

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Parks Department



DATE: July 21, 2016

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 4, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Marlene Finley, Parks Director

SUBJECT: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

Review and recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors of funding to the Coastside Fishing Foundation for the 2016 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project in the amount of \$10,000 from the Parks Department's California Department of Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund.

BACKGROUND

San Mateo County Parks Department manages the expenditure of funds deposited by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the fish and wildlife propagation fund (FWPF) under Fish and Game Code, Section 13100-13104. One half of all fines and forfeitures imposed or collected for fish and wildlife violations are deposited with the County Treasurer. These funds are to be expended for the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, under the direction of the County Board of Supervisors.

The FWPF has an estimated balance of \$71,038. The Parks Department budgets as much as \$10,000 per year on projects meeting the criteria for the FWPF's use. The Board of Supervisors' approval is required for the use of FWPF funds.

In 2012, the Coastside Fishing Foundation (CFF) began working with CDFW on the Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project in an effort to enhance ocean salmon fishery. The CFF is in their fifth year of this project and have acclimated approximately 1,800,000 Chinook Smolt in the net pen their volunteers assemble in the waters at Pillar Point Harbor. The process includes vaccination of the small, three to four inch fish, feeding and monitoring them, releasing them from the pen after about a week, and disassembling, cleaning and storing the pen until the next year. The CFF has found the expense per fish for this acclimation process is about \$.10. For 2015, 360,000 fin-clipped and wire coded, tagged Smolt were delivered for acclimation, which

then had to be vaccinated and fed. With the net pen upkeep, the total expense for the Foundation was \$31,462. In 2015, the CFF made a request for funding from the FWPF that the Commission reviewed at its April 9, 2015 meeting and recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval. On June 2, 2015, the Board of Supervisors authorized \$10,000 in funding to the CFF from the FWPF.

DISCUSSION

The CFF has requested funding from the FWPF for their 2016 Chinook Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project. They received deliveries totaling 480,000 Smolt on May 11, 18 and 25 that have been assimilated and released.

The Department intended to develop a competitive process for recommending projects for funding from the FWPF for this year, which has not yet occurred.

As the CFF's Project meets the CDFW criteria for protection, conservation, and propagation, and they also offer an educational program for school classes to visit and watch the releases, staff recommends presenting the Board of Supervisors with a request for \$10,000 in funding from FWPF for their Project.

Attachment: CFF Proposal

Proposal to seek funds from Fish & Game Propagation Fund

5/19/2016

To: San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Coastside Fishing Foundation is seeking funding from the San Mateo County Fish & Game Propagation fund to help support our on going Salmon Smolt Net Pen Acclimation Project. Five years ago Coastside began an effort to enhance our ocean Salmon fishery by joining efforts with California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, to acclimate hatchery raised Chinook Salmon smolt in Pillar Point Harbor. We have completed 4 seasons, are in the middle of our 5th, and will have acclimated approximately 1,800,000 Chinook smolt. The basic idea of acclimation is to save the 3" to 4" fish the hardships of low water, high temperature trips down the Feather, Sacramento, Mokolumne Rivers and Bay/Delta systems with all their predators, by truck, and then feed and acclimate them in the outer harbor for a week. After releasing the baby fish, the Salmon will return to the general areas (Pillar Point), after a couple years in the ocean to feed and ready themselves for their spawning journey back up the fresh water systems from which they came. The entire process is very labor intensive, and we count on our many talented volunteers to help vaccinate, assemble the net pen, transfer back and forth from Johnson Pier to the outer harbor (4 round trips per season), feed monitor, disassemble, clean and store pen for the year.

Our first year fish did not cost us, as CDFW picked up the tab. Since then we have had expenses around ten cents per fish. \$31,462.00 for 2015 fin-clipped, wire coded tagged smolt. Other expenses include vaccine, net pen up keep, and feed. We have been paying for this from club membership dues, annual fund raising dinner, and member donations. As these sources begin to dwindle, we are looking at every and all avenues available to us. Our project seems to be just what section 13103(d) of the Fish & game code speaks to.

Project Name: Coastside Fishing Foundation Salmon Acclimation Pen

Organization: Coastside Fishing Foundation (coastsidefishingfoundation.com)
Coastside Fishing Club (coastsidefishingclub.com)

Contact Person: Doug Laughlin, 746 Sierra Street, Moss Beach, Ca. 94038
650 207 8712

Net Pen Supervisors: Lead, Bruce MacKimmie (bmackimmie@sbcglobal.net), Rick Sturiza, (golffish@aol.com), Doug Laughlin (dougloughlin3@gmail.com)

Project Goal: Improve the abundance of fall-run Chinook for recreational and commercial use in California waters.

General Acclimation Plan: Hatchery-raised fall run Chinook, provided by the CDFW from enhancement production, will be received at Pillar Point Harbor in San Mateo County and held for five to seven days in a floating net pen, moored in the outer harbor. Following acclimation, the smolt will be released into the Pacific Ocean.

Timing and scope of the project will depend on deliveries from the Department. Coastside is currently receiving three deliveries, two weeks apart, of 160,000 smolt at a time. Current large-scale trucking and acclimation of salmon takes place in San Pablo Bay, with 12 to 16 million salmon smolt released annually.

The project seeks to supplement rather than supplant current acclimation activity. The project will provide currently absent redundancy in the necessary trucking and acclimation processes.

Species of Fish to be Acclimated: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Central Valley fall run.

Numbers to be Acclimated:	2012	180,000
	2013	420,000
	2014	360,000
	2015	360,000
	2016	480,000

Dates of Release: Fish will be released one to two weeks after delivery. We are receiving deliveries on May 11, 18, and 25.

Release Site: Pillar Point Harbor, San Mateo County

Source of Smolt: One or more hatcheries operated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. In 2012, 13, 14, and 15, the Feather River Hatchery sourced the smolt. 2016 fish from CDFW's Mokelumne River Hatchery.

Project Funding: Coastside Fishing Foundation is currently funding the project with donations and support from the Coastside Fishing Club and the CDFW (Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee).