



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission October 26-28, 2023 – Hybrid Olympia

Attendance

Commission

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice chair
Lorna Smith
Tim Ragen
John Lehmkuhl
Jim Anderson
Melanie Rowland
Steve Parker
Woody Myers, remote

Staff

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Tom McBride
Kelly Cunningham
Tami Lininger
Kimmy Jarvela

Friday, October 27, 2023

1. Call to Order – postponed until Saturday

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and announced that the meeting minute approval, committee reports and the Director's Report would all be postponed until the end of the meeting to help manage the public testimony. The Commission then took public comments.

2. Open Public Input

Please see the attached list of commenters. To listen to the audio please visit our webpage.

Item 3 was postponed until the end of the meeting and **Item 4** was removed from the agenda.

5. Fish Passage and Screen Rulemaking – Briefing, Public Hearing

Staff briefed the Commission on draft rule language to create a new Washington Administrative Code (WAC) chapter for WDFW, based on Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 77.57. The 2019-2021 Operating Budget, ESHB 1109, directed WDFW to develop and adopt rules to implement and enforce RCW 77.57, known as the Fishway, Flow, and Screening Statute.

The following person provided comments: David Moskowitz

6. Black Bear Timber Damage – Briefing, Public Hearing

Staff briefed the Commission on amendments to WAC 220-440-210; Wildlife management and wildlife interactions, Black bear timber depredation permits and heard comments from the public.

The following people provided comments: Dan Boeholt, Ann Preyzna, Julia Zelman, Hannah Thompson-Garner, Claire Davis, Susan Kane-Ronning, Kriss Kevorkian, Doug Boze, Alexis Gorge, Martha Hall, Tom Adkins, Elliott Lytle, Stephanie Bell, Rachel Bjork, Carolyn Fenno

7. Coastal Crab and Puget Sound Shellfish Rulemaking - Decision

Staff briefed the Commission and requested approval on rule proposals for coastal and Puget Sound shellfish.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the rule proposals submitted by staff, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

8. Petition: Statewide Protection of Resident Forms of Wild Steelhead – Briefing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a petition requesting rulemaking changes to the statewide protection of wild resident steelhead.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to deny the petition and asked staff to create a policy, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Ragen. All were in favor and the motion passed.

9. Co-manager Hatchery Policy - Decision

Staff asked the Commission for approval to adopt the policy guiding co-management of anadromous salmon and steelhead hatcheries between the state and tribes.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the policy, Commissioner Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor and – 3 against.

10. North of Falcon Policy (C-3608) Briefing, Public Comment

Staff briefed the Commission on the current North of Falcon Policy which sunsets in December, and outlined the potential modifications needed prior renewal of the new policy in January.

The following people provided comments: Pat Patillo, David Moskowitz, Nello Picinich, Mike Surdyk, Liz Hamilton, Hank Vanderhagen, Tom Nelson, George Harris, Shari Stoican

The Chair recessed the meeting at 5:44 pm

Saturday, October 28, 2023

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

11. Open Public Input

Please see the attached list of commenters. To listen to the audio please visit our webpage.

12. WDFW Science – Briefing

Staff discussed ways the department is exploring science and how it's being used. The Commissioners requested regular updates on this.

13. Gray Squirrel Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Hearing

Staff provided a briefing on the status of the Western Gray Squirrel described in the final Periodic Status Review.

The following people provided comments: Ann Preyzna, Lloyd Lytle, Patricia Arnold, Hannah Thompson-Garner, Dan Wilson, Julia Zelman, Susan Kane-Ronning, Martha Hall, Ilene Le Vee

14. Petition: Begin Rulemaking to Regulate the State's Management of Endangered Gray Wolves – Briefing, Decision

Staff briefed the Commission on a rulemaking petition to regulate the state's management of Endangered Gray Wolves.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the petition and initiate rulemaking as presented by the petitioners, Commissioner Rowland seconded that motion. After a lengthy discussion Chair Baker called for the vote. 3 Commissioners voted to accept the petition and 6 Commissioners voted against the petition. The motion failed.

After the decision the Commission decided that sometime in the future the Executive Committee will have further discussions about creating an ad-hoc committee to address some of the topics that were in the petition.

1. Call to Order

Commissioner's Discussion

Meeting Minute Approval

- The Commission considered approval of the September 28-30, 2023, meeting minutes.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl, to approve the minutes from the September 28-30, 2023, hybrid meeting in Yakima, as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Big Tent Committee

The Committee members in attendance: Baker, Parker, Lehmkuhl, Smith

The committee discussed the Best Available Science policy and the edits to the Conservation policy, along with the process moving forward.

Habitat Committee

Committee members in attendance: Linville, Lehmkuhl, Ragen, Myers

Staff presented the yearly review of the department's grazing program. They also discussed connectivity and the state's connectivity plan.

Fish Committee

Committee members in attendance: Anderson, Linville, Anderson, Parker

The committee also discussed Coastal Steelhead, Coastal Spring chinook federal petition, the North of Falcon policy, season planning and the statewide steelhead petition of resident forms of wild steelhead. They also discussed the next several months and timing of upcoming meetings.

Wildlife Committee

Committee members in attendance: Smith, Anderson, Rowland, Myers

Commissioner Smith shared that the committee spent a fair amount of time going over the season setting process and the option of delegating table one to the Director. After hearing comments from the public some Commissioners considered changing their vote on what they want to recommend. Commissioner Smith clarified that the original recommendation to delegate table one to the Director should stand and if that passes and asked staff to put something out to the public that explains what the delegation means. The recommendation to move table one to the Director for delegation went forward and the motion passed with a 7-2 approval. The Commissioners asked that the Director share any deviations to the delegation with them.

3. Director's Report

The director requested approval for a decision package to cover an improved safety program for the department. The commissioners all supported the request.

15. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The following actions were captured from the meeting.

Commissioners would like to work on how to better handle public comments. Commission Lehmkuhl and Smith will work with Nate on this.

Commissioner Smith asked staff to work on getting the Carnivore Science Panel scheduled after Thanksgiving. Commissioner should send questions to the panel in advance. Black Bear Timber Damage decision will move to the December meeting along with the Bear and Cougar petition.

Barbara and Nate will meet Monday to do a first round of edits to the Conservation Policy.

Special Fish Committee meeting is scheduled for November 30th.

The Commissioners approved the 2024 meeting dates.

Centennial Accord is Monday & Tuesday, Barbara and Kelly will attend.

Chair Baker asked who may want to attend the WAFWA Meeting in Nevada. Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Linville will attend with Nate.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant



Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Public Testimony Form

In order to testify in-person, please complete this form and return it to the registration desk before the start of the agenda item.

Please Note: A separate Public Testimony Form must be filled out for each topic.

Date: 10/27/23 **Agenda Item Number: #** 2

Name: Judith AKins **City:** Bellingham
Please print clearly

Contact Information, If Applicable: _____

Representing: Sierra Club WA state
(If testifying on behalf of an organization, please identify)

Please summarize the main points of your testimony:

Conservation Policy

3 Year Plan - Season Setting

GMP

| Name | Attendance | Agenda item |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|
| Darcy Body | Zoom | 1 |
| Patrick Pattillo | In person | 10 |
| David Moskowitz | Zoom | 10 |
| Nello Picinich | Zoom | 10 |
| Mike Surdyk | Zoom | 10 |
| Liz Hamilton | Zoom | 10 |
| Hank Vanderhage | Zoom | 10 |
| Tom Nelson | Zoom | 10 |
| George Harris | Zoom | 10 |
| Shari Stoican | Zoom | 10 |
| Mark Kilcup | In person | 11 |
| Mandy Carlstrom | In person | 11 |
| Carl Barner | In person | 11 |
| Gabriel Hinkle | In person | 11 |
| Lloyd, Lytle | In person | 11 |
| Jeremy Franz | In person | 11 |
| Will Christison | In person | 11 |
| Patricia Arnold | In person | 11 |
| Dan Wilson | In person | 11 |
| Jennifer Lyne | In person | 11 |
| Thomas, Bihn | In person | 11 |
| Peter Hapke | In person | 11 |
| Julia Zelman | In person | 11 |
| Davis, Claire | In person | 11 |
| Paula Swedeen | In person | 11 |
| Crystal Groves | In person | 11 |
| Scott, Bastin | In person | 11 |
| Hannah Scott | In person | 11 |
| Kavan Dewar | In person | 11 |
| Mark Kilcup | In person | 11 |
| Bob McCoy | In person | 11 |
| Joseph Morris | Phone | 11 |
| Kelsey Ross | Zoom | 11 |
| Dane czarnecki | Zoom | 11 |
| Kirby Wendt | Zoom | 11 |
| Jerry | Zoom | 11 |
| Rachel Bjork | Zoom | 11 |
| Elena Tillman | Zoom | 11 |
| Kim Thorburn | Zoom | 11 |
| Amaroq, Weiss | Zoom | 11 |
| jessica reiff | Zoom | 11 |
| Joan Beldin | Zoom | 11 |
| Dave Hedrick | Zoom | 11 |
| Joshuwa Skillingstad | Zoom | 11 |
| Abigail, Coffey | Zoom | 11 |
| Heath Heikkila | Zoom | 11 |

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|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Senator Shelly Short | Zoom | 11 |
| Charles Whitwam | Zoom | 11 |
| Justin Spruiell | Zoom | 11 |
| Jerry Lowdermilk | Zoom | 11 |
| Maia Manning | Zoom | 11 |
| Seann Mumford | Zoom | 11 |
| Lloyd, Lytle | In person | 13 |
| Patricia Arnold | In person | 13 |
| Dan Wilson | In person | 13 |
| Julia Zelman | In person | 13 |
| Patricia Arnold | Zoom | 13 |
| Chris Mann | In person | 2 |
| Drew, Cross | In person | 2 |
| Kenneth Smith | In person | 2 |
| Logan Miller | In person | 2 |
| Claire Davis | In person | 2 |
| Jason, Phelps | In person | 2 |
| Josh Caple | In person | 2 |
| Chris Hopfauf | In person | 2 |
| Samuel Hopfauf | In person | 2 |
| Ross Sharp | In person | 2 |
| James Forslund | In person | 2 |
| David West | In person | 2 |
| Hunter Litts | In person | 2 |
| Braxton Litts | In person | 2 |
| Jackson West | In person | 2 |
| Dane czarnecki | In person | 2 |
| Justin Boardman | In person | 2 |
| Andrew Fichtler | In person | 2 |
| Carl Barner | In person | 2 |
| Kenneth Smith | In person | 2 |
| Eric Lagally | In person | 2 |
| David Linn | In person | 2 |
| Dustin DesLauriers | In person | 2 |
| Alex Baier | In person | 2 |
| Jeff Myers | In person | 2 |
| Alex Baier | In person | 2 |
| Brian Fitting | In person | 2 |
| Erik, Seidel | In person | 2 |
| Andrew Fichtler | In person | 2 |
| David Delaney | In person | 2 |
| Crystal Groves | In person | 2 |
| Zach Bowman | In person | 2 |
| Brian leets | In person | 2 |
| Brian Leets | In person | 2 |
| David Moskowitz | In person | 2 |
| William curtindale | In person | 2 |

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|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Mike Herz | Phone | 2 |
| Stanton wisner | Phone | 2 |
| Timothy Coleman | Phone | 2 |
| Kelsey Ross | Zoom | 2 |
| Jon, Dykes | Zoom | 2 |
| Jeff Holbrook | Zoom | 2 |
| Jon, Dykes | Zoom | 2 |
| Emma Helverson | Zoom | 2 |
| Ryan Garrett | Zoom | 2 |
| Rachel Bjork | Zoom | 2 |
| Nicholson, Heather | Zoom | 2 |
| Ryan Niemeyer | Zoom | 2 |
| Taryn Gibbons | Zoom | 2 |
| Brent Lyles | Zoom | 2 |
| Laura Welp | Zoom | 2 |
| Laura Fertig | Zoom | 2 |
| David Moskowitz | Zoom | 2 |
| Marty Hall, Columbia Coun | Zoom | 2 |
| Amaroq, Weiss | Zoom | 2 |
| Lisa Billings | Zoom | 2 |
| Stanton wisner | Zoom | 2 |
| Steve Snowden | Zoom | 2 |
| Carl Barner | In person | 2, 11 |
| Marie Neumiller | In person | 2, 11 |
| Clarence Rushing | In person | 2, 11 |
| Gary Strassburg | In person | 2, 11 |
| John Rosapepe | In person | 2, 11 |
| Ann Prezyna | In person | 2, 11 |
| Clarence Rushing | In person | 2, 11 |
| Charles Whitwam | Zoom | 2, 11 |
| Samantha Bruegger | Zoom | 2, 11 |
| Dan Boeholt | In person | 2, 6 |
| Mike Herz | Phone | 2, 6 |
| Martha Hall | Zoom | 2, 6 |
| Carolyn Fenno | Zoom | 2, 6 |
| Julia Zelman | In person | 2, 6, 11 |
| Douglas Boze | Zoom | 2, 6, 11 |
| Martha Hall | Zoom | 2, 6, 11, 13 |
| Susan Kane-Ronning | Zoom | 2, 6, 13 |
| Josh Rosenau | In person | 2,11 |
| Hannah Thompson-Garner | In person | 2,6,11,13 |
| Luke, VandenBrink | In person | 2. |
| Will Christison | In person | 2. |
| Lynn Okita | In person | 2. |
| john rosapepe | In person | 3 |
| Trevor, Morris | In person | 5 |
| David Moskowitz | Zoom | 5 |

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|------------------|-----------|---|
| Hopfauf, Chris | In person | 6 |
| Joe Sheeran | In person | 6 |
| Dane czarnecki | In person | 6 |
| Davis, Claire | In person | 6 |
| Julia Zelman | In person | 6 |
| Joseph Morris | Phone | 6 |
| Tom Atkins | Phone | 6 |
| Kriss, Kevorkian | Phone | 6 |
| Timothy Coleman | Phone | 6 |
| Gouge, Alexis | Zoom | 6 |
| Lloyd, Lytle | Zoom | 6 |
| Stephanie Bell | Zoom | 6 |
| Rachel Bjork | Zoom | 6 |
| Ann Prezyna | In person | 6, 13 |
| Josh, Reardon | Zoom | Conservation Policy review |
| Chris Hopfauf | In person | CR-102 |
| Samuel Hopfauf | In person | CR-102 |
| Cory Maxwell | In person | CR-102 |
| Jason Ludwig | Zoom | Fridays Agenda, Spring Bear |
| Ilene Le Vee | Zoom | I may provide input based on information as presented at co |
| Kris cantrell | Phone | Rules |
| Joshua Nagle | In person | |
| Clarence Rushing | In person | |
| Nick Ryan | Zoom | |