



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 4-5, 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

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Anis Aoude
Ron Warren
Carrie McCausland
Julie Sandberg
Dr. Julie Watson
Raquel Crosier
Nate Pamplin

Staff

Rebecca Bennett
Captain Jeff Wickersham

Guests

MaryAnn Wagner

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Friday, December 4, 2020

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Commissioner Thorburn mentioned the passing of Donna Roloff and her family's contribution to the conservation of Washington's land and wildlife.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the October 23-24, 2020 and November 20, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the October 23-24, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2020 web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Fish Committee

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

Commissioner Graybill reported that the committee was provided an update on the progress with the Willapa Bay policy and Hatchery policy. The Fish committee provided a recommendation with language changes, a timeline and next steps, for the Hatchery policy Commission agenda item on Saturday.

Wildlife Committee

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

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee was provided an update on the non-lead partnership. It's currently in a holding pattern due to Covid. Staff provided a briefing on the bear/cougar tooth aging process as a tool to monitor harvest age structure and to validate field aging. The committee was given an overview on the Spring Bear hunt presentation that will be provided to the Commission later today. Staff gave a presentation on the periodic status review process and the status of upcoming reviews. The grazing rule/policy timeline has been pushed out due to the overwhelming amount of feedback from constituents. The committee was given an overview of fire response on WDFW-owned lands and there is an ADA issue regarding a rule on permits that will be added to January Wildlife committee's agenda.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Shannon Moore – Willapa Bay	Marie Neumiller – Wildlife conservation
Michelle Blake – Non-lethal management	Robert Sudar – Columbia River/ Local seafood
David Linn – Wildlife conservation	Samantha Bruegger – Spring bear hunts
Ravae O'Leary – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries	Rachel Bjork – Wildlife conservation
Rod Fleck – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries	David Moskowitz – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- OR/WA commissioner meetings
- Region open houses
- Treaty hunting rights/Tribal Co-Manager Hunting Summit
- North of Falcon preparation
- Land tribal ownership discussions
- Skokomish River concerns
- Centennial Accord
- DOT injunction
- Governors initiative on riparian efforts
- Strategic plan
- Northeast Washington Wildlife Group meeting about antler-point hunting restrictions
- Senate Agricultural Committee – agency talk on Columbia River

Director Susewind provided a briefing with staff on current Coastal Steelhead season concerns. Commissioner Thoburn suggested a briefing on the state of Steelhead.

Counselor Panesko provided a management change update.

Deputy Director Windrope provided recruitment changes and the continuing internal development of safety protocols during COVID.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of a land transaction- recommended by the Department.

There was no public comment for this item.

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

The Commission and staff gave Julie their sincerest thanks for her service as she transitions to retirement.

BREAK

5. Spring Bear Hunting Seasons – Briefing, Public Hearing

Anis Aoude, WL Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-080 Spring black bear special permits.

The following people provided comments:

Marie Neumiller	Malaya Lualhati	Martha Hall	Robert Hall
David Linn	Dan Paul	Sharon Stroble	Sophia Ressler
Timothy Coleman	Claire Davis	Stephanie Taylor	Rachel Bjork
Bob McCoy			

6. Commercial Whale Watching – Briefing, Public Hearing

Dr. Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead briefed the Commission on the rule package regarding commercial whale watching of Southern Resident Killer Whales, including options regarding months, days, and number of vessels permitted. The briefing included analysis and presentation of comments received on the proposed options.

The following people provided comments:

Mayor Will Hall	Stephanie Solien	Les Purce	Robb Krehbiel
Brian Goodremont	Sophia Ressler	Brendan Flynn	Kevin Champion
Michael Jasny	Donna Sandstrom	Erin Gless	Rein Attemann
Matt Stolmaier	David Bain	Gene Helfman	Todd Hass
Kelly Balcomb-Bartok	Monika Shields	Nora Nickum	Amanda Colbert
Whitney Neugebauer	Jeff Friedman	Ariel Yseth	Amy Eberling
Cindy Hansen	Janet Thomas	Lovel Pratt	Joe Scordino
Kenneth Balcomb	Toby Cooper	Peter Hanke	Butch Smith
Alisa Lemire Brooks	Ron Gardner	Tamara Kelley	Tim Ragen
Carol Bordin			

There will be a special meeting scheduled next week for the Commission to dive deeper into the Commercial Whale changes before a decision is made December 18.

LUNCH

7. Promoting Washington's Sustainable Seafood - Briefing

Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant to the Director and Carrie McCausland, Director of Public Affairs and MaryAnn Wagner, staff with Washington Sea Grant briefed the Commission on WDFW's management role and the resulting impact on locally harvested seafood.

8. Blue Sheet: Pinniped Conservation and Management – Briefing

This item was moved to the January 29-30, 2021 Commission meeting due to time constraints.

9. WDFW Managed Nonlethal Pursuit Training Program– Briefing, Public Hearing

Rebecca Bennett, Community Outreach Liaison and Captain Jeff Wickersham, WDFW Enforcement briefed the Commission on the proposed nonlethal pursuit pass program.

The following people provided comments:

Marie Neumiller	Martha Hall	Rachel Haymon	Bob McCoy
Rachel Bjork	Sophia Ressler	James Van Geystel	Mic O'Brien
Dan Paul	Bruce Duncan	David Linn	Jerry Anderson
Debra Chase	Gabrielle Gilbert	Rob McCoy	Buddy Woodberry
Bart George	Lucas Getman	Lynn Mason	Sharon Stroble
Roxane Auer	Greg Jones	Ronald Reed	Dr. Susan Kane-Ronning

The Commission agreed to move Executive Session from the end of the day on Friday to the end of the meeting on Saturday.

Recess

Saturday, December 5, 2020

10. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Martha Hall – Spring bear	Ron Reed – Cougar incident
Samantha Bruegger – Spring bear	Sharon Stroble – Spring bear
David Linn – Wildlife conservation	Lynn Okita – Spring bear
Ravae O’Leary – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries	Stephanie Taylor – Spring bear
Claire Davis – Spring bear	Chris Bachman – Spring bear
Ilene LeVee – Spring bear baiting	

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

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy asked the Commission to consider next steps for the revised language to Policy C-3619.

The following people provided comments:

Greg King	George Harris	Butch Smith	Ron Garner
Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Olsen			

The Fish committee brought forth a recommendation that included a revised schedule and guidance on policy language from the Writing Workgroup. The Commission discussed the recommendation and approved it without objection; the document is available on the Commission website [here](#).

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

Chad Herring, Fish Anadromous Resource Policy Analyst and Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy briefed the Commission on revisions to the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy and asked the Commission for guidance on next steps.

The following people provided comments:

Greg King

Ron Gardner

Butch Smith

Jason Lake

Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Olsen

Commissioner McIsaac recommended that the Commission accept the Willapa Bay policy review report as final, with the exception of needing clarity about the Fall Chinook escapement goal status as it did not show up in the review report until a late stage. The Commission accepted the Willapa Bay report as final without objection. The Commission also approved moving forward with considering changes to the current policy.

Director Susewind suggested that the next step be that staff provide the Commission with a revised policy language alternative that includes a list of options and a recommendation. The Commission unanimously supported the suggestion.

Ron Warren and the Commission gave their thanks to Chad Herring for all his work on Willapa Bay. Ron Warren introduced Marlene Wagner who is now the Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor Fishery Policy Lead.

Ron Warren and Marlene Wagner will come back to the Commission with a process and timeline suggestion based on the feedback received from the meeting today.

13. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commission, staff, and a few contingents gave their thanks to Commissioner Graybill for his service as this was his last meeting and his term expires at the end of the month.

Commissioner Baker asked if staff could let the Commission know when Senate and House hearings concerning the agency occur.

Commissioner McIsaac provided input on the Year at a Glance and asked the staff to proposed placement of the many items in the "to be determined" category on some point on the 2021 calendar; there was no objection to this direction. He also withdrew his North of Falcon Blue Sheet request.

14. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken and the public was not permitted to attend.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Nichole Kloepfer 1/29/2021
Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant