



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
QUARTERLY MEETING
July 26, 2012 6:00 P.M.

Santa Barbara County Planning & Development
Planning Commission Hearing Room
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

MEMBERS PRESENT:

KELLY CALDERA	Santa Ynez Valley Sportsmen's Association,
BOB KOBER	5 th District
MIKE MOROPOLOUS	1 st District
WILLIAM GIORGI	3 rd District
TOM MARTINEZ	Santa Maria Valley Sportsman's Association, Vice Chair
GEORGE WITTENBURG	4 th District

MEMBERS ABSENT:

PHIL BEGUHL	Commercial Fisherman
ART KVAAS	Santa Barbara Channel Fishing Club
STEPHEN MACINTOSH	2 nd District
DONALD PACK	Santa Ynez Valley Pistol & Bow Club
LEE MILLER	Vandenberg Rod and Gun Club

STAFF PRESENT:

SHARON FOSTER	Board Assistant Specialist
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- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Bill Giorgi, Chair
- II. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of April 26, 2012 were not considered due to a lack of a quorum.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Public Comment time is set aside in order to allow testimony on items **not being heard** on today's agenda. Total time allocated for public comments is at the discretion of the Commission.*
- IV. **NEW ITEMS:**
 - a. **Report from Caltrans regarding the highways impact on wildlife.**

Caltrans was contacted to join the discussion but were not heard back from. Mr. Giorgi stated that key areas of the counties that wildlife is being killed along the roadways. Mr. Giorgi stated that he sees in other states how they use fencing along the highways. Mr. Martinez stated he was recently in Paso Robles and said that along the north side of Cuesta Grade there was fencing. The source of funding would be good to know.

b. Report from Forest Service Regarding Closures.

Mr. Giorgi contacted the Forest Service to have them present at the meeting but no representative's were present. Mr. Giorgi would like to have the Forest Service and County Fish & Game work together with our resources and would like to see regular attendance by a designated Forest Service representative.

IV. CONTINUED ITEMS:

c. Santa Barbara County Fish & Game Community Calendar- Mike Moropoulos.

Mr. Moropoulos handed out the draft of the calendar and went over dates and deadlines with the commissioner's. Mr. Martinez suggested that that Grant Applications and the nominations for the Stan Radom/Art Kvass award, as they were received, would be forwarded to him. Tom will then do a short synopsis on each one and it. This would allow each commissioner a chance to see what each grant is about and speed the review process up.

d. Lt. Jim Solis, State Fish & Game, Fine Update.

Lt. Solis stated that the last year has been very busy. The Santa Barbara County District, that he supervises, has 5 positions and currently only two of those are filled, Scott Cohen in the south and Jaime Dostel in the north. There are three wardens who are finishing up with the Academy and the area may be lucky to get two of them. Having more staff will help with the fine revenue as well. Lt. Solis stated that he was able to participate in a few of the County Fish & Game programs up at Cachuma Lake and had a great time.

Deer Depredation numbers are not that big. There are approximately 12 Deer Depredation permits out of North County. Some of these are in the vineyards and row crops. The Department policy is that we, Department of Fish & Game, encourage people to use deer fencing but this cannot be enforced. We are strict on deer and the permit is issued for 60 days. We go out to the property, confirm the damage being done and suggest ways to prevent the damage. We provide the permits and tags and require field dress the deer and turn them over to us, State Fish & Game. It states on the permit how to dispose of the deer. It is important that the State Fish & Game know how many deer are being taken.

Kristin Johnson from the State Fish & Game was present to speak to the proposed Deer Relocation and stated that they are going to standardize deer plans and it the plan is called Deer Vision Plan. Ms. Johnson stated that the relocation of deer each herd is going to receive its own herd plan. We generally don't relocate deer, when we do it is for animals like the Big Horn Sheep herd enhancement and try to encourage habitat management and provide corridors and provide an area for the deer to migrate over into the areas on their own. There is always deer mortality during the relocation process and deer survivability once they are relocated. These are considerations and the review process is quite lengthy as well. It is important to get the deer into their natural ecosystem. The State Fish & Game and The County Fish & Game both agreed to work together in the future and come up with some creative ideas in regard to the deer.

e. Follow-up discussion on Stan Radom/Art Kvaas award.

During the discussion of the Fish & Game Calendar the discussion of the Stan Radom/Art Kvaas award was also discussed. The process will be the same for the nominations as it is the grant requests. Once the nominations are received they will be distributed to the commissioner's for their review. Also, each commissioner will receive a copy of the press release detailing the award to distribute to their respective club.

VI. DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR:

Mike Moropoulos stated that he had previously said that he was going to send a letter in regard to the lowering of the limit for Calico Bass. He has since learned that the State Fish & Game Commission is meeting next week in Ventura and will be addressing this issue and going to discuss 3 options that the biologists have come up with:

1. Increase the size to 13, 14 or 15 inches long.
2. Retain the 10 fish limit of bass.
3. Have a spawning enclosure.

Mr. Moropoulos will be attending this meeting and will report back at the next County Fish & Game meeting in October.

V. NEXT MEETING:

October 25, 2012