



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

January 13-14, 2022 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Lorna Smith
Jim R. Anderson

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Richard Tveten
Kirt Hughes
Steve Caromile
Aaron Dufault

Staff

Heather Hall
Kelly Cunningham
Charlene Hurst
Tom McBride

Guest

Erik Neatherlin

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Friday, January 14, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Commissioner Anderson is out of the country from January 15-23, 2022.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the December 2-3, 2021, draft webinar minutes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the December 2-3, 2021, webinar 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 Commissioner McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee was provided a season setting update. Staff provided an update on the implementation of the new grazing program rules, policies, and monitoring. Commissioner Thorburn also reported that staff provided a Cougar Proviso update. The presentations and materials provided to the committee can be accessed [here](#).

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members: Linville, Smith, Anderson, and Commissioner McIsaac

Vice Chair Linville reported that staff reported on the status of fish passage rule-making, the updating of infrastructure as it needs to be updated, and the relationship between the RCW's and HPA authorities. The committee was also provided an overview by staff from the Ecosystem Service Division on how the agency engages in land use planning and implementation to protect species and their habitats. Commissioner Smith added that there was conversation around bridging the gap between the PHS process and local government planning authorities. The presentations provided to the committee can be accessed [here](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Carpenter, Anderson, McIsaac, and Commissioner Smith

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee primarily discussed the Willapa Bay agenda item. The committee did ask the staff to come back to February committee meeting with a revised schedule, process, and policy options.

The committee recommended that the commission support excusing staff from presenting a Willapa Bay Annual Report at the February commission meeting and roll over the Willapa interim policies from 2021 to 2022, for North of Falcon negotiations, unless the forecast comes in with significant levels in which we delegate to the director to consider seasons different from the policy guidance and have the director inform the commission about the changes.

The Commercial logbook program will be moved to the February Fish committee agenda. The Sports fishing and shellfish rule amendments were a decision at the Commission meeting. The presentations and materials provided to the committee can be accessed [here](#).

Joint State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Committee

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

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the meeting was held December 20 via Zoom. The committee discussed fisheries management balance and allocation, conservation and recovery, and reviewed the draft implementation provision language. If both sides can reach agreement on the issues, it will be brought to both states commissions for review. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16 from 2-5pm.

Wolf Committee

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

The University of Washington (UW) modeling team and DFW staff facilitated a discussion on the questions, metrics, thresholds, and limitations to consider when the Wolf Recovery Population model is presented to the full commission in February. Dr. Sarah Converse facilitated led the discussion about risk perception and tolerance that will influence decision making about status. The UW team will circulate a ranking form to the committee as previously addressed after the meeting.

Commissioner Thorburn provided a report out on her experience with Winter WAFWA. She expressed interest in the commissioner manual provided by AFWA's Commissioner committee. She will share with the rest of the commission. Commissioner Anderson asked for a hard copy to be mailed to him.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Albert Berget – Marine Area 7	David Linn – Spring bear
Samantha Bruegger – Poaching	Rachel Haymon – Klickitat cougars
Rachel Bjork – CWD/spring bear	Ann Prezyna – Spring bear
Amaroq Weiss – Wolf model feedback	Sophia Ressler – Spring bear
Martha Hall – Spring bear/ethics	Steph Taylor – Spring bear
Ron Reed – Commissioner Koontz	Mike Herz – Spring bear
Doug Boze – Spring bear	Bryce Levin – Spring bear
Spencer Burdick – Spring bear	Brad Thomsen – Spring bear
Gabriel Garza - Spring bear	James Forzlund - Spring bear

Jon Dykes - Spring bear
Roxane Auer – Blue Mountain cougar
Ron Garner – Fisheries management/ Governors Salmon Plan
Chris Bachman – Resource conservation/Spring bear
Tim Coleman – Spring bear/Columbia County wolves
Frank Urabeck – Governors Salmon Plan
Ryan Garrett- Spring bear

3. **Director's Report**

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- R3 Internal Summit
- Governor – Tribal Leader G2G meeting on legislative priorities
- Meeting w/ Lummi Tribe re: European Green Crabs
- Region 1, 3, and 6 virtual open house
- Update on the Southern Killer Whale Watching License Program
- WAFWA report out
- North of Falcon negotiations starting next month
- Start of Legislative Session and overview of department budget requests
- Supreme Court decision on Cooke net pens
- Kick off of the 10-year recreation strategy and SEPA public comment period

Commissioner Anderson requested a follow up via email on C-3624 Co-manager engagement. Chair Carpenter requested an email follow up on the Pacific Salmon Commission award fund distribution.

4. **Governor's Salmon Budget Recovery Package Discussion**

The Commission discussed the efforts surrounding Governor Inslee's priorities to bolster Washington's leadership in protecting and restoring salmon across the state.

Erik Neatherlin provided an overview of the package. The Commission invited him and/or the Governor's staff to present at the February 14 meeting.

BREAK

5. **Forest Health Project Approval Request - Briefing and Decision**

Richard Tveten, Forest Manager Team Lead, Lands Division, Wildlife Program briefed the Commission and ask them for approval on forest management projects that involve harvesting timber volumes exceeding one million board feet.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the proposed commercial thinning project as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

6. **Sport Fishing and Shellfish Rule Amendments – Decision**

Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager, Steve Caromile, Inland Fisheries Manager, and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager asked the Commission for a decision 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.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt changes to Gamefish, Forage Fish and Shellfish Sport Fishing Rules as proposals to include;

Amended: 220-300-160 Definitions-Personal-use fishing 220-310-090 Game fish possession limits and size limits 220-310-150 Fly fishing 220-300-380 Gamefish classification 220-315-040 Smelt – Unlawful acts. 220-330-090 Crawfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, goose barnacles, scallops, squid, octopus – Areas and seasons. 220-305-110 Possession of personal-use food fish and shellfish 220-330-010 Shellfish-daily limits, size restrictions, and unlawful acts 220-312-050 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules-Eastside 220-312-020 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules-Coast 220-312-030 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules-Southwest 220-312-040 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules-Puget Sound 220-312-060 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules-Columbia River. All in favor. Motion passes.

LUNCH

7. WDFW Response to Whale Entanglements in the Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery – Briefing

Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager briefed the Commission on recent whale entanglements in the coastal commercial Dungeness crab fishery and action taken to reduce the risk of future entanglements including the process to develop a Crab Fishery Conservation Plan and request an Incidental Take Permit.

8. Columbia River Policy (C-3630) Delegation of Authority

Kelly Susewind, Director, Kelly Cunningham, Fish Program Director, and Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Policy Lead asked the Commission to take action to consider director delegation for the Director to work with the Director of ODFW to achieve concurrent implementation of 2022 fishery regulations in jointly managed waters of the Columbia River.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to delegate authority to the director to work with the Director of ODFW to achieve concurrent fishing regulations in jointly managed waters of the Columbia River for 2022 that are as consistent as possible with Policy C-3630. All in favor. Motion passes.

Staff will provide forecast sheets and any remaining documentation to Nikki to post on the Commission website and provide to the commission.

The Commission supports updates on the issue through the Fish committee.

9. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioner McIsaac inquired about the Blue Mountain Elk briefing in March. He recalls it is to be held as a briefing at the March meeting. The December minutes reflect it will go to the Wildlife committee in March and then presented to the Commission later in the summer.

Chair Carpenter announced that commission meetings will continue to be virtual through June when hybrid meetings will be reevaluated.

Commissioners voiced concern about the limited availability of public comment opportunities and asked that it be reevaluated for future meetings. Commissioner Anderson expressed that the quality of the public input is just as important as the quantity.

Commissioner Thorburn asked the agency look into why the Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) is still inactive since the start of COVID and requests that it get up and running again as it is a critical voice bridged between the public and the agency. She also requested that a copy of the year-at-a-glance be emailed to her as she was unable to open the link provided.

Vice Chair Linville requested that agenda setting for agendas be communicated to the commission to enhance understanding of the process.

Commissioner McIsaac presented a blue sheet on pound nets for consideration at the February or March meeting.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to accept the blue sheet on pound nets as presented by Commissioner McIsaac. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chair Carpenter suggested a future retreat to discuss the public comment process and agenda setting.

Commissioner Thorburn asked who the questions on the Governors Salmon Budget Recovery Package and pound net blue sheet will go to. Nikki will coordinate and accept questions to relay to staff.

Deputy Director Windrope captured the following actions from the meeting:

- Email update from the director to the commission RE: Pacific Commission fund and C-3624 co-Manager hatchery progress.
- The idea of a retreat, public comment concerns, and questions about process with the Governors Salmon bundle will be taken up at the Executive committee.

Commissioner Anderson requested that follow up actions from Executive committee be shared with the full commission.

Commissioner Thorburn suggested that she meet with the Wildlife program director and deputy director to discuss upcoming agenda items for the Wildlife committee. Nikki will coordinate the logistics.

10. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(i), the Commission will meet in executive session. No action will be taken during executive session and the public is not permitted to attend.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant