety. The Fur Dealer License and Fur Agent Licenses described within Section 696 were subject to Fish and Game Code Section 4001 (Assembly bill 273 from the 2019-20 legislative session), which made it unlawful to trap any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal for purposes of recreation or commerce in fur and prohibited the sale of the raw fur of any fur-bearing mammal or nongame mammal otherwise lawfully taken.

Benefit of the Regulations

The proposed regulations is to maintain consistency with new Statute in Fish and Game Code. Three recent bills, AB273, AB1254 and AB44 from the 2019-2020 legislative session changed the legal framework for recreational fur trapping and the possession or exchange of raw fur and new and used fur products in California. Existing regulations regarding the use of traps are out of date with respect to these changes and require substantive updates to maintain consistency with new law. Additionally minor conforming changes are also included for clarity and consistency in conveying these regulations for the public.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations

The Commission has reviewed its regulations in Title 14, CCR, and conducted a search of other regulations on this topic and has concluded that the proposed amendments to Sections 251.5, 465.5, 467, 474, 478, 478.1, 479 and 550 and the repeal of 696 are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations. No other State agency has the authority to promulgate hunting regulations.

Public Participation

Comments Submitted by Mail or Email

It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before **December 3, 2026** at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received on **December 11, 2026**. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address. Mailed comments should be addressed to Fish and Game Commission, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090.

Meetings

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the California Natural Resources Building, 715 P Street, Sacramento, California, which will commence at 8:00 a.m., or soon thereafter, on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026** and may continue at 8:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026, Thursday October 15, 2026 and Friday, October 16, 2026**. This meeting will also include the opportunity to participate via webinar/teleconference. Instructions for participation in the webinar/teleconference hearing will be posted at www.fgc.ca.gov in advance of the meeting or may be obtained by calling 916-653-4899. Please refer to the Commission meeting agenda, which will be available at least 10 days prior to the meeting, for the most current information.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at 1500 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA 95814 in Sacramento, California, which will commence at 8:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, December 15, 2026**, and may continue at 8:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, December 16, 2026**. This meeting will also include the opportunity to participate via webinar/teleconference. Instructions for participation in the webinar/teleconference hearing will be posted at www.fgc.ca.gov in advance of the meeting or may be obtained by calling 916-653-4899. Please refer to the Commission meeting agenda, which will be available at least 10 days prior to the meeting, for the most current information.

Availability of Documents

Copies of the Notice of Proposed Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the text of the regulation in underline and strikeout format can be accessed through the Commission website at www.fgc.ca.gov. The regulations as well as all related documents upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Melissa Miller-Henson, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 715 P Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above-mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Melissa Miller-Henson or Jenn Bacon at FGC@fgc.ca.gov or at the preceding address or phone number. **Mario Klip, Game Conservation and Wildlife Connectivity Program Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations. Mr. Klip can be reached at UplandGameMgmt@wildlife.ca.gov.**

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The Commission does not anticipate significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states because the proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California because the proposed regulation is administrative in nature. The Commission anticipates general benefits to the health and welfare of California residents, and no impacts to worker safety, or to the state's environment.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts because the proposed regulations are to conform to current law that is already observed and to make minor clarifying and conforming changes.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None.

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None.

(g) Costs Imposed on any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code:

None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

California Fish and Game Commission

Dated: September 1, 2026

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director