



**TRINITY COUNTY FISH AND
GAME
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**P O Box 1917
Weaverville, CA 96093
trinityfishandgamecommission@gmail.com**

**MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2020
TRINITY COUNTY LIBRARY WEAVERVILLE
Chairman
Commissioner James Lee (At Large)**

**Vice Chairman
Commissioner Samantha Chilcote (Wildlife)**

Board of Supervisor
Supervisor John Fenley
Supervisor Keith Groves

Recreation
Commissioner Scott Dias - Absent
Vacant

At Large
Commissioner Richard Cole
Commissioner Charles Holthaus

Secretary Tina Duong

Restoration
Commissioner Mike Dixon
Vacant

Fisheries
Commissioner Kyle De Julio
Vacant

Wildlife
Commissioner Alex Ross

7:00 PM

Public Comment: None

Meeting Called to Order

I. Approved the Minutes from November 13, 2019 with two typo changes.

Motion: John Fenley **Second:** Samantha Chilcote **Carried**
Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross
Absent: Dias

II. Evening Program – Seth Naman with the NOAA Fisheries gave a presentation regarding the Trinity River Hatchery Genetics Management Plan for Coho Salmon.

He discussed the following:

- The negative effects of hatchery salmon on wild salmon;
- The 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act and how it prohibits illegal take;
- The link to the Citizen Guide of the 4(d) rule of the Endangered Species Act:
https://archive.fisheries.noaa.gov/wcr/publications/reference_documents/esa_refs/section4d/4d-citizens-guide.pdf
- NOAA Fisheries checklist for exceptions to this rule and what happens if you qualify for an exception;
- The HGMP for the Trinity River Coho Salmon and that the proposed release number for Coho Salmon is 300,000;
- How scientist devised a plan to limit the domestication pressures by spawning wild fish into the broodstock and how the goal is to integrate a wild fish with a hatchery fish and spawn them together in the hatchery;
- The various reasons there has been really small returns for Coho Salmon and other Salmonids;
- How data indicates that Coho Salmon in the Trinity are highly reliant on constant inputs of hatchery fish each year to spawn in the river.
- The danger of removing the hatchery fish from the river too quickly before the wild population has a chance to gain productivity and fitness thru the actions of the hatchery by bringing the broodstock into the hatchery; and
- How historically the Trinity River Hatchery is among the highest in the western United States for Steelhead with 800,000 smolt released annually;
- The program size was reduced to 448,000 in 2013.

Action Item: Agendize at next meeting: Discuss and take action on the Wild Steelhead Collections program.

III. On Going Reports

- a. Restoration - Commissioner Dixon reported that the Forest Service approved a river restoration project at Dutch Creek, upstream from the Evans Bar Boat Ramp which will go forward next summer.

Commissioner Dixon said Josh Smith with the Watershed Research Training Center provided a list of the following projects that they either recently finished or are currently working on:

- They completed hydrologic upgrades for damaged OHV trails on the South Fork Trinity River that were bleeding sediments and washed out roads by doing rolling dips;
- They partnered with the RCD on some pollinator reveg projects on Hayfork Creek covering about 3 acres;

- They are working on stream temperature and stream flow with ranches on Hayfork Creek;
- They are working in collaboration with CDFW, IDRC and the Forest Service Law Enforcement on ten trespass grow sites reclamation projects; and
- They also have some prescribed burns going on.

Action Item: The Watershed Research Training Center would like to present reclaiming grow sites in national forest at a later meeting.

Commissioner Dixon also reported on the Indian Creek project with the Yurok Tribe which will begin late summer. He also reported that for the first time in two years River Restoration is issuing watershed restoration grants.

Vice-Chairman Chilcote reported that the tree planting project at the wetlands will be on February 1st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The meeting place is at Hayfork High School.

b. Trinity County Big Game Update, Deer Management Plan
Deer Management Plan - None

Chairman Lee said he attended the Northeastern California Wildlife Connectivity Symposium which had a big game emphasis but it was more of a scoping meeting. They discussed wildlife connectivity issue and reported that that there wasn't a lot of wildlife connectivity projects going on right now. He said they talked about a \$350,000 tunnel located in the Twin Gulch area of Buckhorn. At the time it was built they didn't make it big enough for deer, bear or elk. It was more directed towards ring tail and fishers.

c. Trinity River update – Commissioner DeJulio and Commissioner Ross reported how slow and random fishing has been. They discussed how there is a slow filtration of fish in Trinity River. Commissioner Ross discussed how some tributaries create clean, beautiful fish with great genetics and some tributaries produce bad fish.

d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report – California Fish and Wildlife Deer Biologist Sporty Pair discussed the Roadkill Law and how easily citizen science data could be skewed. Sporty said he talked to the Deer Management Program Manager about the Deer Plan and he said they are still working on it. Andy Hill said the Commission met in December and they extended the fishing for the springers. He also reported that the New River was left off the list again which means fishing for Spring Chinook will not be allowed in the New River in the future.

e. NRA Collaboration Committee Report - Commissioner Dixon reported they currently don't have any meetings scheduled and that Kelly Gant is the lead.

Action Item: Commissioner Dixon to reach out to Kelly Gant to find out when the next meeting is.

