



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

June 25-26, 2021 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
Lorna Smith
Fred Koontz
Jim R. Anderson
(Saturday only)

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Karen Edwards
Steve Caromile
Kirt Hughes
Ron Warren
Marlene Wagner

Staff

Kelly Cunningham
Morgan Stinson
Tim Burns
Marvin Williams

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Friday, June 25, 2021

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

Commissioner McIsaac shared the current spring Chinook jack counts from the [Fish Passage Center](#).

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the April 22-24, 2021 and June 11, 2021 draft minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz, to approve the minutes of the April 22-24, 2021, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021, 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:

Wildlife Committee

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

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed an ADA hunting points update. The Cougar Safety Team briefed the committee on an updated Cougar Proviso, conflict response, preliminary 2020-21 harvest data, Klickitat County interactions and an external workgroup update. Materials from the meeting can be found [here](#).

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: McIsaac, Baker, Thorburn, Koontz

Vice Chair Baker reported that the committee received a strategic plan update, discussed the progress made on the agencies mission across internal documents/publications, and started a conservation policy introduction. Staff provided the committee with a climate change communication plan and update, this may educate the constituency on the impacts of climate change within fishing and hunting dynamics. The committee completed the meeting with an overview of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Roadmap, exploring the vision and AFWA relevancy connections that may benefit the agency. Materials from the meeting can be found [here](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Koontz, Smith, Linville, Carpenter

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee received briefings on the non-native game fish policy, the coastal steelhead 2021-2022 season planning and the Willapa Bay policy. These items that be discussed in detail with the full Commission during the meeting. Materials from the meeting can be found [here](#).

Commissioner McIsaac provided a report on the May 26 Joint Columbia river meetings with Oregon and Washington. Staff provided briefings on wild fish runs statuses. Guy Norman provided a presentation on the Columbia River Basin Partnership. Oregon staff provided presentations on the Columbia Basin Collaborative and the smolt-to-adult survival rates. The participating commissioners reviewed the Oregon and Washington conservation policies and discussed the role of the Commissions and salmon recovery. A writing workgroup was established to begin policy language development, with an initial focus on common conservation principles and actions. The agenda and audio can be referenced [here](#).

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Koontz, Carpenter, Baker, Smith

Commissioner Linville reported that Hannah Anderson provided a briefing on the Shrubsteppe Proviso. This will include \$2.35M GF-S to restore shrubsteppe habitat, wildlife, and communities affected by 2020 wildfires \$1.5M Capital Funds for shrubsteppe and rangeland cooperative wildlife fencing. Funding through this proviso will provide near-term relief for no-regret actions that support wildlife habitat and private landowners in shrubsteppe communities affected by 2020 wildfire. Information on the proviso can be found [here](#).

ADA Advisory Committee

Commissioner Thorburn briefed the Commission on the current work of the ADA Advisory committee. There are currently 3 vacancies on the committee. The committee is comprised of 1 representative from each region and 1 at-large. There have been long term vacancies in region 3 and 6 and our at-large volunteer termed out and opted to not continue. The committee would like to move the Region 1 representative into the at large position. The Commission is responsible for making committee appointments and must vote on the changes.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to move the Region 1 representative to the large position of the ADA Advisory committee. All in favor. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Dan Dickerson – ADA points

David Linn – Wolf endangerment

Debra Chase – Mountain lion/shrub steppe efforts

Pat Arnold – Cold water refugia/Klickitat County cougars

Rachel Bjork – Wolf poaching/non-lead ammo

Steph Taylor – Cougar carnivore research

3. Director's Report

The Deputy Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Meeting w/ recreational fishers
- Check in w/ Conservation Northwest
- Meeting to discuss King County Clean Water, Healthy Habitat Initiative at the PSP Leadership Council
- Fish program started the Steelhead Summit meetings
- DFW Annual Awards Ceremony
- Retirement of Ron Warren & Joe Stohr
- Update on the Governor's Salmon Initiative
- Update on wolf rule changes
- Current drought conditions
- Decrease of pygmy rabbit population due to environmental conditions

4. Lands Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for a decision on two lands items. The proposed covenant on Tanwax Lake will help to protect water quality for a domestic well located on adjacent private land and the proposed exchange of ROW, Lower Dungeness Floodplain Realignment supports Clallam County's dike removal project.

There was no public comment for this item.

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

5. Staff and Community Appreciation Awards

Deputy Director Windrope and Director Kelly Susewind announced the Staff and Community Appreciation awards. The following individuals were awarded:

Director's Award – Ken Warheit, Molecular Genetics and Fish Health Lab Supervisor, Fish Science, General Health Labs

Manager of the Year - Dan Conowitch, Security Manager, Information Technology Services

Employee of the Year - Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fisheries Manager, Administration, Region 5, Ridgefield

Organization of the Year - Columbia River Chapter of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, Region 5

Educator of the Year - Todd Rightmire, Region 4

Volunteers of the Year -

- Cathy Flick, Region 5
- Father & son team - Hugh and Finn Carney, Region 2
- Buzz Ramsey, Region 5

BREAK

6. Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

Steve Caromile, Inland Fisheries Manager and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager provided the Commission a briefing on public input received concerning options for proposed policy language.

The following people provided comment:

David Moskowitz

The Commission asked the staff to consider a modification to the timeline to accommodate discussions with Idaho Department Fish and Game representatives and greater development of policy language and provide a report at the July 16 Commission meeting. One possibility is to move the policy briefing and public hearing from August to September with a final decision in October 2021.

LUNCH

7. C-3622 Willapa Bay Salmon Management – Briefing, Public Comment

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy, and Marlene Wagner, South Coast Policy Lead briefed the Commission on proposed options for revision of Policy C-3622 which details policies for management of salmon fisheries within the Willapa Bay.

There was no public comment for this item.

At the August Fish committee meeting staff will provide proposed language options for consideration.

8. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), 42.30.110(1)(g), the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken, and the public was not permitted to attend.

RECESS

Saturday, June 26, 2021

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

9. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:
David Moskowitz – Columbia River water temperatures
Gabrielle Gilbert – Klickitat Cougars
Lynn Mason – Klickitat Cougars
Rachel Bjork – Klickitat Cougars/remote meetings
Rachel Haymon – Klickitat Cougars/remote meetings

10. Coastal Steelhead Season Planning - Briefing, Public Comment

Kelly Cunningham, Director of Fish Program provided the Commission briefed on the public input process for coastal steelhead management for the 2021 – 22 season, including a possible public workshop this summer discussing the next season.

The following people provided comment:

Alexi Calambokidis	Barrett Mattison	Pat Hesselgesser	Caleb Hitzfeld
Ravae O’Leary	Dave Coviello	Leander Giest	David Moskowitz
Greg Topf	Jennifer Jones Brown	Jessica Helsley	John McMillan
Jonathan Stumpf	Josh Mills	Nathan Ereth	

The Commission supported the direction staff proposed with next years season setting.

BREAK

11. 2022 Supplemental Budget Update – Briefing

Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer and Tim Burns, CAMP Program Director updated the commission on the 2022 supplemental budget proposals currently under development. The proposals will be approved in August.

The Commission also discussed a response to the Governors buy-back letter.

12. Governor’s Office of Equity and the Equity Inclusion Survey and Listening Session – Briefing, Public Comment

Amy Windrope, Deputy Director; Marvin Williams, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager briefed the Commission on the Office of Equity’s Equity and Inclusion Survey. The Office of Equity is requesting state agencies to undertake a self-assessment and staff listening sessions on the climate around equity and inclusion. Williams then facilitated a discussion among commissioners about equity and inclusion.

13. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commission discussed the following items that arose immediately before, during, or after the meeting:

- Remove Willapa Bay from the Commission agenda and have initial policy options discussion at the Fish committee.
- Adjust the YAAG to reflect the nonnative game fish dates as reflected in the briefing, noting additional refinement depending on the staff response at the July 16 Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Baker made a motion, seconded by Chair Carpenter to increase the salary of the Commission Executive Assistant position to \$70,000, which salary shall also be subject to cost-of-living increases and adjustments provided generally to other state employees. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant