



GAINES & ASSOCIATES

“GAINES REPORT”

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION UPDATE

MAY 10, 2021

This *Gaines & Associates “California Fish and Game Commission Update”* is intended to provide our clients with the status of items of concern currently in front of the California Fish and Game Commission – including what to expect at tomorrow’s meeting of the Commission, and a recap of what took place on related agenda items at the Commission’s April 2021 meeting.

This “*Gaines Report*” is client privileged and provided as a service to clients of *Gaines & Associates*.

For more information on any of the issues below, or more detail on our efforts to protect and promote our client’s interests, please contact us at info@gainesandassociates.net

CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION – May 2021 Meeting Agenda

The May 2021 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission is a brief, one-day webinar/teleconference meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th. The May 2021 meeting will only cover two items of interest to some of our clients – Central Valley sport fishing regulations and Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations.

For instructions on how watch or listen to the meeting, or how to provide public comment during the meeting, visit [FGC Meeting - Watch/Participate](#)

To view the full agenda, click [FGC – May 2021 Mtg Agenda](#)

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 9:15 AM

Agenda Item 3 – Central Valley Sport Fishing

This item will serve as the final adoption hearing for 2021 Central Valley sport fishing regulations. The Commission generally adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align state regulations with federal fishery management goals set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). At their December 2020 meeting, the Commission authorized publication of a notice of proposed changes to Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) size, bag, and possession limits for the American, Feather, Mokelumne and

Sacramento rivers that were intentionally broad to encompass possible PFMC 2021 recommendations for SRFC stocks.

Under this agenda item DFW will recommend for Commission consideration of adoption specific size, bag and possession limits, and season dates for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook (SRFC) salmon based on the PFMC final recommendations.

Jonathan Nelson of DFW's Anadromous Fisheries Branch will open this item with a presentation which will first provide mapping of the four rivers covered under Central Valley sport fishing regulations – the American, Mokelumne, Feather, and Sacramento rivers. Mr. Nelson will then remind the Commission that the bag and possession limits adopted in 2020 for the American, Mokelumne, and Sacramento was a daily bag of two and a possession limit of four, while the 2020 bag and possession limit for the Feather River was three and six, respectively.

Following a quick reminder of the three regulatory options DFW had previously brought forth for 2021 (See April 2021 meeting below), Mr. Nelson will state that, with the PFMC final recommendations now in hand, DFW is recommending a bag limit of two fish and a possession limit of four of any size salmon for all four rivers in 2021. Mr. Nelson should then close by stating that DFW is recommending the same season dates as 2020.

To view the Fish and Game Commission Meeting Binder which includes detail on agenda item 3 regarding 2021 Central Valley sport fishing regulations – including Mr. Nelson's presentation, click [FGC – May 2021 Mtg Binder](#)

Agenda Item 4 – Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing

This item will serve as the final adoption hearing for 2021 Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations. As with Central Valley sport fishing regulations, the Commission annually adopts Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for consistency with federal fishery management goals set by the PFMC. At their December 2020 meeting, the Commission authorized publication of a notice of proposed changes to quotas and bag and possession limits for Klamath River fall-run Chinook salmon (KRFC) that were left intentionally broad to encompass possible PFMC 2021 recommendations for KRFC stocks.

Under this agenda item DFW will recommend for Commission consideration specific quota, size, bag and possession limits, and season dates for KRFC based on PFMC's final recommendations.

Jonathan Nelson of DFW's Anadromous Fisheries Branch will also open this item with a presentation which will first provide mapping of the Klamath River Basin and the sub-quota areas covered under Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations. Following a reminder of the 2020 adopted Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations, Mr. Nelson will state that DFW is recommending the following Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations for 2021:

- *Klamath River Basin quota: 1,221 fish > 23 inches*
- *Daily bag limit: 2 fish, no more than 1 adult > 23 inches*
- *Possession limit: 6 fish, no more than 3 adults > 23 inches*
- *Season: Aug. 15 – Dec. 31 (Klamath River)*
- *Season: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31 (Trinity River)*

To view the Fish and Game Commission Meeting Binder which includes detail on agenda item 4 regarding 2021 Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations – including Mr. Nelson’s presentation, click [FGC – May 2021 Mtg Binder](#)

CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION – April 14, 2021 Meeting Recap

The April 2021 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission was a one-day webinar/teleconference meeting held on Wednesday, April 14th

Activity on agenda items related to those scheduled for the May 2021 meeting of the Commission are highlighted below:

To view the full April 2021 meeting agenda, click [FGC – April 2021 Mtg Agenda](#)

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 9:00 AM

The April 14, 2021 meeting of the Commission was gaveled open by Commission President Peter S. Silva with all five Commissioners present.

Agenda Item 12 – Central Valley Sport Fishing

This item served as the second, or “discussion” hearing on proposed changes to 2021 Central Valley sport fishing regulations for Sacramento River fall-run Chinook salmon (SRFC) on the Sacramento, Feather, Mokelumne and Lower American Rivers. The Commission adopts Central Valley sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align state regulations with federal fishery management goals set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Specific bag and possession limits for Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon will not be adopted until after the PFMC has reviewed the status of West Coast salmon stocks and their final fishery allocation recommendations have been adopted.

Jay Rowan, Acting Chief of the DFW Fisheries Branch, opened this item with a short verbal presentation. Mr. Rowan first noted that the PFMC was currently meeting and was expected to adopt management measures for the 2021 ocean salmon fisheries and make their final recommendation for Central Valley fall chinook escapement and harvest later that afternoon.

Being that the PFMC had not yet made their final recommendations, Mr. Rowan noted that for the Central Valley sport fishery, at this time, DFW was bringing forward the following three regulatory options for consideration for 2021:

Option 1: “Any Size” salmon fishery, with a daily bag of 0 to 4 and a possession limit of 0 to 12.

Option 2: “Limited Adult” salmon, with grilse salmon (less than or equal to 27” in length) making up the remainder of the daily bag and possession limit

Option 3: “Grilse Only” Chinook salmon

Mr. Rowan mentioned that for all three options special restrictions and open seasons remain unchanged from 2020.

As this was the “discussion” hearing on this item, the Commission did not take any action.

Final adoption of Central Valley sport fishing regulations for 2021 will take place at the Commission’s May 11, 2021 meeting.

To review the Commission staff summary on agenda item 12 regarding 2021 Central Valley salmon regulations, click [FGC Staff Summary – 2021 Central Valley Salmon](#)

Agenda Item 13 – Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing

This item served as the second, or “discussion” hearing on proposed changes to the 2021 Klamath River Basin salmon regulations. Like Central Valley salmon sport fishing regulations, the Commission adopts Klamath River Basin salmon sport fishing regulations on an annual basis to align state regulations with federal fishery management goals set by the PFMC.

Jay Rowan, Acting Chief for the DFW Fisheries Branch also opened this item with a brief verbal presentation. As under the previous agenda item, Mr. Rowan stated the PFMC was scheduled to make their final recommendations for the Klamath River Basin later that day. Mr. Rowan stated that until the PFMC recommendations are finalized, DFW can only offer for consideration a range of recommended possible bag and possession limits which encompass historical Klamath River Basin quotas. Mr. Rowan stated that those ranges are as follows:

- *A quota range of 0 – 67,600 adult Klamath River fall-run Chinook for the in-river sport fishery, with sub-quotas similar to last year. Bag limit of 0 – 4 Chinook salmon, of which no more than 0 – 4 fish over 23 inches total length may be retained until the subquota is met, then 0 fish over 23 inches total length.*
- *Possession limit of 0 – 12 Chinook salmon, of which no more than 0 – 4 fish over 23 inches total length may be retained when take of salmon over 23 inches total length is allowed.*

As this was the “discussion” hearing on this item, the Commission did not take any action.

Final adoption of Klamath River Basin salmon regulations for 2021 will take place at the Commission’s May 11, 2021 meeting.

To review the Commission staff summary on agenda Item 13 regarding 2021 Klamath River Basin sport fishing regulations, click [FGC Staff Summary – 2021 Klamath River Sport Fish](#)

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE – May 2021 Meeting Agenda

Fifteen minutes after the completion of the May 2021 Fish and Game Commission meeting, but no earlier than 10:30 a.m., the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) will also meet via webinar/teleconference.

For instructions on how watch or listen to the WRC meeting, or how to provide public comment during the meeting, visit [WRC Meeting - Watch/Participate](#)

WRC meeting agenda items of primary importance include:

Agenda Item 3 – Department Updates

- (A) Wildlife Branch*
 - I. Drought preparations*
 - II. Wildfire resiliency on Department lands*
- (B) Fisheries Branch*
 - I. Drought preparations*
- (C) Law Enforcement Division*

Agenda Item 4 – Initial Recommendations for Regulations

Discuss potential regulatory options for 2021-22 seasons for:

- (A) Mammal Hunting*
- (B) Waterfowl Hunting*
- (C) Central Valley Sport Fishing*
- (D) Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing*
- (E) Inland Sport Fishing*

To view the full agenda for the WRC meeting, click [WRC – May 2021 Mtg Agenda](#)

To view the Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting Binder which includes all the detail currently available on tomorrow's WRC meeting, click [WRC – May 2021 Mtg Binder](#)

PLAN AHEAD!!!

BELOW ARE THE DATES/LOCATIONS OF UPCOMING COMMISSION MEETINGS!

For more information on any of the below Commission related meetings, click <https://fgc.ca.gov/Meetings>

CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION – June 2021 Meeting

The June 2021 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission is scheduled for June 16th and 17th and will be held via webinar and teleconference. How individuals can “attend” this meeting is yet to be determined.

CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION – August 2021 Meeting

The August 2021 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission is scheduled for August 18th and 19th. How individuals can “attend” this meeting is yet to be determined.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE – September 2021 Meeting

The September 16, 2021 meeting of the WRC will be held via webinar and teleconference. How individuals can “attend” this meeting is yet to be determined.

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