

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 497

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro

February 20, 2013

An act to amend Sections 206, 207, 8276.3, and 8283 of, and to add Sections 7652.4 and 7652.5 to, the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and game.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 497, as introduced, Chesbro. Fish and wildlife.

(1) The California Constitution creates the Fish and Game Commission. Existing law establishes the commission in the Natural Resources Agency to perform specified functions. Existing law requires the commission to hold no fewer than 10 regular meetings per year, if the commission has adequate funding for related travel, including funding for department travel, with no more than 3 regular meetings to be held in Sacramento per year. Existing law requires the commission to cause the notice of the schedule for regular meetings, and notice of any change in the date and location of a meeting, to be disseminated to the public in a manner that will result in broad dissemination, including, but not limited to, electronic distribution, mailings to interested parties, and publication in local newspapers of the affected communities.

This bill would reduce the number of regular meetings per year to 8 and would delete the limitation that no more than 3 regular meetings be held in Sacramento per year. The bill would also delete the requirement that the broad dissemination of the notices regarding meetings be achieved in a specified manner.

(2) Existing law requires the commission, except for emergency regulations, to consider and adopt regulations at a series of no fewer

than 3 meetings and requires that these meetings whether regular or special meetings be duly noticed to the public in accordance with specified provisions of state law. Existing law provides that at the 3rd meeting the commission may choose to hear additional public discussion regarding the regulations it intends to adopt and requires that either at that meeting or within 20 days after that meeting, the commission add, amend, or repeal regulations relating to any recommendation received at the initial meeting it deems necessary to preserve, properly utilize, and maintain each species or subspecies.

This bill would delete the 20-day period after the 3rd meeting during which the commission would have been authorized to add, amend, or repeal.

(3) Existing law authorizes the commission to annually adopt regulations, as specified, pertaining to migratory birds to conform with or to further restrict the rules and regulations prescribed pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Existing law provides that migratory game birds may be taken in conformity with federal laws and regulations and the regulations of the commission, as specified, and, if no regulations are prescribed by the proper federal agency, authorizes the commission to determine and fix the area or areas, the seasons and hours, the species, the bag and possession limits, and the total number that may be taken during any open season for the taking of migratory game birds, under such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe.

This bill would add similar provisions that would authorize the commission to annually adopt regulations, as specified, pertaining to salmon and groundfish to conform with or to further restrict the rules and regulations prescribed pursuant to the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Pacific Fishery Management Council established pursuant to that act or its successor agency. The bill would also add similar provisions that authorize the commission to determine and fix the area or areas, the seasons and hours, the species, the bag and possession limits, and the total number that may be taken during any open season for the taking of salmon and groundfish, as specified, if no regulations are prescribed by the proper federal agency.

(4) Existing law, until April 1, 2019, authorizes the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to order a delay in the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery after December 1 in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 in any year and prohibits the delay in the opening from being later than January 15 of any year. Under existing law, if the director orders this

delay, the opening date of the Dungeness crab fishery in those districts is required to be preceded by a 36-hour gear setting period, as ordered by the director.

This bill instead would require a 64-hour gear setting period.

(5) Existing law requires the director, if requested on or before November 10 of any year, to consult with the Dungeness crab industry and to specify by public announcement on or before November 20 of that year when crab traps may be set and baited prior to the opening date of the Dungeness crab season in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9.

This bill would eliminate the above requirements and instead would authorize crab traps to be set and baited 64 hours prior to the opening date of the Dungeness crab season in Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 206 of the Fish and Game Code is
2 amended to read:

3 206. (a) The commission shall hold no fewer than ~~10~~ *eight*
4 regular meetings per calendar year, if the commission has adequate
5 funding for related travel, including funding for department travel.
6 The commission may also hold special meetings or hearings to
7 receive additional input from the department and the public.

8 (b) The commission shall announce the dates and locations of
9 meetings for the year by January 1 of that year, or 60 days prior
10 to the first meeting, whichever comes first. Meeting locations shall
11 be accessible to the public and located throughout the ~~state, with~~
12 ~~no more than three regular meetings to be held in Sacramento per~~
13 ~~year~~ *state*. To the extent feasible, meetings shall be held in state
14 facilities. In setting the dates and locations for regular meetings,
15 the commission shall also consider the following factors:

16 (1) Recommendations of the department.

17 (2) Opening and closing dates of fishing and hunting seasons.

18 (3) The schedules of other state and federal regulatory agencies
19 whose regulations affect the management of fish and wildlife of
20 this state.

21 (c) The commission shall cause the notice of the schedule for
22 regular meetings, and notice of any change in the date and location
23 of a meeting, to be disseminated to the public in a manner that will

1 result in broad dissemination, including, but not limited to,
2 electronic distribution, mailings to interested parties, and
3 publication in local newspapers of affected communities
4 dissemination.

5 SEC. 2. Section 207 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
6 to read:

7 207. (a) Except for emergency regulations, the commission
8 shall consider and adopt regulations pursuant to Sections 203 and
9 205 at a series of no fewer than three meetings. These meetings
10 may be regular or special meetings that are duly noticed to the
11 public in accordance with subdivision (c) of Section 206 and the
12 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
13 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
14 Code).

15 (b) At the first meeting, the commission shall receive
16 recommendations for regulations from its own members and staff,
17 the department, other public agencies, and the public.

18 (c) At the second meeting, the commission shall devote time
19 for open public discussion of proposed regulations presented at
20 the first meeting. The department shall participate in this discussion
21 by reviewing and presenting its findings regarding each regulation
22 proposed by the public and by responding to objections raised
23 pertaining to its proposed regulations. After considering the public
24 discussion, the commission shall announce, prior to adjournment
25 of the meeting, the regulations it intends to add, amend, or repeal.

26 (d) At the third meeting, the commission may choose to hear
27 additional public discussion regarding the regulations it intends to
28 adopt. At the meeting or within 20 days after the meeting, the
29 commission shall add, amend, or repeal regulations relating to any
30 recommendation received at the initial meeting it deems necessary
31 to preserve, properly utilize, and maintain each species or
32 subspecies.

33 (e) Within 45 days after adoption, the department shall publish
34 and distribute regulations adopted pursuant to this section.

35 SEC. 3. Section 7652.4 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
36 to read:

37 7652.4. (a) The commission may, annually, adopt regulations
38 pertaining to salmon and groundfish to conform with or to further
39 restrict the rules and regulations prescribed pursuant to the federal
40 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

1 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1801) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council
2 established pursuant to that act or its successor agency.

3 (b) Regulations adopted under this section are not subject to
4 Sections 11343.4, 11346.1, 11346.4, and 11346.8 of the
5 Government Code.

6 (c) Any regulation of the commission adopted pursuant to this
7 section shall be filed with the Secretary of State, and shall become
8 effective upon filing unless otherwise specified in the regulations.

9 SEC. 4. Section 7652.5 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
10 to read:

11 7652.5. (a) Salmon and groundfish may be taken in conformity
12 with the federal laws and regulations and the regulations of the
13 commission as provided in Section 7652.4.

14 (b) In the event no regulations are prescribed by the proper
15 federal agency, the commission may determine and fix the area or
16 areas, the seasons and hours, the species, the bag and possession
17 limits, and the total number that may be taken during any open
18 season for the taking of salmon and groundfish, under rules and
19 regulations as the commission may prescribe. The rules and
20 regulations adopted by the commission pursuant to this section
21 shall have the same effect as if enacted by the Legislature.

22 SEC. 5. Section 8276.3 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
23 to read:

24 8276.3. (a) If there is any delay ordered by the director
25 pursuant to Section 8276.2 in the opening of the Dungeness crab
26 fishery in *Fish and Game* Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9, a vessel shall not
27 take or land crab within Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 during any closure.

28 (b) If there is any delay in the opening of the Dungeness crab
29 season pursuant to Section 8276.2, the opening date in *Fish and*
30 *Game* Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall be preceded by a ~~36~~ 64 hour
31 gear setting period, as ordered by the director.

32 (c) This section shall become inoperative on April 1, 2019, and,
33 as of January 1, 2020, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
34 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2020, deletes or
35 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

36 SEC. 6. Section 8283 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
37 to read:

38 ~~8283. (a) If requested on or before November 10 of any year,~~
39 ~~the director shall consult with the Dungeness crab industry and~~
40 ~~shall specify by public announcement on or before November 20~~

1 ~~of that year when crab~~ Crab traps may be set and baited *64 hours*
2 prior to the opening date of the Dungeness crab season in Fish and
3 Game Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9. Crab traps may be set and baited in
4 advance of that opening date in those districts if no other attempt
5 is made to take or possess Dungeness crab in those districts.

6 (b) Except in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9, crab traps
7 may be set and baited 18 hours in advance of the opening date of
8 the Dungeness crab season, if no other attempt is made to take or
9 possess Dungeness crab.