

Introduction of Non-Native Species

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

1. Proposals to introduce exotic species shall be submitted to the Commission for approval. The Department will review and evaluate proposals to insure that the potential effects of such introductions will not have unacceptable negative impacts on native species, agriculture interests, and public health and safety.
2. In considering proposed introductions, the Commission and Department will be guided by the following:
 1. Introduction of exotic species will be authorized only after potential impacts have been carefully evaluated and it has been demonstrated that such impacts will be negligible or positive. Such an evaluation will consider the species' ability to disperse outside the introduction area.
 2. Initial experimental introduction of an approved exotic species will be made under conditions that will permit the action to be reversed, such as introduction into a confined area or introduction of sterile individuals.
 3. Benefits of the action will be described, including why the need cannot be satisfied through improved management to enhance native species or previously established non-native species.
3. Introduction of previously established non-native species into areas of the state where they have not been established will be permitted only after it has been determined by the Department that they will have no significant negative impacts.
 1. Introduction of previously established non-native animal species shall be done in a manner consistent with Section 671.6 of Title 14.
 2. Stocking of "fish" into the waters of the State shall be done in a manner consistent with Section 238.5 of Title 14.
4. Definitions:
 - A **non-native species** is any of mammal, bird, fish, amphibian, reptile, invertebrate, or plant that is not native to California .
 - A **previously established non-native species** is an animal or plant that has become established in California by the aid of humans.

Amended: 06/23/2005