



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Conference Call
Friday, March 27, 2020
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:	Public:
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Amy Windrope,	Nikki Kloepfer	Herb Gerhard
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair	Deputy Director		Chris Bachman
Don McIsaac	Kelly Susewind,		
Bob Kehoe	Director		
Dave Graybill	Anis Aoude		
James Anderson	Eric Gardner		
Kim Thorburn	Michele Culver		
Molly Linville	Ron Warren		
Brad Smith	Tami Lininger		
	Joe Panesko, AGO		

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

A. Petition – WAC 220-474-060 Muzzle loading firearms – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on multiple petitions requesting a revision to WAC 220-414-060 (3b), Muzzle loading firearms, I (3b) Telescopic sights or sights containing lass are prohibited. Strike" prohibited" and [g] I am requesting the following change: replace with "legal". Or replace with "Fixed or variable scope sights are legal".

Staff recommended denying the petition and delaying any decision on the issue until it can be addressed during the 3-year season setting process.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to deny the petition and delay any decision on this issue until it can be addressed during the 3-year season setting process. All in favor. Motion passed.

B. Future Meeting Planning

The Commissioners with staff discussed the [governor's proclamation 20-28](#), in regard to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

The Commissioners discussed the WDFW Commission COVID-19 plan to adhere to the Governor's direction on Open Public Meetings:

The following modifications were requested for the April 2020 agenda.

- Commissioner McIsaac requested that the Hatchery reform workshop be moved to the morning of April 9 and the Fish and Wildlife committees follow later in the day. Fish committee would then be at 1pm and Wildlife committee at 2:30pm.

- Chair Carpenter requested the workshop run from 9am-noon.
- Puget Sound Crab was to be on the April agenda, but with approval has been moved to the May 15 agenda.
- Other items such as Policy C-3620 Columbia River, Policy C-3619 Hatchery Reform, Mazama Pocket Gopher Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review have been moved to the June agenda.

C. **General Discussion**

Director Kelly Susewind and Deputy Director Amy Windrope provided a COVID-19 update and Commissioners discussed season impacts.

Director Susewind provided the rationale behind closing fishing statewide for two weeks, the decision will be reevaluated April 6, 2020.

The Commissioners discussed the delegation of authority during the Governor's declared State of Emergency for COVID-19.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, notwithstanding any prior delegation of authority by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, and notwithstanding any policy previously adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Commission hereby delegates to the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife the authority to exercise any power of the Commission or Department as the Director determines is necessary or appropriate to respond to the COVID-19 state of emergency, including but not limited to adopting or repealing agency rules, modifying or closing fisheries or hunting seasons, entering into agreements, closing WDFW offices, or complying with any applicable emergency proclamation of the Governor or of a local health authority. The Director will report to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting, any authority exercised by the Director pursuant to this delegation of authority. This delegation remains in effect while the Governor's declared State of Emergency for COVID-19 (Proclamation 20-05 and all amendments thereto) remains in effect.

Commissioner Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to amend Commissioner Kehoe's motion to add "or hunting seasons", after "modifying or closing fisheries". Amendment to the main motion passed unanimously.

Main motion as amended passed unanimously.

The Commission agreed to consult the Attorney General's office on motion language and Commissioners questions regarding what happens to fishing and hunting regulations when the Governor's declarations expire. Staff will look at dates next week for a special conference call.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant