



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 2-3, 2021 – Webinar

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Commission Staff</u>
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	Theresa Nation		Nichole Kloepfer
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Charlene Hurst		
Donald McIsaac	Nate Pamplin			
Kim Thorburn	Karen Edwards			
Molly Linville	Aaron Dufault			
Lorna Smith	Steven Caromile			
Fred Koontz	Kirt Hughes			
Jim R. Anderson	Margen Carlson			

Friday, December 3, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

a. **Commissioners' Discussion**

No discussion at this time.

b. **Meeting Minute Approval**

The Commission considered approval of the October 21-22, 2021, and November 15 and 19, 2021, draft minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the October 21-22, 2021, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2021, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2021, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

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

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members: Linville, Smith, Anderson, Thorburn, and Commissioners Baker, McIsaac, Koontz

The committee was briefed on the Blue Mountains Elk Herd At-Risk Assessment. This will come back to the committee in March 2022 and then to the full commission next summer. Staff provided an update on the status of the Klickitat County cougars issue and collaboration efforts with the Concerned Citizens of Klickitat County. A report to the legislature from proviso will be provided this upcoming session. Committee meeting materials are available on the Commission website [here](#).

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members: Linville, Smith, Anderson, Thorburn, and Commissioners McIsaac, Koontz, Baker

Staff provided the committee a briefing on the draft wolf rule language. The draft rule language is out for public review. The commission briefing will likely be in April 2022, with a decision in May 2022. Staff also provided a status update on the wolf/livestock conflict. Committee meeting materials are available on the Commission website [here](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Carpenter, Anderson, Baker, McIsaac, and Commissioners Koontz, Smith, Linville

The committee was briefed on the decision for the Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy and the Sport Fishing and Shellfish Rule Amendments. The committee discussed a portion of the Willapa Bay Policy agenda issues but ran out of time. More time was needed to discuss the Willapa Bay Policy staff recommendation and a new alternative, and it is to be added to the January Fish Committee meeting agenda or be the subject of a special Fish Committee meeting in early January. Committee meeting materials are available on the Commission website [here](#).

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

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| Doug Boze – Spring bear | David Moskowitz – Coastal Steelhead |
| Andrew Goedl – Elk and deer mortality | Austin Heinrich- Spring bear |
| Dave Hedrich – Wolf rulemaking | David Linn – Wolf rulemaking |
| Jake Anderson – Spring bear | Jocely Leroux – Wolf rulemaking |
| Eric Crivello – Spring bear | James Boze – Spring bear |
| John Chantler- Klickitat cougars | John Dykes – land access/illegal dumping |
| Lynn Mason – Klickitat cougars | Marc Albert – Spring bear |
| Marie Neumiller – Spring bear/commissioners | Martha Hall – Blue Mountain elk |
| Gabrielle Gilbert – Klickitat cougar | Tino Villaluz – Blue Mountain elk/Spring bear |
| Ryan Garnett- Spring bear | Mike Henderson – Area 7 fishing regulations |
| Gabriel Garza – Spring bear | Patricia Arnold – Klickitat cougar |
| Paul Rudnick – amphibian concerns | Rachel Haymon- Klickitat cougar |
| Rachel Bjork – predator management/committee comments | |
| Walker Hammond – Blue Mountain elk/Spring bear | |

3. Director's Report

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- 32nd Centennial Accord
- Steelhead public meeting
- State tribal hunting meeting and the continuation of relationship building efforts
- Meeting w/ Colonel Bullock at the Duckabush Estuary. Commissioner Anderson asked for a follow up on this issue.
- Meeting with Nez Perce Executive Committee
- Reopening offices, January 3
- Several regional digital open house meetings
- Update on the nonlethal pursuit training pass program
- Update on the Cougar Proviso

Deputy Director Windrope is attending the Celebration of Life for Michael Hobart at the Issaquah Hatchery. Chair Carpenter gave his condolences.

Chair Carpenter asked about the status of federal funding (~\$7-11M) report appropriated to implement new Pacific Salmon Treaty commitments to increase hatchery production. This will be addressed either at the Fish committee or in the Directors report.

Commissioner Smith was interested in a briefing on European Green Crabs.

Commissioner Anderson asked about status of next steps and commitments for the Joint Hatchery Policy (following up from Sept meeting with tribes, formulating workgroup, etc.). Director noted that staff are working on it, but details weren't readily available and thus a follow-up is needed.

Commissioner Anderson asked about a briefing on the Duckabush estuary project—whether it is a permitting issue or funding issue. It was recommended that it occur either January or February to highlight this for 2022 supplemental capital budget request.

Commissioner McIsaac complimented the Director and staff for the pre-season process in comparison to the prior year and asked that the Commission discuss a similar public planning process for the coastal steelhead 2022-23 season by adding it to the Year-at-a-Glance meeting planner.

BREAK

4. Update on the Salmon Budget Recovery Priorities

This item was struck from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and will be moved to the January agenda.

5. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Karen Edwards, Real Estate Manager asked the Commission for approval of land transactions recommended by the Department for the enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

There was no comment on this item.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. Hydraulic Code Rule Making (E2SHB 1382) – Decision

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director and Theresa Nation, Environmental Planner, Habitat Program asked the Commission for a decision on the Hydraulic Code rule proposal to implement E2SHB-1382.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt the rule as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

LUNCH

7. Blue Sheet: Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy – Decision

Steve Caromile, Inland Fisheries Manager and Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on the proposed policy language directing management of non-native game fish and fisheries within the state.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the non-native game fish and fisheries policy and the yellow highlighted options as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

8. Sport Fishing and Shellfish Rule Amendments – Briefing, Public Hearing

Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager, Steve Caromile, Inland Fisheries Manager, and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager provided the Commission a briefing on proposed amendments to recreational fish and shellfish regulations. These amendments are proposed for the purpose of meeting conservation objectives as well as to address simplification and clarification of several regulations.

The following people provided comment:
David Moskowitz

This agenda item will be back to the Commission in January for a decision.

9. Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Decision

Chair Carpenter opened the agenda item stating an election process as agreed upon on November 29 at the Executive committee. The Commission did not object to the process.

Vice Chair Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to reappoint Larry Carpenter as chair for the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. All in favor. Motion passes.

Vice Chair Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to elect Commissioner Molly Linville as Vice Chair for the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission. All in favor. Motion passes.

10. Columbia River Policy (C-3630) Implementation Report

Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead provided the Commission with the first annual report on implementation the provisions of Policy C-3630, adopted in September 2020. The Commission thanked the staff for the many policy provisions implemented over the past year. The Commission also discussed a yet-to-be-established constituent advisory body as part of the alternative commercial fishing gear development provision, with further discussion anticipated towards implementing this feature.

Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commissioners gave thanks to the public for providing reduced two-minute comments during a particularly lengthy public testimony period.

Commissioner Thorburn will discuss planning efforts for spring bear 2023 season with Wildlife Program staff to decide when to move forward with Wildlife Committee involvement in season planning. Commissioner Smith asked for comprehensive information about bear population, densities, etc. The 2023 season will probably be decided before Game Management Planning process.

Commissioner McIsaac stated that there was a commitment made at the most recent executive committee to have Deputy Director Windrope provide an update on the 'project tracker' at today's meeting de-brief. It includes more structured future meeting planning at each Commission meeting and changes in staff interactions and follow-ups. However, she was unable to attend today's meeting. The report out will be provided at the January meeting under the Directors report.

Based on public testimony and Commission discussion, several additions to the Year-at-a-Glance (YaaG) meeting planner were brought forward.

There was discussion about placing meetings on the YaaG to insuring further consideration of 2023 spring bear hunting seasons consistent with the Commission dialogue at the November 11, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Thorburn will schedule discussion of planning efforts for spring bear 2023 season at a future Wildlife Committee meeting, leading up to the fall rule adoption currently scheduled. Commissioner Smith asked for comprehensive information about bear population, densities, etc. The 2023 season planning is to be coordinated with the Game Management Plan review process.

Commissioner McIsaac reiterated the recommendation made during the Director's report about a public process for coastal steelhead season planning being placed in the YaaG.

Consistent with provisions of Policies C-3630, C-3624, and the original Southern Resident Killer Whale prey initiative, Commissioner McIsaac asked for update, possibly on the schedule for the June meeting in Seattle.

Commissioner McIsaac asked that the process presented by staff on the Blue Mountains elk initiative be place in the YaaG, for a final at-risk report and Commission consideration of staff recommendations at the March 17-19, 2022 hybrid meeting.

Commissioner McIsaac spoke to the Pound Net briefing scheduled for the January Fish Committee meeting and the staff request for a blue sheet type outline to scope the briefing for this topic. Commissioner McIsaac asked for now to replace the briefing for Fish Committee in January with a discussion of a blue sheet type description of desired briefing content.

Commissioner Anderson raised the need for updates Hatchery Policy and tribal discussions and wished to keep this on the Fish Committee and add it to the YaaG.

Commissioner Thorburn stated that there is no wolf committee meeting in January.

There were no objections to the above points.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant