



Dedicated to Preserving Your Rights To Hunt and Fish In the State of California

March 26, 2015

Mr. Jack Baylis, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 94244

Re: Agenda Item 27 for the April 8-9, 2015 Fish and Game Commission Meeting, Adoption of proposed regulations regarding authorized methods of take for wildlife using lead ammunition – phasing out the use of lead ammunition

Dear President Baylis and Members of the Commission:

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California is a nonprofit organization of sportsman's clubs and individuals dedicated to preserving outdoor recreation in California. Our principal activities are to monitor legislation that might negatively impact hunting, fishing and other recreation, and to oppose unwise changes in laws and regulations relating to these activities.

The Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California (OSCC) promotes the conservation enhancement, scientific management, and wise use of all our natural resources; OSCC seeks to end activities needlessly destructive to natural resources; OSCC endeavors to educate and encourage the public generally, and the youth specifically, to an understanding of the advantages and importance of the conservation and enhancement of our natural resources.

OSCC works to enhance outdoor opportunities for all citizens. With several thousand members located throughout California, we stay in contact with our membership via newsletters and the internet so they can be involved as they see fit.

The Commission is urged to support, and the Department is urged to sponsor, follow-up legislation to AB 711 that would provide alternatives to an absolute ban on traditional ammunition.

Pending the possible enactment of such legislation, the Commission is asked to include alternatives to a traditional ammunition ban during its regulatory phase in of AB 711. The final regulations do not have to be fully in place before July 1, 2019.

OSCC supports a practical alternative that would require a hunter to bury, cover or otherwise make unavailable to predators or scavengers any entrails, carcasses or other remains of animals taken by the hunter unless the hunter used nonlead ammunition to take such animal.

Such a provision would provide hunters the alternative of using traditional ammunition, subject to the above restrictions and implementing regulations that would be adopted by the commission.

It is questionable whether nonlead ammunition will actually be available to hunters, or if so, whether there will be adequate supplies in popular hunting cartridges.

OSCC has analyzed the currently proposed Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) armor piercing ammunition regulations and has determined that the proposed regulations would prevent the use of essentially all nonlead projectiles loaded into rifle cartridges that are popular for hunting. Most popular hunting cartridges can also be discharged in single shot pistols that are chambered for them. The proposed armor piercing exemption for rifle ammunition that can be fired in pistols, but only in single shot pistols, would never become operative. This is because most, if not all of it, can also be discharged in bolt action handguns having a magazine. Under the proposed regulations, this would void the exemption for hunting rifle cartridges.

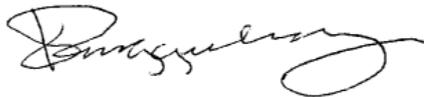
The State of Arizona has recognized the potential for unintended consequences of a total mandatory ban on the use of traditional ammunition and has made the use of nonlead ammunition voluntary. Arizona reports good cooperation from hunters and has determined that its voluntary approach to method of take has been very successful in preventing access to lead ammunition fragments in animal remains by predators and scavengers.

OSCC urges the Commission to take a well thought out and reasoned approach to implementing AB 711 over the entire length of the time period provided for this purpose by the bill, and to provide the above described alternative to a complete traditional ammunition ban during this time.

Supporting or sponsoring the enactment of follow up legislation to provide a rational and effective alternative to a complete ban on traditional ammunition would also comply with the Governor's request in his signing message for such a reasoned approach to implementation.

Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202 or lynch@lynchlobby.com.

Sincerely,



Keith Ringgenberg
President, Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition

cc: Mr. Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission
Mr. Charlton Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Fish and Game Commission
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Ms. Kathryn Lynch, Legislative Advocate
Outdoor Sportsmen's Association of California