- f. Pacific Fisheries Management Council – Commissioner’s DeJulio and Cole - Commissioner DeJulio reported that Kenny Priest attends the Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings and will keep us informed after meetings or if there is an issue. Commissioner Ross said he knows Kenny and is comfortable with being the point of contact on it.
- g. Grant Program – Discussed and awarded \$500 in grant funds to the Ruth Lake Fishing Derby scheduled for May 16, 2020.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Mike Dixon

Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross

Absent: Dias

- h. Correspondence Ad Hoc – Correspondence Ad Hoc – Commissioner Chilcote reported that they were assigned at the last meeting to have a letter drafted regarding the Lewiston extension of the fishery. Commissioner DeJulio reported he was in contact with the State Fish and Game Commission and currently there is an effort underway to overhaul the inland sport fisheries regulations and subsequent to that they are doing a statewide simplification of the anadromous fisheries. He said as far as this request goes he’s trying to figure out if it would be better to approach it as part of the larger effort or independently. He said it needs to be in two weeks prior to their April meeting to be considered in June. In order for our letter to be reconsidered it has to include substantive new information. In preparing the petition for the resubmittal, Commissioner DeJulio talked to Herb Burton and Supervisor Groves and he is currently compiling substantive new information that supports that regulation. He also talked to the State Fish and Game Commission about considering different components and not as a whole. One component was extending the open season and the other was restricting boat access. He said as far as he understood there is no anadromous bodies of water that restricts boat access. When the State Fish and Game Commission rejected our letter they stated two things in their refusal of the petition; one was there was no supporting scientific evidence and the other was it restricted access. Commissioner DeJulio felt to have a successful petition we should specify it’s not all or nothing but that it could be one component or the other. He thinks the State is reluctant to restrict boat access to anadromous waters. He talked to Herb about why that was and he and several of the local guides felt that guides that use boats in that area disingenuously targeting Spring Chinook rather than targeting Steelhead. The petition that was submitted by Herb Burton and Supervisor Groves supported including a boat restriction. He said people typically put their boats in and out of the diversion pool. He said Herb felt if they restricted boat access that these people wouldn’t be able to fish there. He felt rather than wrapping these two items together that they should either remove the boat access restriction or specify that they should be reviewed as two components.

He wants to talk to someone at the State about the simplification of the statewide sportfishing regulation efforts to find out the timeline. Supervisor Fenley said we should make this a standing agenda item.

Vice-Chairman Chilcote reported that the Sites Reservoir letter was tabled at the Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Action Item: Make standing item; and send Bill Gaines contact information to Commissioner DeJulio.

IV. Old Business

- a. Removed receive an update regarding antlerless deer hunts.
- b. Discussed purchasing signs or finding a funding source to purchase signs to warn people to not step on the redds and dropped it from the agenda.

V. New Business

- a. Discussed Private Land Forestry Management Practices and Wildlife Implications. Commissioner Cole said he wasn't sure if it is in our purview or not. He asked if it affected the wildlife. Chairman Lee said it is generally considered bad for wildlife. Commissioner DeJulio said survival for fawns is higher in areas with no oak. Commissioner Cole said he believes Mendocino County banned it and there is a movement to ban it in Humboldt County. Supervisor Fenley said that this subject has been discussed at length and recommended that the Commissioners do their homework regarding this issue. He recommended that Commissioner Cole look up state code regarding hack and squirt as the County has to follow state code. Commissioner Dixon said the County doesn't have any jurisdiction over private land owners. Supervisor Groves said the question Commissioner Cole asked was not the answer he was given. He said the question Commissioner Cole put forward was would leaving the trees standing dead affect wildlife and the answer he was given was if they take away the trees it does affect wildlife. Chairman Lee said that killing the tree is what harms wildlife because it takes their food source away. Supervisor Groves recommended asking a representative from SPI to give a presentation on how they do hack and squirt.

Action Item: Commissioner Ross to reach out to the SPI manager to see if they are able to do a presentation for our May meeting.

- b. Created a grant committee consisting of a minimum of three Commissioner's to pursue more revenue streams. Appointments will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

Motion: Samantha Chilcote **Second:** John Fenley
Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross
Absent: Dias

Chairman Lee appointed Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner DeJulio and Commissioner Cole to the Grant Committee. Supervisor Fenley stated when applying for grants to find out where you can put the money or if you have to form a 5013c.

- c. Removed the Hoopa Tribe netting fish after they reached their quota from the agenda.
- d. Discussed and removed adding a consent calendar to the agenda.
- e. Changed our meeting time to 6:00 p.m. in our bylaws.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** John Fenley
Ayes: Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross
Nays: Chilcote
Absent: Dias

Action Item: Agendize making changes to the bylaws; and send out the by-laws for the Commissioner to review prior to the next meeting.

- f. Re-elected Chairman Lee and Vice-Chairman Chilcote for calendar year 2020.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Mike Dixon
Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross
Absent: Dias

Correspondence - <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/>

VI. Staff Reports

- **Financial Report** – Budget Balance as of November 30, 2019: \$21,412.52.
- **Fines and Fees** - Court Distribution for July 2019 - \$56.89, August 2019 - \$42.14 and September 2019 - \$191.09 for a cumulative total of \$290.12 for fiscal year 2020/2021.

Accepted the financial report from November 30, 2019.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Alex Ross

Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross
Absent: Dias

Action Item: Chairman Lee to send a letter to Donna Daly explaining our interests in the fees collected by the District Attorney's Office.

Approval of Claims

VII.

- Approved the Secretary Fee of \$150 for the January 8, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion: Richard Cole **Second:** Samantha Chilcote

Ayes: Chilcote, Cole, DeJulio, Dixon, Holthaus, Lee, Ross

Absent: Dias

Adjournment 9:09 p.m.

Next Meeting

March 11, 2020