



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

September 11-12, 2020 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

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

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Bill Tweit
Ryan Lothrop
Anis Aoude
Ron Warren
Julie Watson
Brendan Brokes
Fenner Yarborough
Chad Herring
Jeff Davis
Lynn Helbrecht
Rob Geddis

Guest Speakers

Adrian Tuohy
Tino Villaluz
Scott Schuyler
Frank Bob

Friday, September 11, 2020

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Chair Carpenter paid respects to the late Bob Lake, longtime Willapa Bay advocate.

There are no lands transactions for decision. The item was struck from the agenda.

Commissioner McIsaac shared a graph outline the increased [daily adult counts at Bonneville Dam for adult Chinook](#).

Chair Carpenter shared that he and Commissioner Baker with DFW leadership met with Oregon Commission leadership. They discussed collaboration and concurrence efforts moving forward into the future.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the July 31-August 1, 2020 and August 21, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the July 31-August 1, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2020 webinar as amended. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed the potential of porcupine and rattlesnake dog aversion training. The Commission asked staff to develop a white paper on the issue and to come back to the committee.

The committee recommended to the full Commission that aversion training proceed to rule develop in a limited capacity, specially for the two species, under the directors permitting process.

The Commission supported the recommendation and asked the staff to move forward with rule development.

The committee was also given a brief overview of the species impacts by the fire damage in the state and the outlook of upcoming hunting seasons. Details on the damage and season development will be provided during the directors' report.

Fish Committee

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

Commissioner McIsaac reported out for the committee.

Under the Hatchery Policy C-3619 item even though some public comment was being received the committee and staff felt the public review period could have been better advertised. The committee expressed interest in extending the public comment period.

Staff are looking for approval of the evaluation report/review document for Willapa Bay Policy C-3622 from the full Commission and discussed the presentation overview for Saturday.

Commissioner Anderson discussed proposing a Blue Sheet on pinniped conservation and management. The initial briefing will be at the December Commission meeting. The long-term intent is to develop a management action plan.

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Smith, Kehoe, Baker, Linville, Anderson

Commissioner Smith reported that the committee discussed the current riparian habitats in the 5 regions, the Shrub Steppe habitat that Washington recently lost due to the recent fires and received an update on the efforts with the Puget Sound nearshore habitat and the Co-Manager Habitat Workplan.

The committee also discussed no regret renewable energy and had a dialogue about across disciplines with the key idea being that habitat and conservation are integrated in all aspects of fish and wildlife management. Commissioner Kehoe noted that the Governor's office and the legislature are developing a Riparian Habitat policy and the department is part of those talks.

Big Tent Committee

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

Commissioner Baker reported that the committee met and discussed the strategic plan. The committee asked the staff to run them through where the plan currently is and update them on outreach efforts, specifically to rural and northeast Washington, as well as, the morals and values embedded in the plan. The plan is scheduled to be adopted in October.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Heath Heikkila – Columbia River policy	Sophia Ressler – Orca recovery
David Linn – Wolf recovery	Nello Picinich – Columbia River policy
Harriet Allen – Hunting contests	Greg Johnson – Columbia River policy
Brian McLachlan – Columbia River policy	Tyler Comeau – Columbia River Policy
Lyle Cabe – Gillnets	Steve Kopp – Columbia River policy
Irene Martin – Strategic plan/Columbia River	Greg King – Columbia River policy
Brian Love – Columbia River gillnets	Chris Hyland – Columbia River policy
Jim Wells – Columbia River policy	Story Warren – Hunting contests
Diane Gallegos – Hunting contests	David Moskowitz – Cold water refugia
Devin Twitty – Hunting contests	Stan Brogdon – Columbia River policy
Bryce Devine – Columbia River policy	Dan Paul – Hunting Contests
Jim Coleman – Columbia River policy	Frank Cassidy – Columbia River policy
Robert Sudar – Columbia River policy	Chris Hager – Columbia River policy

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Development of procedural guidelines for hunting off reservation
- Governor moved wolf petition to rulemaking
- Governor's commitment to riparian efforts and standardization throughout the state
- Agency awards
- Hunting seasons

Deputy Director Windrope gave an update on wildlife and habitats impacted by the fires throughout the state.

4. Hunting Contests – Decision

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Game Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on hunting contests.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Baker to adopt WACs 220-412-100 and 220-413-060 as presented by staff. Commissioners Thorburn and Kehoe oppose. Commissioners Anderson, Linville, McIsaac, Baker, Smith, Carpenter and Graybill approve. Motion passes.

5. Climate Change – Briefing

Lynn Helbrecht, Climate Change Coordinator and Jeff Davis, Conservation Director briefed the Commission on the agency efforts to combat climate change.

Commissioners Smith and Baker agree to aggressively move forward with the development of the steering committee and identification of stakeholders.

In the near future the Big Tent Committee will discuss a Commission policy on climate change.

6. Strategic Plan – Briefing, Public Hearing

Jeff Davis, Conservation Director and Rob Geddis, Lean Performance Manager briefed the Commission on the current status of the strategic plan.

