Policies of the Fish and Game Commission

Marine Resources Committee
August 10, 2012
Policy Defined

- **Merriam-Webster**
  - 1: prudence or wisdom in the management of affairs
  - 2: a high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures of a government body

- **Businessdictionary.com**
  - 1: The basic principles by which a government is guided
  - 2: The declared objectives that a government of party seeks to achieve and preserve in the interest of national community
Authority

• Fish and Game Code § 703. General Policy Formation; Timber harvesting
  – (a) General Policies for the conduct of the department shall be formulated by the commission. The director shall be guided by those policies and shall be responsible to the commission for the administration of the department in accordance with those policies.
Current FGC Policies

• >50 Individual Policies
• Updated 3 months to 28 years ago
  – Oldest – Deer Management and Natl Parks
  – Newest – Election of Officers, Commission Agenda, Naming Installations
• Many policies lack vision, are repetitive of statute or regulation and/or are prescriptive in nature
Current FGC Policies

WILDLIFE
Deer Management
Depredation Control
Elk
Raptors
Upland Game
Wild Pigs

FISHERIES
Commercial Fishing and Packing Industries
Commercial Use of Native Reptiles
Commission Designated Wild Trout Waters
Cooperatively Operated Rearing Programs for Salmon and Steelhead
Emerging Fisheries
Golden Trout
Planting Fish in Youth Camps
Salmon
Anadromous Rainbow Trout
Stocking Fish in Waters Where Anglers Pay Access Fees
Striped Bass
Trophy Black Bass Program
Trout
Warmwater Game Fish Stocking
Youth Fishing Programs

COMMISSION
Commission Agenda
Commission Office Staffing Needs
Criteria for Considering Appeals of Permanent Revocations of a Sport or Commercial License or Permit
Election of Officers
Implementation and Review of Policies
Legislation
Retention of Commission Records

MISCELLANEOUS
Al Taucher’s Preserving Hunting and Sport Fishing Opportunities Policy Cooperation
Endangered and Threatened Species
Introduction of Non-native Species
Kelp
Land Use Planning
Designation of Department Controlled Lands as State Wildlife Areas
Management and Utilization of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Lands
Management and Utilization of Fish and Wildlife on Private Lands
Marine Protected Areas
Multiple use of Lands Administered by the Department of Fish and Game Naming Installations
National Forests
Non-native Turtles and Frogs Planning
Prospecting on Fish and Game Lands
Public Information and Education
Research
Restricted Access Commercial Fisheries
Salton Sea
Season Opening Dates
Shellfish and Sea Otter Conflicts
Training, Testing and Trialing of Hunting Dogs
Use of Designated Department Lands for Privately Managed Public Hunting Areas
Water
Wetlands Resources
Department of Fish and Game Recommended Wetland Definition, Mitigation Strategies, and Habitat Value Assessment Methodology
Fish and Game Commission Comment to the Department of Fish and Game on the Wetland Policy Implementation Proposal
Wilderness Areas
Traditional Approach to Policy

- Statute
- Policy
- Regulation
- Policy
- Implementation/Operations
Alternate Approach to Policy

Policy
- Vision Statement of Purpose
  - Where do we want to go?

Statute
- Primary tools and authority

Regulation
- Rules and requirements

Implementation/Operations
- Specific Approach
Components of Effective Policies

- Visionary and broad
  - Lays out the direction the Commission wants to go
- Addresses the causes not the symptoms
- Non-prescriptive
- OTHER
General Approach to Policy Formation

• Define the problem/issue/need
  – Clearly distinguish the symptoms/effects from the cause of the problem
• Define the desired outcomes
• Develop policy guidelines to address causes to lead to desired outcomes
• Evaluate tools available to achieve desired outcomes
Development of Forage Policy

• February 15, 2011 MRC, Panel presentation on forage species

• May 24, 2011, Consideration of AB 1299 (Huffman) forage species
  – No position

• December 15, 2011, Commission request development of forage policy by stakeholders

• April 17, 2012 MRC – received presentations, request continued work, coordination with PFMC efforts, and development of language
  – Ad-hoc work group
Draft Forage Policy

• Areas of agreement
  – General need, goals, desired outcomes
  – Emerging fisheries for forage species

• Areas of uncertainty
  – List of forage species
  – Definition of EFI

• Areas of disagreement
  – Use of terms “explicitly”, “fully account for”, “quantify"
  – “Expansion” of existing forage fisheries
PFMC Actions June 2012

• Adoption of motion to “recognize importance of forage fish....provide adequate protection....prohibit development of new directed fisheries on forage until...”

• Reaffirmed top priority to complete Fisheries Ecosystem Plan
Staff Draft

- Broad definition
- Recognition of importance of forage species and need for effective management
- Highlighted areas of disagreement
- Management objectives to guide next steps