



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

January 17-18, 2020 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Bob Kehoe
Dave Graybill
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Julie Sandberg

Ben Anderson
Samantha Montgomery
Michele Culver
Jeff Davis
Margen Carlson
Randi Thurston
Chad Herring
Kirt Hughes
Kyle Adicks

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Bruce Barnes	Dave Croonquist	George Harris	Todd Lammers	Lance Gray
David Hedrick	Gabe Miller	Carol Burke	Merry Coleman	Bob Lake
Robb Krehbiel	Ron Garner	Steven Franzen	Scott Sigmon	Dave Hedrick
Ronald Reed	Cary Hofmann	Patrick Pattillo	Larry Bucklin	John Rickert
Dale Scott	Greg King	Mark Coleman	Ross Barkhurst	Laura Blackmore
Tom Banse	Dan Davison	Norm Reinhardt	Lisa Olsen	Amy Carey
Larry Theok	Ed Gunderson	Greg McMillan	Earl Betts	Hannah Marchley
Jay Roberts	Jody Pope	Tim Hamilton	Art Holman	

Friday, January 17, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chair Carpenter noted that agenda item #8, Forest Restorations was moved to the February Commission meeting and the HSRG Subcommittee tribal meeting will have Commissioner Anderson attend instead of Vice Chair Baker.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Commissioner's Smith and Thorburn commented on their travel attending the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) mid-winter meeting.

Vice Chair Baker voiced support for the Department library.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission tabled the approval of the December 13-14, 2019 meeting minutes to the February meeting.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, Baker, Linville, Anderson, McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the status review of wolves occurs in one year. It will include reviewing status and receiving staff recommendations to bring to the Commission to provide guidance. This includes the d-listing of wolves and a plan for wolf management. The scoping process portion of plan has been completed by staff. The committee discussed at great length of where the committee will engage in the process. In February the committee will bring sideboards ideas. The committee also received an update on the Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) wolf livestock protocols.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, Anderson, Linville, Baker

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed public safety and wildlife and how both DFW enforcements with state and local police collaborate and work in parallel approach. The committee agreed to recommend that next steps on non-lead efforts be delegated to Director.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Carpenter, McIsaac, Anderson, Graybill, Kehoe, Baker, Linville, Thorburn

Commissioner McIsaac reported that committee staff briefed on Puget Sound Crab, Bob Sizemore, WDFW staff provided a presentation of treaty tribe initiatives on recreational crab management policy C-3609. He talked about 7 tribal initiatives, 4 with policy changes, 3 without. Staff were going to respond to tribes and that communications will continue, and it may come up again.

Regarding the Willapa 2019 egg take distribution, staff went through a graphic showing hatchery facilities egg production and there was a discussion about whether egg takes should stay or transfer in accordance with policy or other objectives. This is a policy decision for the full Commission and its suggested that it is added to the February agenda.

The HSRG workshop timeline discussion it was recommended that it be split into two dates the Thursdays before the next two Commission meeting. Tom McBride, Legislative Director provided an update on HSRG Taskforce recommendations. The taskforce hasn't settled on a decision yet.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Thorburn, McIsaac, Linville, Baker, Anderson

Vice Chair Baker reported on agenda planning. There is a recommendation from the committee to have Commissioner McIsaac and Amy Windrope, Deputy Director give their okay on the agenda before chair approval. The committee discussed the need to adopt a Commission Conservation policy. Take away staff is going to go back and put together a draft policy to be reviewed at Big Tent. The strategic planning status was also discussed and its estimated to be completed by summer of this year.

Joint State Columbia River Policy Review Committee (PRC) update

Commissioner McIsaac reported that a timeline was discussed with the PRC efforts in December to move forward after the November meeting cancellation. On January 8 the Oregon chair had concerns about time investment. On January 13 the Oregon chair voiced interest in suspending Oregon participation in the PRC for two years. Commissioner McIsaac summarized the Oregon chairs thoughts to the Commission. Commissioners will discuss how to proceed after the director provides his report on negotiations with the Oregon director.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bruce Barnes – State resources, elk hoof disease

Dave Hedrick – NE WA wolf recovery

Robb Krehbiel – Strategic plan

Ronald Reed – Wolf recover issues

3. Director's Report

The Director provided written highlights on the following:

- Olympia oyster restoration
- Commercial marketing efforts
- Solar farm Wildlife impacts
- Digital open houses
- Government-to-government efforts

Director Susewind gave an update on negotiation efforts on a 1-year agreement with Oregon on Columbia River gear and allocation. There are five areas being addressed for concurrency; Chinook (spring, summer, fall) seasons, Coho allocation, and hook recreational regulations. An agreement has not been yet reached.

The Commission acknowledged the director's delegation of authority.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of Bear Canyon acquisition proposal is to purchase 92 (+/-) acres in Yakima County within the Oak Creek Wildlife Area along the Tieton River. Protecting and enhancing this habitat will be beneficial for ESA listed bull trout and steelhead. In addition, removing the potential for domestic livestock (sheep and goats) within the Tieton bighorn sheep range is significant for future reintroduction efforts. Acquiring this property will increase public land open for outdoor recreation including additional river access on a popular fly-fishing river.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Linville to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Coastal Dungeness Crab Whale Entanglement – Decision

Michele Culver, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager and Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Coordinator requested Commission approval to the proposed measures for the 2019-2020 season intended to reduce the risk of whale entanglements.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to adopt revisions as presented in CR-102 to: WAC 220-340-430, WAC 220-340-435, and WAC 220-340-480, except for WAC 220-340-430(6)(b)(i) and (ii), adopt a line marking requirement of 12 inches and include an effective date of December 1, 2020, as well as, revision to WAC 220-340-430(6)(a) insert the word "reasonably" before necessary. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to delegate the rulemaking authority to the Director for the specific coastal Dungeness crab fishery gear marking requirements. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Puget Sound Partnership – Briefing

Jeff Davis, Director of Conservation introduced Laura Blackmore, Executive Director with the Puget Sound Partnership. She briefed the Commission on current activities and partnerships with the Department.

7. Hydraulic Project Implementing Bill 1579 – Briefing, Public Hearing

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director, Randi Thurston, Protection Division Manager, and Pat Chapman, Regulatory Services Coordinator briefed the Commission on the implementation of the hydraulic project bill 1579.

The following people provided comments:

Robb Krehbiel Hannah Marchley
Amy Carey Jay Roberts

8. Forest Restoration Projects – Briefing, Decision

This item was moved to the February agenda.

9. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during executive session and the public was not permitted to attend. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

10. Commissioner Workshop

Commissioner Anderson, Thorburn, McIsaac, Carpenter, Baker, Linville, Graybill, Kehoe, Smith, Amy Windrope, Kelly Susewind, Joe Panesko, Nikki Kloepfer

During the workshop the Commissioners reviewed the discussion captured from their September meeting in Winthrop. The group further discussed roles and responsibilities, interactions with staff and how that is managed.

Actions:

- Kelly Susewind, Director, will ask management about Commission communication engagement. An e-mail will be sent to staff about process/interaction with Commissioners. Have 15 minute “rule” then touch base with manager. The draft information will be sent to the Commission before distribution to staff.
- Amy Windrope, Deputy Director, discussed onboarding, new orientation and training efforts for Commissioners. Kathy Backman will provide Nikki the document to distribute to Commissioners for review.
- Commissioners requested a “road map” that includes rulemaking for programs, regular events from each program, use year-at-a-glance as resource. Kloepfer to schedule something week of Feb 13th. Staff will report back to the Commission in April.
- Commissioners discussed better ways to communication digitally. Nikki will schedule a meeting with staff and Commissioner Baker to explore additional options. Staff will update the Commission at the April workshop.
- Commissioners asked about regional staff support with the onboarding efforts. Regional IT can assist Commissioners with their DFW electronic devices and other issues.
- Commissioner Graybill suggested a blue sheet for optics with muzzle loader rifles. Commissioner Thorburn suggested it go to Wildlife committee first. The item will be addressed at the February Wildlife committee meeting.
- Staff and Joe Panesko, AGO will work to address the Fish and Wildlife Commission procedures and committee structure for formal approval. This will be discussed at the workshop in April.

- The Commissioners agreed to have actions or motions draft and projected onto the screen in the Commission meetings for adequate discussion. They also agreed to have motions in writing beforehand and a “no surprises rule.” Joe Panesko offered to capture if “off the cuff”
- Next Commission workshop will be in April.

Recess

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

11. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622- Briefing, Public Comment

Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst, Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy, and Kirt Hughes, Statewide Salmon and Steelhead Fishery Manager provided a review of fishery management objectives utilized during the 2019 North of Falcon process and preliminary harvest estimates from the 2019 fishery season in relation to pre-season predicted estimates of harvest and discuss fishery management guidance for the 2020 fishery season.

The following people provided comments:

Tim Hamilton	Greg McMillan	Art Holman	Norm Reinhardt
Frances Estralla	Greg King	Lance Gra	Bob Lake
Marlia Dugan	Lisa Olsen	Ross Barkhurst	

12. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Ed Gunderson – More fish	Marlisa Dugan – Willapa habitat
Ross Barkhurst – Willapa habitat	Greg King – Fish
Dan Davison – Fish predation	Laurence Bucklin – Point-no-point
Norm Reinhardt – Point-no-point	Dave Hedrick – WAG/Wolf plan

13. Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan – Briefing, Public Comment

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy updated the Commission on the current timeline and process for the Puget Sound Chinook Resource Management Plan.

The following people provided comments:

Ron Garner
Norm Reinhardt
Patrick Pattillo
George Harris

14. Future Meeting Planning

The following suggestions were made for the February agenda:

- Addition of Hatchery Reform Workshop, part one of two, Thursday morning
- Add agenda item for Columbia River
- Two committees, Thursday afternoon, Wildlife committee Friday morning 7am
- Saturday morning, Big Tent committee
- Add 30 minutes to “Hunting Contests” agenda item

15. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioner Kehoe requested a letter be drafted to the Oregon Commission to reconsider their position and repeal their suspension. He offered to write it.

Chair Carpenter would like more information before next steps. He offered to contact the Chair for clarity. The response will be sent to the Commission once received.

Chair Carpenter proposes a blue sheet titled "Willapa Bay" a briefing on ecological factors related to Willapa Bay food chain primarily related to food sources and availability for out migrating juvenile salmonids.

Chair Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to support the "Willapa Bay" blue sheet as proposed. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant