



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, January 10, 2025
Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Commission:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:
Barbara Baker, Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Jamie Caldwell
Tim Ragen, Vice Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	
Lorna Smith	Julie Watson	
Woody Myers	Kelly Cunningham	
James R. Anderson	Craig Burley	
John Lehmkuhl	Laurie Peterson	
Molly Linville - Excused	Melena Thompson	
Steve Parker	Mick Cope	
Melanie Rowland	Katie Haman	

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Ragen called the meeting to order at 8:31am. He noted that there was a small change in the agenda and that the legislative update would be done before the blue sheet due to scheduling conflicts for staff.

2. Commercial Whale Watching Rulemaking – Briefing, Public Hearing

Staff briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on the Commercial Whale Watching Rulemaking & Adaptive Management of Washington State's Vessel Regulations. ([Begins at 1:13 mark](#))

For public comment, please see the attached list of commenters. To listen to the audio, please click this [link](#). Public comment begins at the 38:17 mark. Commissioner response/questions to the comments made begins at the 1:01:45 mark.

3. Legislative Update - Briefing

Staff gave the Commission a brief update on the 2025 Legislative Session. ([Begins at 1:09:17 mark](#))

Commissioner comments/questions began at the 1:17:54 mark

4. Blue Sheet: Columbia River Fisheries – Decision

Commissioner Ragen presented his Blue Sheet request for a briefing on the Columbia River Fisheries. ([Begins at 1:24:13 mark](#))

Commissioner Smith moved to accept the blue sheet and hear the report as soon as possible and it was seconded by Commissioner Rowland. The Commission voted 8-0 (Commissioner Linville excused); motion passes. ([Begins at 1:28:06 mark](#))

5. Ruckelshaus Report - Discussion

The Commission discussed how to best approach the final version of the report and how to move forward. Ultimately, the Commission came to the consensus that the Big Tent Committee will go over the report in a closed session and provide a report out at the February meeting. The Commission will then schedule a workshop to go over the report in March. ([Begins at 1:38:58 mark](#))

6. Avian Flu Update – Briefing 21913

Staff briefed the Commission on the status of Avian Flu in Washington State. ([Begins at 2:19:21 mark](#))

Vice Chair Ragen adjourned the meeting at 11:35am

Jamie Caldwell, Executive Assistant

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Public Comment: Agenda Item #1 – Commercial Whale Watching Rulemaking

1. Teri Wright
2. John Rosapepe
3. Heather Nicholson
4. David Moskowitz
5. David Bain
6. Rein Attemann
7. Donna Sandstrom

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