



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

March 17-19, 2022 – Webinar

Attendance

Commission

Molly Linville, Acting Chair
Barbara Baker
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Lorna Smith
Jim R. Anderson
Tim Ragen
Melanie Rowland
John Lehmkuhl

Staff

Joe Panesko, AGO
Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Nate Pamplin
Stephanie Simek
Kyle Garrison
Kyle Spragens
Chris Eardley
Aaron Dufault

Staff

Ciera Strickland
Karen Edwards
Eric Gardner
Anis Aoude

Guests

Eric Quaempts
Scott Peckham

Commission Staff

Nichole Kloepfer

Friday, March 18, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

Acting Chair Linville shared her experience with the recent Enforcement training.

Commissioner Thorburn gave an overview of the ADA Advisory Committee. She asked Commissioners for approval of the new appointment for region 3, Alberto Saldana. The commission approved it unanimously.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the February 17-19, 2022, webinar, February 25 and March 11, 2022, draft special web conference minutes.

Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn, to approve the minutes of the February 17-19, 2022, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2022, special web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2022, 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 Thorburn, Smith, Anderson, Linville and Commissioners, Baker, Lehmkuhl, Rowland, Ragen and McIsaac

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed the Game Management Plan, its intended purpose and process timeline as well as what Commissioners are to anticipate for the upcoming season setting items. Materials from this meeting can be found [here](#).

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Anderson, McIsaac, Baker and Commissioner Smith, Ragen, Linville, Rowland, Lehmkuhl, Thorburn

Commissioner McIsaac reported that staff provided an updated presentation on the Commercial shellfish regulation proposals up for decisions at Fridays meeting. Kelly Cunningham provided an update to the Coastal Steelhead season planning schedule. Charlene Hurst and accompanying staff providing an overview of the Cold-Water Refugia White Paper and Ken Warheit provided a preview of the Policy C-3624 implementation process. The committee did not have time to discuss Willapa Bay. Staff will work to schedule a special meeting in April to discuss and review the policy questions and analytical approach for alternative 2. Materials from this meeting can be found [here](#). At the next Fish committee there will be a report on the Washington Oregon negotiation efforts.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

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| Rachel Bjork – Spring bear | Christopher Locke – Spring bear |
| David Moskowitz – Coastal Steelhead | Hannah Thompson - Garner – Spring bear |
| Heath Heikkila – Cold water refugia/Columbia River fish management | |
| Jake Anderson – Spring bear | Lee Holmer – Spring bear |
| Stephanie Taylor – Spring bear | Thomas Eidson – Spring bear |
| Karen Piotrowicz – Spring bear | Louisa Peck – Spring bear |
| Tino Villaluz – Spring bear | |

3. Director's Report

Nate Pamplin, Policy Director, spoke on behalf of the director and provided an overview of current events, activities, the legislative wrap up, and meetings of impact within and in relation to the agency.

The Commissioners provided their thanks to retiring director, Larry Phillips, for his service with the agency.

Commissioner McIsaac asked for a Joint Hatchery Co-Manager policy meeting follow up. Nate will have the director and Fish program director follow up with the Commission.

BREAK

4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

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

There was no public comment for this item.

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

5. Landowner Hunting Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager briefed the Commission on proposed changes to WAC 220-412-100 Landowner hunting permits.

There was no public comment for this item.

6. Deer General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on deer general seasons and special permits.

- WAC 220-415-020 2021-2023 Deer general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-030 2022 Deer special permits.

The following people provided comment:

Al Martz
Dale Maggart

LUNCH

7. Elk General Seasons and Special Permits – Briefing and Public Hearing

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on elk general seasons and special permits.

- WAC 220-415-040 Elk area descriptions.
- WAC 220-415-050 2021-2023 Elk general seasons and definitions.
- WAC 220-415-060 2022 Elk special permits.

There was no public comment for this item.

8. Moose, Bighorn Sheep, and Mountain Goat Seasons – Briefing and Public Hearing

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat seasons

- WAC 220-415-070 2022 Moose seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-120 2022 Bighorn sheep seasons, permit quotas, and areas.
- WAC 220-415-130 2022 Mountain goat seasons, permit quotas, and areas.

The following people provided comment:

Gabriel Garza
Rachel Bjork

9. Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations - Briefing and Public Hearing

Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager Staff briefed the Commission on amendments to the migratory waterfowl and gamebird seasons and regulations.

- WAC 220-416-060 2021-2022 Migratory gamebird seasons and regulations.
- WAC 220-414-040 Nontoxic shot requirements. _ WAC 220-414-050 Shotgun shell restriction areas.
- WAC 220-414-090 Use of decoys and calls.

The following people provided comment:

David Smart

10. Hunting, Equipment and Other Restrictions - Briefing and Public Hearing

Stephanie Simek, Carnivore Section Manager and Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on rule changes and updates regarding:

- WAC 220-413-090 Field identification of wildlife –Evidence of sex-Definitions.
- WAC 220-414-020 Unlawful methods for hunting –Firearms.
- WAC 220-413-060 Hunting restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-010 Hunting equipment restrictions.
- WAC 220-414-060 Muzzleloading firearms.
- WAC 220-414-070 Archery requirements.
- WAC 220-414-100 Crossbow requirements.

