

El Dorado County Fish & Wildlife Commission

Internal Policy: Fishing Derby and Fish Stocking Support Procedures

1. Purpose

To establish a consistent and transparent process for planning, funding, and reporting fishing derby events and associated fish stocking activities within El Dorado County.

These programs are designed to promote public recreation, youth participation, and ethical angling practices while supporting the County's broader fisheries management goals. Fishing derbies and fish stocking initiatives serve as vital public outreach efforts, connecting families and seniors to nature, encouraging lifelong outdoor engagement, and fostering a community culture of responsible fishing and environmental stewardship.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Commissioners and sponsoring organizations seeking financial or logistical support from the El Dorado County Fish & Wildlife Commission for fishing derbies or fish stocking events on public ponds, lakes, or streams within the County.

3. Policy Statement

The Commission may support fishing derbies and related fish stocking events when they:

- Promote public education and engagement in fishing and conservation.
- Are accessible to youth, families, and the general public.
- Demonstrate alignment with the Commission's mission and county wildlife enhancement objectives.
- Contribute positively to native fish populations and overall aquatic ecosystem health.
- Operate in compliance with all California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations, including necessary fish planting and event permits.

Support may include shared cost of purchasing fish.

4. Procedures

4.1. Sponsorship Requests

1. New requests must include:

- Event name, location, and date(s).
- Target age group and estimated attendance.
- Budget breakdown (fish purchase, etc.).
- Source and species of fish proposed for stocking, if applicable.
- Research done for verification of required permits (CDFW stocking permit, landowner consent, insurance).

4.2. Review and Approval

1. Requests will be reviewed by the Committee for eligibility, budget justification, and compliance with County and CDFW guidelines.
2. Funding approvals will be documented in meeting minutes

4.3. Funding Distribution

1. Upon Commission approval, funds will be disbursed through the County's Fish & Game Propagation Fund in accordance with County fiscal procedures.

4.4. Post-Event Reporting

1. The event organizer or Commissioner sponsor must submit a Post-Event Report within 45 days of the event.
2. The report shall include:
 - Attendance data and participant feedback.
 - Photos or promotional materials.
 - Summary of fish species and quantities stocked (if applicable).
 - Any issues or lessons learned for future improvement.

5. Fish Stocking Guidelines

1. Permit & Regulatory Compliance

- a) All fish purchases and releases must comply with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulations and obtain a Fish Planting or Private Stocking Permit (FG 749) if required.

2. Source of Fish

- a) Fish must be sourced from a CDFW-certified aquaculture facility that meets all fish-health inspection standards.
- b) Preference should be given to California-based hatcheries to minimize transport stress and reduce the risk of introducing pathogens.
- c) A minimum of three bids must be obtained.
- d) Trophy-size fish should not be selected to help prevent poaching.

3. Species Selection and Ecological Suitability

- a) Stocking quantities and species should align with the waterbody's carrying capacity, water temperature, seasonal conditions, and habitat characteristics.
- b) The Commission discourages stocking of non-native species in natural waterways without written CDFW authorization.

4. The Commission discourages stocking of non-native species in natural waterways without express CDFW approval.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- District Commissioners:
Coordinate with local groups, ensure compliance with this policy, and submit documentation.
- Commission Secretary / County Liaison:
Review requests, verify permits, and provide recommendations to the Commission. Maintain records, manage disbursements, and ensure adherence to County fiscal controls.

7. Annual Review

The Commission will annually review and update this policy to ensure consistency with County guidelines, CDFW regulations, and community needs.

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