



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
April 9-10, 2015

April 9-10, 2015 Regular Meeting

Attendance

Commission:

Brad Smith, Chair
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair
Miranda Wecker
Connie Mahnken
Bob Kehoe
Jay Holzmilller
Dave Graybill
Kim Thorburn
Jay Kehne (items 15 & 16)

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

Department Staff:

Jim Unsworth, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Mick Cope
Brian Calkins
Nate Pamplin
Don Kraege
Rich Harris
Jerry Nelson
Donny Martorello

Penny Becker
Gary Wiles
Dayv Lowry
Craig Burley
Jim Scott
Steve Thiesfeld
Rich Childers
Mike Cenci
Joanna Eide
Cynthia Wilderson

Public:

Marlisa Dugan	Brian Kraemer	Norm Reinhardt	Bruce Ogren
Steve Gray	Bill Osborn	Joe Durham	Bob Danielson
Diane Gallegos	Greg Roberts	Hannah Roberts	John Andrews
George Ziegltrum	Steve Boerner	Bob Mulhauser	Ross Barkhurst
Ryen Godwin	Shawn Cantrell	Ron Schweitzer	LeeRoy Wisner
Tim Hamilton	Art Holman	Joe Koski	Bob Lake
Andy Mitby	John Campbell	Linda Saunders	Dave Hamilton
Wayne Cline	Bob Danielson	Chet O'Brien	Lyn O'Brien
Mike Cassinelli	Rob Kavanaugh	Leland Miyawaki	Kerry Stratton
Mike Mathieson	Howard Wilson	Sheena Wilson	Ken Miller
Elizabeth Ruther	Joe Verdoes	Dan Paul	Wayne Whiton
Amber Mount	Simone Cook		

Thursday, April 9, 2105

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion:

No items were discussed.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

April 3, 2015 – conference call

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2015 conference call as presented. Motion passed.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Martha Jordan – Swan die off

Ross Barkhurst – Eel grass

Shawn Cantrell – Non-game species decline (Marbled Murrelet and Spotted Owl)

3. Director's Report

The Director provided a briefing to the Commission, some of the items included:

- Hunters Education Training
- Wolf Management Update
- Legislative/Budget Update

4. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy – Briefing and Public Hearing

Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission on the Willapa Bay guidance policy and provided an update on the public process, review of draft policy and asked for any further refinements.

The following people signed up to provide testimony:

Bill Osborn	Norm Reinhardt	Bruce Ogren
Tim Hamilton	Bob Lake	Andy Mitby
Steve Gray	Brian Kraemer	Marlisa Dugan

5. 2015 Interim Willapa Bay Salmon Management Guidance Policy – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission on the Willapa Bay Salmon Management guidance policy and requested direction and approval on the 2015 Interim Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy.

The following people signed up to provide testimony:

Ross Barkhurst	Brian Kraemer	Norm Reinhardt
Bruce Ogren	Tim Hamilton	Andy Mitby
Steve Gray	Bob Lake	David Hollingsworth

Commissioner Mahnken moved to approve the draft interim policy as proposed by staff, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Wecker then moved to amend the mortality rate from 20% to 14%, Commissioner Thorburn seconded the amendment. Both the amendment and the main motion passed with votes of 7 to 1.

6. Grays Harbor Policy Update - Briefing and Public Hearing

Steve Thiesfeld, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission on the annual review of the Grays Harbor Policy.

The following people signed up to provide testimony:

John Campbell	Bob Lake	Andy Mitby
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Bill Osborn

Norm Reinhardt

Tim Hamilton

7. Game Reserves and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations - Decision

Don Kraege, Waterfowl Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on proposed updates and amendments to game reserves and other migratory bird hunting regulations.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to adopt the repeal of WACs 232-16-480 and 232-16-810 and amend the WACs listed in Appendix A of the summary sheet as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

8. Landowner Hunting Permits – Decision

Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on a proposal to make adjustments to permit levels and hunt dates in accordance with landowner needs and recreational goals.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-296 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

9. Trapping Seasons and Regulations – Decision

Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, requested approval on proposed dates, bag limits and other rules for all furbearers.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-024, 232-12-141 and 232-28-516 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

10. Small Game and Hunting Restrictions – Decision

Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, requested approval on proposed dates, bag limits and other rules for small game and other wildlife hunting.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-242, 232-12-288 and 232-28-342 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

11. Falconry and Dog Training Eurasian Collared Doves – Decision

Brian Calkins, Small Game/Hunting Access Section Manager, requested approval on proposed changes to add the Eurasian Collard Dove the lists of other species that can be used for training purposes.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-005, 232-12-064 and 232-12-271 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

12. Mountain Goat, Bighorn Sheep, and Moose Permits and Regulations - Decision

Rich Harris, Special Species Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on recommendations regarding permit levels for mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and moose.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-284, 232-28-273, 232-28-283, 232-28-622, and 232-28-623 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

13. Deer Areas, Elk Areas, Special Closures and Firearm Restriction Areas - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on proposed amendments to deer and elk area descriptions and special closures and firearm restriction areas.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-248, 232-28,337, and 232-28-624 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

14. Elk General and Special Seasons and Regulations - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, provided a briefing on elk general seasons and definitions and special permits.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-358 and 232-28-360 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

Items 17, 18, 19, 20, 22 were taken before items 15 & 16.

17. Hunter Orange Clothing Requirements - Decision

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, briefed the Commission on the need for regulatory clarity to ensure Master Hunters wear fluorescent hunter orange clothing while hunting.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-055 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

18. Multiple Season Big Game Permits and Reduced Rate Combination Elk Hunting License - Decision

Mick Cope, Game Division Manager, briefed the Commission on the master hunter incentive for elk hunting and an adjustment to the date and procedure for purchasing a multiple season big game permit.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-294 and 220-55-174 as proposed. All in favor - Motion passed.

19. Game Management Unit Boundaries - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, provided a briefing on the proposed amendments to game management boundary descriptions in Region 1 and Region 5.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-331 and 232-28-335 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

20. Importation and Retention of Dead Nonresident Wildlife - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-021 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

22. Equipment Requirements - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, provided a briefing on the proposed amendments to equipment requirements.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-12-047, 232-12-052 and 232-12-054 as presented. All in favor - Motion passed.

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Friday, April 10, 2015

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

Commissioner Kehne joined the meeting via conference call

15. Deer General Seasons and Special Permit Regulations - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, requested approval from the Commission on deer general seasons and definitions and special permit seasons.

Commissioner Wecker moved, seconded by Commissioner Mahnken to amend WAC 232-28-357 including retaining the 4 point antler restriction in GMUs 117 and 121 and allowing youth to take 4 point minimum or antlerless white-tailed deer. The motion failed with a vote of 4 to 5.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to amend WAC 232-28-357 which also allows for any white-tailed buck deer in GMUs 117 and 121 and WAC 232-28-359 allowing youth to take any white-tailed deer. The motion passed 5 to 4.

16. Baiting of Deer and Elk - Decision

Jerry Nelson, Deer and Elk Section Manager, provided a briefing on a proposal for baiting rules.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to maintain the current status and that WACs 232-12-078, 232-12-079 and 232-12-088 not be adopted. All in favor - Motion passed.

The Commission requested that staff work with some Commissioners and stakeholders to form a committee and bring recommendations back to the Commission next year.

Commissioner Kehne departed the meeting following the conclusion of the discussion on Item 16.

The Commission then took item #21

21. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Leland Miyawaki – Occupy Skagit
Wayne Cline – Occupy Skagit
Howard Wilson – Bear Damage
Ken Miller – Bear Damage
Elizabeth Ruther – CCAAs (Fishers/Sage Grouse) and Steller Sea Lions
Joe Verdoes – Prawn Fishing
Wayne Whiton – Private Lands Access for Hunters

23. Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations - Decision

Donny Martorello, Carnivore Section Manager, provided a briefing on the cougar harvest and human-cougar conflict trends and described how the results are incorporated in the cougar management strategies. The Commission was also briefed on the proposed 2015–2016, 2016–2017 and 2017-2018 cougar hunting seasons and regulations.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to amend WAC 232-28-297 as presented; Commissioner Wecker moved to amend the main motion as referenced in attachment A, seconded by Commissioner Mahnken.

Both the main motion and the amendment passed with a vote of 7 to 1.

24. Fall and Spring Black Bear Seasons and Regulations - Decision

Donny Martorello, Carnivore Section Manager, provided a briefing on the proposed amendments to 2015-2017 fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations and 2018 spring black bear seasons and regulations.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to amend WAC 232-28-286 and 232-28-288 as presented. All in favor - motion passed.

25. Steller Sea Lion and Tufted Puffin Status Review - Decision

Penny Becker, Acting Diversity Division Manager, and Gary Wiles, Wildlife Program Biologist, requested approval from the Commission to add tufted puffins to the list of Wildlife Classified as an endangered species and remove the Steller Sea Lion from the list of threatened species.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to add the tufted puffin to the list of Wildlife Classified as Endangered Species in WAC 232-12-014. All in favor – motion passed.

Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Wecker to remove the Steller Sea Lion from the list of Threatened species. All in favor – motion passed.

26. Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances – Briefing

Penny Becker, Acting Diversity Division Manager and Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Conservation and Restoration Section Manager, briefed the Commission on two draft voluntary agreements aimed at providing assurances to land owners who sign up to conserve sage-grouse and fisher on their lands before they are federally listed.

27. Quilcene and Dabob Bay Bottomfish Sportrules – Briefing and Public Hearing

Dayv Lowry, Research Scientist and Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager, briefed the Commission on proposed changes to the recreational flatfish fisheries within the Quilcene and Dabob Bays.

28. Results of the 2014 Puget Sound Dungeness Crab Fishery – Briefing

Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager and Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief of Enforcement, provided a summary on the performance and harvest of both commercial and recreational crab fisheries in 2014.

29. Results of the 2014 Puget Sound Shrimp Fishery – Briefing

Rich Childers, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager provided a summary on the performance and harvest of both commercial and recreational shrimp fisheries in 2014.

30. Columbia River Sturgeon Update – Briefing and Public Hearing

Guy Norman, Region 5 Manager, provided a summary on the white sturgeon population status in the Columbia River. Staff discussed the rationale for a conservative level harvest. The Director has the authority to negotiate the details of retention with the Oregon Director, consistent with the objectives outlined in the policy. Commissioners cautioned Department staff that population abundance has remained below the "conservation threshold" for several years and some demographic trends continue to raise concerns. A cautious approach was recommended.

The following person signed up to provide testimony:

Mike Cassinelli, Mayor of Ilwaco

31. Technical Amendments to Recreational Fishing Rules – Briefing and Public Hearing

Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, briefed the Commission on proposed technical changes to several recreational fishing rules that are needed to update, clarify provisions, and ensure accuracy.

No one signed up to provide testimony.

32. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion requesting two blue sheets:

- Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet recovery status
- Youth Advisory Group to the Commission

Commissioner Wecker seconded the motion for each. All voted in favor. Motions were passed for each.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.