



Minutes

**Washington Fish and Wildlife
Commission** January 26-28, 2023 – Webinar

Attendance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Commission Staff</u>
Barbara Baker, Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	Laura Heironimus	Ron Warren	Nichole Kloepfer
Molly Linville, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Charlene Hurst		
Lorna Smith	Amy Windrope, Deputy	Raquel Crosier		
Tim Ragen	Director	Chris Donley		
John Lehmkuhl	Thom Woodruff	Lieutenant		
Jim Anderson	Cynthia Wilkerson	Rosenberger		
Melanie Rowland	Ken Warheit	Taylor Cotton		
	Anis Aoude	Jeffery Azerrad		
		Kyle Garrison		

Friday, January 27, 2023

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

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

Chair Baker struck the executive session from the agenda for Saturday, January 28, 2023. The Commission will discuss the Directors performance agreement at the February web conference.

Vice Chair Linville commented that Habitat committee will be more active once legislative session settles down.

Commissioners and staff shared their thoughts about the passing of Larry Cassidy. A statement from the agency can be found [here](#).

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the December 8-10, 2022, hybrid meeting minutes, the December 30, 2022, special web conference and January 13, 2023, web conference meeting minutes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl, to approve the minutes from the December 8-10, 2022, hybrid meeting, as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the minutes from the December 30, 2022, special web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen, to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2023, 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, Anderson, Smith, Rowland

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee discussed the Game Management Plan [guiding principles](#) and [overarching plan issue](#). Commissioner Smith provided a potential [draft outline option](#) for discussion. Two special meetings will be scheduled later in February to further discuss the development of the Game Management Plan.

Big Tent Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Baker, Lehmkuhl, Thorburn

Chair Baker reported that the committee was provided a [legislative update](#). The committee discussed the status of [Commission policies](#). The committee's recommendation is to delegate each policy to their respective committees for additional review and then brought to the commission for final changes. Chair Baker briefly touched on the status of the Directors' delegation. Chair Baker and committee discussed the current draft Conservation Policy process. Another draft will be circulated to the committee and presented at the March committee meeting for discussion.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Ragen, Linville, Anderson

Commissioner Anderson reported that the committee discussed the [North Pacific Commission Policy C-3002](#) and made the following motion to rescind the policy during full Commission report out. At the next meeting the committee will dive into information about the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to rescind [Policy C-3002](#). All in favor. Motion passes.

Staff provided an overview of the [Eulachon Management Plan](#) and [Eulachon WAC changes](#) that will be presented to the full Commission. Staff provided the committee with an update of the Tribal-State Co-Manager Hatchery Policy. This will be presented to the full commission for further discussion. Another topic was the Hatchery briefing schedule. Commissioner Anderson suggested it be discussed during meeting debrief on Saturday.

The committee discussed Willapa Bay Alternative 4 and its elements. Staff will work to schedule a special Fish committee meeting in May to further discuss Willapa Bay considerations.

Staff provided a briefing on a revision to the [commercial salmon quick reporting](#) and asked the committee for recommendation to delegate the authority to the director and bring it to the full Commission for approval. During committee debrief at the full Commission, Commissioner Anderson made the following motion.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to delegate authority to the Director to undertake rulemaking for Quick Reporting requirements for Coastal salmon troll and Puget Sound commercial salmon fisheries in [WAC 220-352-330](#) and [WAC 220-352-325](#). All in favor. Motion passes.

Staff asked for the committee for recommendations to bring to the full Commission for approval to provide interim guidance for the 2023 fisheries planning for this year's North of Falcon pre-season salmon setting negotiations and to approve delegation to the Director for the purpose working with

the Director of ODFW to achieve concurrent fishing regulations in jointly managed waters of the Columbia River for 2023.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to roll over the 2022 interim guidance for 2023 fisheries planning for this year’s North of Falcon pre-season salmon setting negotiations. This interim guidance includes:

- 1. actively manage for a 20% impact rate on unmarked Chinook salmon in Willapa and Naselle rivers.**
- 2. the suspension of time and area restrictions for commercial fisheries in 2M, 2N, 2P, and 2R before Labor Day, and continue the development and implementation of test fisheries and in-season update models.**
- 3. allow staff the flexibility to determine daily limits for recreational Chinook and coho salmon fisheries during the pre-season North of Falcon process.**
- 4. release hatchery production at their facility of origin to allow for preservations of future options for long term policy modifications (do not transfer eggs).**

All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve delegation to the Director for the purpose working with the Director of ODFW to achieve concurrent fishing regulations in jointly managed waters of the Columbia River for 2023. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Charlie Whitwam – Spring bear | Jeff Holbrook – Spring bear |
| Larry Pryor – Willapa Bay | Mike Herz – Spring bear |
| Ryan Garrett – Spring bear | Seth Watts – Spring bear |
| Dan Czarnecki – Spring bear | Joe Kondelis – Spring bear |
| Greg King – Cowlitz River hatcheries | Clarence Rushing – Spring bear |
| Sam Bruegger – wildlife management | Steve Snowden – Spring bear |
| Jon Dykes – Spring bear | David Linn – Wolf management |
| Susan Kane-Ronning – Game Management Plan | Ron Reed – Game Management Plan |
| Sopha Ressler - Game Management Plan | Nello Picinich- Fish harvest reform |
| Pat Arnold - Game Management Plan | |

3. Director’s Report

The director reported on various meetings, Government to Government with Chehalis and Quinault tribes, a 3-day opener in Copalis Beach, and a legislative update.

Deputy Director Amy Windrope reported on the success of the Wildlife Program School and the results of the Employee Engagement Survey. The results and information from the Office of Financial Management will be circulated to the commissioners.

Break

4. Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Thom Woodruff, Property Acquisition Supervisor, Wildlife Program, Lands Division and Cynthia Wilkerson, Manager, Wildlife Program, Lands Division briefed the commission on two land transactions recommended by the Department for the enhancement of conservation and public recreation opportunities.

The following people provided comments:

Illene LeVee

Mendy Harlow

Joanne Tejeda

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

5. Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy – Briefing, Public Comment

Ron Warren and Ken Warheit, Fish Health and Molecular Genetics Lab Manager brief the Commission on the draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy completed in November 2023, and request that the draft policy be available for public review and be submitted to SEPA evaluation. Staff will also present a revised schedule to consider adoption of the policy.

No comment was provided on this item.

Commissioners agreed to have the draft policy posted for public review. The remaining actions were tabled until Saturday for discussion.

Lunch/Break

6. Petition: Spring Black Bear Management Hunts – Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Big Game Manager briefed Commission and ask for a decision on a petition requesting that WDFW “immediately begin Rule Making for the 2023 and future year(s) Spring Black Bear Management Hunts”.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the petition as presented.

Commissioner Anderson made an amendment to the initial motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to add 2024 to the motion.

The Commission discussed the amended motion. Commissioner Anderson withdrew his amendment, Vice Chair Linville concurred.

Commissioners returned to the discussion of the main motion and voted. The motion to deny the petition passed by a 5/3 vote. Commissioners Thorburn, Linville, Anderson voted against. Commissioners Rowland, Smith, Lehmkuhl, Ragen, and Baker to deny the petition.

7. Eulachon Management Plan – Briefing

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Dr. Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead briefed the Commission on the adoption of an updated joint-state Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan.

8. Commercial Eulachon Rule Proposal – Briefing, Public Hearing

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead, and Dr. Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead briefed the Commission on proposed rule revisions for eulachon commercial fisheries, revisions are intended to align permanent rules with current management strategies.

No comment was provided on this item.

9. Guide Logbook Rule Proposal – Briefing, Public Hearing

Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant to the Director of Fish Program, Chris Donley, Region 1 Fish Program Manager, and Lieutenant Rosenberger, Enforcement presented an amendment to rules regarding reporting requirements for freshwater game fish guides, food fish guides and combination game fish and food fish guides.

The following person provided comment:
Greg King

10. Columbia White Tail Deer & Red Fox Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Hearing, Decision

Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, and Jeffery Azerrad, Environmental Planner briefed the Commission and ask for a decision on the recommendation to downlist the status of the Columbian river white-tailed deer. Also, staff will reaffirm the Commission's decision to list Cascade red fox as endangered.

No comment was provided on this item.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to reclassify the Columbian White-tailed Deer as a Threatened Species as recommended by staff. Commissioners Thorburn, Linville, Anderson, Lehmkuhl, and Baker voted for the motion. Commissioners Rowland, Smith, Ragen, voted against. Motion passes with a 5/3 vote.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl to reaffirm Cascade red fox as an Endangered Species. Commissioner Thorburn voted against, otherwise all in favor. Motion passes.

Recess

Saturday, January 28, 2023

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

11. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Bruce Vandervort - beaver management	Mike Herz – multi season tag issues
Rachel Haymon - Klickitat cougar management	Ann Prezyna – commission dynamics
Lynn Okita - Game Management Plan	Sam Bruegger – Spring bear
David Linn - Game Management Plan	Rachel Bjork - Game Management Plan
Karen Parker – beaver management	Dave Hedrick – NE WA Deer herd
John Rosapepe – biodiversity	Mandy Carlstrom – Spring bear
Conrad Gowell – Co-Manager Hatchery Policy	Tim Coleman – beaver management
Clarence Rushing - Game Management Plan management	Gabrielle Gilbert – Klickitat cougar

12. Draft Co-Manager Hatchery Policy Discussion Continued

Ron Warren and Ken Warheit, Fish Health and Molecular Genetics Lab Manager continued to brief the Commission on the draft Co-Manager Hatchery and asked the Commission to approve the draft revised schedule.

After lengthy discussion the commission agreed to approve the draft revised schedule provided by staff.

13. Blue Sheet: Statewide Population Status, Trend, and Limiting Factors of Deer and Elk – Briefing

Kyle Garrison and Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program provided the Commission a briefing on the statewide population status, trend, and limiting factors of deer and elk blue sheet.

Break

14. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed the following items for future meeting planning.

The Directors' performance agreement discussion will be placed on the February 17 Commission web conference.

Chair Baker is interested in getting a copy of the paper on cougar genetics in the Olympics. She also expressed an interest in a DFW survey/poll on high profile issues.

Commissioner Anderson mentioned that the Hatchery workshops have been scheduled through the rest of the year. Willapa Bay will be discussed at a special May committee meeting and the June commission meeting.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl requested that Spring bear guideline be prioritized on the year-at-a-glance.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant