



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/11/2023

Agenda item:

A petition that asks the commission to begin rule making for the 2024 recreational spring bear hunting season.

Presenter(s):

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program.

Background summary:

In this petition dated July 2, 2023, the petitioner is asking for rulemaking on a 2024 recreational spring black bear hunting season and argues that the Commission motion on November 18, 2022, that informed Department staff and the public that the Commission will not adopt recreational hunting of black bear in the Spring, should be invalid due to recent court case ruling involving a commissioner. The ruling in the case did not result in any changes in the commission and the vote on the above motion has not been revisited. The petitioner also references a news article that describes another on-going, unresolved lawsuit that names several commissioners. Since all decisions made and commission makeup remain the same, Department staff deem it inappropriate to consider a season that would go against the Commission's policy direction.

Staff recommendation:

Department staff recommend denying this petition as it contradicts the Commission's policy direction on this matter.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

If this petition is denied no rule making will take place to contemplate a 2024 spring black bear recreational hunting season.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

The fiscal impact of this decision is minimal and is not different from the status quo, based on commission direction.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The public were given notice of these petitions through the commission agenda and had an opportunity to submit written comment. There was no public involvement directly related to this petition prior to its submission. A public engagement process will occur if rule making occurs in the future.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Dependent on Commission decision.

Draft motion language:

I move we deny this petition.

Post decision communications plan:

Communicate the outcome of the Commission's decision to the petitioner.
