

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

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 106, 7652.4, and 7652.5 to, the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and game.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

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

(1) Existing law requires the Fish and Game Commission to form a marine resources committee from its membership consisting of at least one commissioner and requires the committee to report to the commission from time to time on its activities, to make recommendations on all marine resource matters considered by the commission, and to have the committee or its designee, to the extent practicable, attend meetings of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's staff, including meetings of the department staff with interested parties, in which significant marine living resource management documents are being developed.

This bill would require the commission to form a wildlife resources committee from its membership consisting of at least one commissioner, to report to the commission from time to time on its activities, to make recommendations on all nonmarine resource matters considered by the commission, and to have the committee or its designee, to the extent practicable, attend meetings of the department staff, including meetings of the department staff with interested parties, in which significant wildlife resource management documents are being developed.

(1)

(2) 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 *required* 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~~ *specific* manner.

(2)

(3) 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)

(4) 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)~~

(5) 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)~~

(6) 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 106 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
2 to read:

3 106. The commission shall form a wildlife resources committee
4 from its membership consisting of at least one commissioner. The
5 committee shall report to the commission from time to time on its
6 activities and shall make recommendations on all nonmarine
7 resource matters considered by the commission. The committee
8 or its designee shall, to the extent practicable, attend meetings of
9 the department staff, including meetings of the department staff
10 with interested parties, in which significant wildlife resource
11 management documents are being developed.

12 ~~SECTION 1.~~

13 SEC. 2. Section 206 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
14 to read:

15 206. (a) The commission shall hold no fewer than eight regular
16 meetings per calendar year, if the commission has adequate funding
17 for related travel, including funding for department travel. The
18 commission may also hold special meetings or hearings to receive
19 additional input from the department and the public.

20 (b) The commission shall announce the dates and locations of
21 meetings for the year by January 1 of that year, or 60 days prior
22 to the first meeting, whichever comes first. Meeting locations shall
23 be accessible to the public and located throughout the state. To the
24 extent feasible, meetings shall be held in state facilities. In setting
25 the dates and locations for regular meetings, the commission shall
26 also consider the following factors:

- 27 (1) Recommendations of the department.
- 28 (2) Opening and closing dates of fishing and hunting seasons.
- 29 (3) The schedules of other state and federal regulatory agencies
30 whose regulations affect the management of fish and wildlife of
31 this state.

32 (c) The commission shall cause the notice of the schedule for
33 regular meetings, and notice of any change in the date and location
34 of a meeting, to be disseminated to the public in a manner that will
35 result in broad dissemination.

36 ~~SEC. 2.~~

37 SEC. 3. Section 207 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
38 to read:

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

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

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

20 (d) At the third meeting, the commission may choose to hear
21 additional public discussion regarding the regulations it intends to
22 adopt. At the meeting, the commission shall add, amend, or repeal
23 regulations relating to any recommendation received at the initial
24 meeting it deems necessary to preserve, properly utilize, and
25 maintain each species or subspecies.

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

28 ~~SEC. 3.~~

29 *SEC. 4.* Section 7652.4 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
30 to read:

31 7652.4. (a) The commission may, annually, adopt regulations
32 pertaining to salmon and groundfish to conform with or to further
33 restrict the rules and regulations prescribed pursuant to the federal
34 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
35 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1801) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council
36 established pursuant to that act or its successor agency.

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

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

4 ~~SEC. 4.~~

5 SEC. 5. Section 7652.5 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
6 to read:

7 7652.5. (a) Salmon and groundfish may be taken in conformity
8 with the federal laws and regulations and the regulations of the
9 commission as provided in Section 7652.4.

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

18 ~~SEC. 5.~~

19 SEC. 6. Section 8276.3 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
20 to read:

21 8276.3. (a) If there is any delay ordered by the director
22 pursuant to Section 8276.2 in the opening of the Dungeness crab
23 fishery in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9, a vessel shall not
24 take or land crab within Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 during any closure.

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

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

33 ~~SEC. 6.~~

34 SEC. 7. Section 8283 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
35 to read:

36 8283. (a) Crab traps may be set and baited 64 hours prior to
37 the opening date of the Dungeness crab season in Fish and Game
38 Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9. Crab traps may be set and baited in advance
39 of that opening date in those districts if no other attempt is made
40 to take or possess Dungeness crab in those districts.

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

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