The following people provided comments:
Debra Chase Sue Lani Madsen
Anne Kroeker Alan Chapman

7. Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy (C-3620) – Decision

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant to the Director and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fisheries Manager provided material to the Commission for a decision on the final revised draft language within Policy C-3620.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to adopt the public review draft containing revisions to Policy C-3620, as modified by the [red font language changes](#) brought forward at the September 1 Commission workshop and contained in the third of the agenda materials on the website for this agenda item.

Commissioner Graybill made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to amend the motion in accordance with the changes shown in his [red font language changes version](#) brought forward at the September 1 Commission workshop and contained in the third of the agenda materials on the website for this agenda item. Commissioner McIsaac opposed. Commissioners Baker, Carpenter, Graybill, Smith, Kehoe, Anderson, Linville, and Thorburn approved. Motion passed with an 8/1 vote.

The amended main motion passed with a 5-4 vote. Commissioners McIsaac, Kehoe, Anderson, Linville and Thorburn approved. Commissioners Baker, Carpenter, Graybill, and Smith opposed.

8. North Cascades Elk – Briefing, Public Comment

Brendan Brokes, Region 4, Director and Fenner Yarborough, Region 4, Wildlife Manager briefed the Commission on the current status of the North Cascades Elk Herd.

There was no public comment for this item.

9. Evaluation of Selective Harvest Experimental Salmon Trap in the Lower Columbia River – Briefing

Adrian Tuohy from the Wildlife Fish Conservancy briefed the Commission on the 2017-2020 pound net alternative gear research in the lower Columbia River.

Recess

Saturday, September 12, 2020

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

David Linn – Wolf recovery	Karen Kunde – Hunting contest/wolf recovery
Lovel Pratt- Whale watching	Donna Sandstrom – Whale watching
Larry Pryor – Meeting accessibility	Stephanie Velva – Hunting contest/whale watching
Dave Hendrick – Strategic plan	Heath Heikkila – Columbia River policy
Greg King – Gillnetting	

11. Hatchery Policy (C-3619) Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy briefed the Commission on the public comment received during the public review of the proposed draft policy language within Policy C-3619.

The Commission and staff proposed the follow modifications to the timeline.

- Extend public comment to October 12
- Have the Fish Committee writing group develop draft language revisions
- At Oct 22-24 FWC meeting discuss public comment; approve draft revisions and/or provide direction to develop language changes
- Show draft language revisions to Co-Managers in mid-Nov
- Post draft language revisions for public review
- Final Commission public hearing and final decision at Dec 3-5 Commission meeting

The following people provided comments:

Lee Blankenship	Alan Chapman	Greg King	Jessica Helsey
David Moskowitz	Larry Pryor	Stephanie Velea	Jamie Glasgow

The public requested that the hatchery policy materials from Commission meetings be placed on the primary hatchery policy page.

12. Commercial Whale Watching – Briefing

Dr. Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead briefed the Commission on the agency's work to develop a licensing program for commercial whale watching and rules regarding commercial viewing of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

13. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) Comprehensive Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst briefed the Commission on the draft comprehensive review for Policy C-3622.

The following people provided comments:

Irene and Kent Martin	Larry Pryor	Stephanie Velea	Greg King
Greg McMillan	Andy Mitby	Lisa Olsen	Lance Grady

Chair Carpenter challenged the advisory groups to work together.

Commissioner McIsaac noted that the report is the kind of document the Commission had asked for and had some suggestions for section 1.7 called "Conclusions" addressing whether the purpose and objectives of the policy were achieved. He also asked that the public and Irene Martin's comments on the draft report be addressed and recommended consider it being approved at the next meeting. He noted the Commission has yet to decide whether revisions to the policy will be made and asked that notice of this upcoming decision be made so the public has time to provide their input.

14. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Joe Panesko updated the Commission on the Fish Wildlife and Parks Division within the Attorney General's Office, with the retirement of our division chief Joe Shorin, has merged into the former Resources Division which advises DNR. We have a new division name and a new division chief, but WDFW's legal representation will remain pretty much unchanged.

Commissioner McIsaac discussed next steps for the Columbia River policy. First is to have staff convert motion documents into a formal policy document. He also spoke to a communications plan on the Commission decision that would include a prompt news release and a decision document that presented the rationale and justification for the final policy decision. The Commission discussed the news release and decision document and decided to move forward with both. Commissioner McIsaac also spoke to a [climate change amendment](#) for the Columbia River policy that was in the Commission materials but not brought on the floor for a vote. Commissioner McIsaac asks that it be considered in the future.

Commissioner Kehoe requested that a letter be sent to the Oregon Commission letting them know of the Washington decision and to request a meeting to discuss a plan to move forward towards policy concurrency. It was suggested that a small group of 4 Commissioners and key staff meeting with the Oregon commission in the future. The Commissioners supported the letter and a small group meeting. Commissioner Kehoe offered to compose the draft of the letter to be reviewed by the Commission before sent to the Oregon Commission.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Graybill, to bring forth a blue sheet briefing on pinniped conservation and management off the coast and the Columbia River. All in favor. Motion passes.

15. 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.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer 10/23/20

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant