

Summary

Meeting dates: January 22, 2016

Agenda item: Wildlife Poaching and the License Suspension Process

Presenter(s): Steve Crown, Chief and Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief

Background summary:

Poaching:

Wildlife crime is a unique category of crime. It does not fit “cleanly” into the various traditional categories, or classifications, often used to describe criminal activity categories such as crimes against persons or property crimes. Wildlife crimes are sometimes characterized as “victimless” because a readily identifiable injured party or in the form of a human being, doesn’t file a complaint.

It’s fairly well understood that society-at-large is the true victim when these criminal acts lead to significant harm to the resource, dependent economies, and the quality of life we enjoy in Washington State. But because of the “victimless” dynamic, the scope, scale and impacts of poaching relative sustainable management practices and opportunities for harvest are difficult to measure.

This briefing will focus on presenting the violation data we collect, the challenges associated with determining compliance, and difficulty in measuring impacts. Factors such as officer presence and capability and regulatory complexity will be discussed, as all are relevant to the enforcement programs ability to determine compliance and effects.

Regardless of the difficulty in demonstrating the full scope and scale of the problem, examples will be shared that highlight impacts on resource management and opportunities for legal harvest.

Commercial License Suspension:

In an effort to take into account real-life circumstances faced by Washington commercial fishing fleets, WDFW was directed by the Legislature to create a Commercial License Suspension Review Committee. This forum provides participants in the commercial industry the opportunity to explain extenuating circumstances prior to final suspension of a professional license. The committee’s role is to consider the case-specific facts and scenarios related to a violation and make recommendations to the Director.

The Director and Commission share a role in appointing the 5 member panel, and selection of alternates. Staff will brief the Commission on progress in creation of the committee.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Briefing and implementation of legislation.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Briefing only

Action requested:

None

Draft motion language:

None

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A