The following people provided comment:

Gabriel Garza
Dale Sharp
Mike Herz

11. Chronic Wasting Disease – Briefing and Public Hearing

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on WAC 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

There was no public comment for this item.

12. Commercial Shellfish Regulation Proposals – Decision

Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator, and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager asked the Commission for a decision on the proposed revisions to commercial regulations for shellfish.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt Puget Sound Commercial Shellfish Rules proposal with additional proposed modifications as described in the summary sheet and as follows:

Amend WAC sections: 220-320-010—Shellfish—Classification 220-320-110—Puget Sound commercial crab regions 220-320-120—Puget Sound shrimp districts 220-340-020—Shellfish—Unlawful acts—Commercial 220-340-030—Shellfish harvest logs 220-340-060—Commercial shellfish pot gear—Escape mechanism required 220-340-100—Commercial clam fishery—gear 220-340-420—Commercial crab fishery—Unlawful acts 220-340-430—Commercial crab fishery—Gear requirements 220-340-455—Commercial crab Fishery—Seasons and area—Puget Sound 220-340-470—Commercial crab fishery—Gear limits—Puget Sound and Marine Fish-Shellfish Management and Catch Reporting Areas 220-340-520—Commercial shrimp fishery—Puget Sound 220-340-610—Commercial scallop fishery—Puget Sound 220-340-700—Commercial crawfish fishery 220-340-720—Commercial octopus fishery 220-340-730—Commercial sea cucumber fishery 220-340-750—Commercial sea urchin fisheries 220-340-770—Commercial squid fishery 220-352-340—Puget Sound crab—Additional reporting requirements 220-352-355—Puget Sound shrimp—Additional reporting requirements

New WAC sections: 220-320-140—Commercial shrimp geographical management units—Puget Sound 220-340-530—Commercial shrimp trawl fishery—Puget Sound 220-352-355—Puget Sound scallop—Additional reporting requirements

Repeal WAC sections: Commission packet page 2 of 66 220-340-740—Sea cucumber license reduction program 220-340-760—Sea urchin license reduction program.

All in favor. Motion passes.

RECESS

Saturday, March 19, 2022

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

13. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

John Magart – Cougar management	Brian Blake – Game management plan
Charles Whitwam – Spring bear	Andy Elliot – Spring bear
Mike Herz – Spring bear	Rachel Bjork – Spring bear
Rick Wakefield – Spring bear	Steve Snowden – Spring bear
Ilene LeVee – Spring bear	Rachel Haymon – Cougar/ungulate management
David Linn – Spring bear	David Hedrick – CR- 102 Wolf rulemaking
Stan Rowden – Spring bear	

14. Election of Chair – Decision

Acting Chair Linville asked for nominations. Commissioner Baker and Thorburn were nominated and provided statements. After discussion, Commissioners Rowland, Baker, Linville, Lehmkuhl, Ragen, and Smith voted for Commissioner Baker and Commissioners Thorburn, Anderson, McIsaac voted for Commissioner Thorburn.

The Commission voted (6 to 3) for Commissioner Baker to sit as Chair of the Commission while Commissioner Linville remains Vice Chair.

15. Spring Bear Rulemaking - Decision

Stephanie Simek, Carnivore Section Manager asked the Commissioner for a decision on Spring bear rulemaking.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion. The motion failed with 5 votes in against, Commissioners Baker, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, and Lehmkuhl and 4 in favor, Commissioners Linville, Thorburn, Anderson, McIsaac.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to the amend the original motion to include:

- 1. a mandatory instructional class on identification of black bear sows with cubs;**
- 2. the inclusion of the year 2022;**
- 3. a reduction in the proposed number of permits in GMU outside the Blue Mountains region; and**
- 4. a shortening of the season as provided on the screen in yellow highlight.**

The Commission discussed the amendment. The motion failed with 5 votes in against, Commissioners Baker, Ragen, Rowland, Smith, and Lehmkuhl and 4 in favor, Commissioners Linville, Thorburn, Anderson, McIsaac.

16. Tribal perspective on Blue Mountain Elk Herd – Presentation

Eric Quaempts, Director, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) presented to the Commission their perspective on the status and significance of the Blue Mountains Elk herd in the context of CTUIR First Foods.

17. Blue Mountain Elk Herd Assessment – Briefing

Kyle Garrison, Acting Ungulate Section Manager briefed the Commission on the status of the Blue Mountain Elk Herd.

18. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed, and staff captured the following items that arose throughout the meeting and discussed April meeting planning.

- Due to the volume of items for the April meeting, it was suggested to move the Snake River item to an email or directors report.
- Interest in having Wild Fish Conservancy present with staff during the pound net blue sheet presentation in April. There was also discussion about extending public comment and presentation length.
- There will be an extra Wildlife committee meeting in April discussing the Game management plan. Staff will work to set a time.
- Staff will also follow up to the Commission based on questions that were asked during the briefings.

Acting Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant