



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Conference Call
Friday, September 27, 2019
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:	Public:
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind	Nikki Kloepfer	Representative Tom
Don McIsaac	Amy Windrope		Dent
Bob Kehoe	Nate Pamplin		Jim Mann
Dave Graybill	Edward Eleazer		
James Anderson	Craig Burley		
Kim Thorburn	David Whipple		
	Dan Brinson		
	Eric Anderson		
	Eric Gardner		

Friday, September 27, 2019

Vice Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Distributing License Discounts Proportionally to Accounts – Decision

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs asked for the Commission's decision that will apply license discounts to each of the component accounts at the same percentage as the total discount, so that a single account is not disproportionately impacted.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to adopt WAC 220-220-095, as presented by staff. Motion passed.

B. Establishing the Get Outdoors Hunting and Fishing License Package – Decision

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs asked for the Commission's decision establishing a Get Outdoors license package for a discounted price that includes fishing, shellfishing, and big and small game hunting privileges.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt WAC 220-220-093, as presented by staff. Motion passed.

C. Amending Rules Pertaining to the Expired Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement – Decision

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs asked for the Commission's decision amending licensing rules to strike references to the expired Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to amend WAC 220-220-060, WAC 220-220-230, and repeal WAC 220-220-210, as presented by staff. Motion passed.

D. Petition – Rule Change, Year Round Fishing, Heart and Erie Lake – Decision

Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager briefed the Commission on a petition to change fishing seasons on Heart and Erie Lake in Skagit County to year-round.

In 2018 the Department completed a yearlong public process to simplify sport fishing rules for game fish including reducing the number of different seasons on lowland lakes. When staff reviewed, existing rules there were dozens of different seasons contributing to angler confusion and frustration.

Staff do not recommend changing the opening day on Erie and Heart lakes in Skagit County. Removing these waters as Opening Day fisheries will eliminate this type of opportunity locally and reduce the number of Opening Day lakes in western Skagit County from four to two. Given the number of year-round lakes in Skagit County, denying this petition will still provide quality year-round fishing opportunities.

Commissioner Thorburn asked if the lakes were accessible and available for fly fishing instruction. Eleazer indicated yes on both accounts.

Commissioner Kehoe asked Craig Burley in 2018 when the yearlong public process to simply sport fishing rules were considered, were those lakes taken into account? Burley indicated yes and the staff recommendations are the same on both occasions.

Commissioner McIsaac supports staff recommendations to deny the petition.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to deny the petition to change the sportfishing season at Erie and Heart Lakes to year-round. Motion passed.

E. Hunter Pink – Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision

David Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to existing WACs that were affected by the passage of Senate Bill 5148.

No public testimony provided.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to amend WACs 220-414-080, 220-415-030, 220-415-050, and 220-415-060 as presented. The motion passed.

F. Special Trapping Permits – Briefing, Public Hearing, and Decision

Dan Brinson, Conflict Section Manager, Game Division briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to existing WAC's that were affected by the passage of House Bill 1917.

No public testimony provided.

Commissioner Thorburn asked for clarification around trap type and basis of permit request. Dan Brinson indicated that the traps are body-gripping and the permits will be used for human and aviation safety and security.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to amend WAC 220-417-040 as presented. The motion passed.

G. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Regulation Amendment – Decision

Eric Winther, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, and Eric Anderson, Enforcement Captain asked for the Commission's decision on proposed regulations concerning AIS watercraft inspection stations, possession of certain forms of prohibited level 3 species, and the reclassification of Northern Pike.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to adopt the proposed new rule WAC 220-640-011 regarding failure to stop at mandatory AIS check stations, the proposed new rule in WAC 220-640-051 regarding lawful possession of certain dead AIS species, the amendment to WAC 220-640-030 that will reclassify Northern Pike as a prohibited level 1 species, and the amendment to WAC 220-640-050 that will remove Northern Pike from the prohibited level 3 species classification. The motion passed.

H. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commission considered approval of the September 13-14 meeting in Winthrop.

Vice Chair Baker moved to table the approval of the September 13-14 meeting minutes until the October 18-19 meeting in Olympia.

I. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners discussed upcoming meeting agendas.

Commissioner McIsaac had the following suggestions for the October agenda:

- Add agenda planning to the Big Tent committee
- Remove hatchery update and add schedule update on policy C-3619 to the Fish committee.
- Agenda #13, cougar management, add possible guidance?

Vice Chair Baker indicated that Nikki will take note of the suggestions and they will be brought to Chair Carpenter for further discussion and/or approval.

Commissioner Thorburn indicated that there will be a conference call for the Wildlife committee the week of October 6 to get some clarity on the cougar conversation.

J. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director discussed recent activities and items of interest.

Director Susewind attended the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Highlights include:

- Increasing customer base, traditional and non-traditional
- Further exploration of the human dimension and social sciences in fish and wildlife management.
- Contract processes with other tribal entities. Kelly feels Washington states process is more collaborative and constructive.

Tomorrow is National Fishing and Hunting Day. The Department will be at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club from 10am-4pm showing their support.

Vice Chair Baker provided testimony and attended the Hatchery Spending and Project Task Force, September 26, 2019, in the John L. O'Brien Building, House Hearing Rm D. The Task Force discussed their proviso and the hatchery spending review process. The agenda and video are available online.

Commissioner Kehoe is interested in the video and agenda. Nikki will provide the information to the Commission.

Commissioner McIsaac would like to contribute suggestions to the Directors report in October and would like to see information on the Hatchery Spending and Project Task Force on it. He will provide his feedback via email.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.


Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant