



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

October 18-19, 2019 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Dave Graybill (by phone)
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Julie Sandberg
Anis Aoude
Edward Eleazer

Michele Culver
Laura Heironimus
Paul Hoffarth
Bill Tweit
Steve Caromile
Craig Burley
Eric Kinne
Tim Burns
Jeff Davis
Samantha Montgomery
Noelle Chung

Bill Baker
Heather Hall
Phill Dionne
Chris Eardley
Tom McBride
Cynthia Wilkerson
Julia Smith
Chris Donley
Mick Cope
Eric Gardner

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

David Linn
Steve Fransen
Diane Gallegos
Robert Sudar
Sophia Ressler
Greg Volkhardt

Dale Beasley
Lonny Thevik
Mike Remmey
Peter Koshi
Greg Jones
Russel Jones

Scott Sigmon
Marc Wallace
Randy W. Thompson
Patricia Flores
Joel Nania
Steve Cessack
Patty Carter

Says Louangphakdy
Eric Kettwic
Jake Sultant
Phil Martin
Bob McCoy
Dez Ruffin
William Moffett

Friday, October 18, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

No general discussion was addressed with the Commissioners.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the September 13-14 Commission meeting and September 27 conference call.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Linville to approve the minutes of the September 13-14 meeting as presented. Motion passed.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Vice Chair Baker to approve the minutes of the September 27 conference call as presented. Motion passed. Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Linville abstained.

c. Committee Reports

Commissioner McIsaac reviewed the draft meeting summary notes of the October 1 meeting of the Columbia River Policy Review Committee (PRC). The PRC is striving to reach a recommendation at their November 18 meeting, including creating a fact sheet addressing general public misconceptions. If a recommendation is reached, it has been scheduled to be considered by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 6 and the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission on December 13-14.

Commissioners discussed staying on the PRC schedule versus a two-meeting process with a briefing of the PRC recommendation at the December meeting in Bellingham with public comment and no decision to be made, with a final decision at the January meeting in Olympia. Outreach to the Tricities and Vancouver areas will be discussed with staff. A decision on how to proceed was deferred to the Future Meeting Planning agenda item on Saturday.

Chair Carpenter reported that the Fish committee staff briefed them on the items to be discussed on the Commission agenda. Willapa Bay Comprehensive Review, and its delay until next June. The March PRC Commission motion and process improvement. The committee would like to have a conference call before the next in person Commission meeting.

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Wolf committee reviewed the post recovery plan scoping results to date and discussed strategic approach to the scheduled December 1 meeting with the Governor's office. The Wildlife committee discussed cougar management- and provided the new commissioners a land acquisitions process review.

Commissioners requested a briefing on hunting contests at the February 2020 Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Baker reported that the Big Tent discussed strategic planning and agenda setting. Out of that discussion in strategic planning, commissioners will be able to provide feedback before the June 2020 deadline. The committee had the following recommendations for agenda setting:

- Move the meeting from Ocean Shores to Aberdeen.
- Swap Sept/Oct locations so that Sept is in Olympia, and October is in Colville.
- Move Colville to 10/22-10/24 (a week later than current proposal). This may cause the need to re-jigger conference calls; Nikki Kloepfer was asked to please investigate/resolve.
- Move the December meeting from Mount Vernon to Everett.

The following is the approved 2020 meeting locations schedule. It can also be found [here](#).

January, Olympia	July, Aberdeen
February, Olympia	August, No physical meeting
March, Tricities	September, Olympia
April, Olympia	October, Colville
May, no physical meeting	November, no physical meeting
June, Yakima	December, Everett

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Robert Sudar – Columbia River policy

David Linn – Wolf recovery

Steve Fransen – Skagit and fishery closure, budget

3. Director's Report

The Director provided highlights on the following:

- National Fishing and Hunting Day
- Box Canyon Fish Passage Efforts
- Online Web Calendar
- Southern Resident Killer Whale Recover Task Force Update
- Irv Conner Dedication

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of land transactions recommended by the Department for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat and for the enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Thorburn moved to approve the transactions as presented by staff.

5. Spring Bear Season – Briefing, Public Hearing

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-080, 2019-2020 Spring Black Bear Special Permits.

The following people provided comments:

Sophia Ressler

Commissioner Smith asked that Anise share the bear study that Sophia Ressler mentioned once published. Decision on Spring Bear Season WAC amendments will be made at the November 1 conference call.

6. Green (Duwamish) River Rule Change – Briefing, Public Hearing

Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager provided the Commission with a briefing to consider closing a section of the upper Green River to fishing in the Tacoma Municipal Watershed.

The following people provided comments:

Greg Volkhardt

Decision on the Green (Duwamish) River rule change will be made at the November 1 conference call.

7. Colville River Rule Change– Briefing, Public Hearing

Bill Baker, District 1 Fish Biologist provided the Commission with a briefing to consider opening a section of the Colville River to year-round fishing.

No comment was provided at this time.

Decision on the Colville River rule change will be made at the November 1 conference call.

8. Sport Marine Fish and Shellfish Fishing Rule Simplification - Briefing, Public Hearing

Heather Hall, Marine Fish Coastal Shellfish Policy Coordinator, Phill Dionne, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator provided the Commission an overview on proposals under consideration to simplify and improve marine fish and shellfish recreational rules while addressing conservation objectives.

No comment was provided at this time.

Phill Dionne will provide the Commissioners additional information on size limits for lingcod.

9. Coastal Dungeness Crab Whale Entanglement – Briefing, Public Comment

Michele Culver, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager and Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Coordinator updated the Commission on progress to address whale entanglements in the coastal crab fishery and briefed on proposed rules for the 2019-2020 season intended to reduce the risk of whale entanglements.

The following people provided comments:

Dale Beasley
Sophia Ressler
Lonny Thevik

10. Sturgeon Sport Rules Update Briefing, Public Hearing

Laura Heironimus, Region 5 Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided the Commission a briefing on rule proposals for sturgeon sport fishing while addressing conservation objectives.

No comment was provided at this time.

11. Executive Session

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken during and the public was not permitted to attend. Location: Director's Conference Room (537)

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12. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:
Patty Carter – Puyallup Hatchery update
Steven Fransen – Stillaguamish closure, NOF, ESA permit
Mike Remmey – HB1579 slot limit
Says Louangphakdy – HB 1579 impact
Ken Miller – Scott Lake Drainage District
Heath Heikkila – Columbia River

13. Cougar Management – Briefing, Public Comment

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on current cougar management, the science behind it and comparison to neighboring states. This provided background information

preceding possible cougar rule changes that the commission will be considering in March and April. It also raised issues about reviewing and revising the cougar management chapter in the game management plan if the Commission was interested in more changes than the limited flexibility currently allowed in adopting changes to 2020 hunting regulation changes.

The following people provided comments:

Bob McCoy

The Commission supported the staff initiating a review of the cougar management chapter in the game management plan, with recognition that the time frame involved would extend well beyond the March and April hunting rule changes for 2020; the Commission also asked that the staff include in their analysis of options for hunting rule changes in 2020 the proposal brought forward by the "Coalition" of interests at the March Commission meeting in March as well as a seasonal approach with no quota.

14. Implementation of House Bill 1579, and Freshwater Gamefish Rule Housekeeping - Briefing, Public Hearing

Steve Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager, and Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager provided the Commission a briefing on rules liberalizing bag limits for walleye, bass, channel catfish, and freshwater gamefish in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts proposed in response to HB 1579.

The following people provided comments:

Phil Martin	Steve Lebsack
Marc Wallace	Joel Nania
Randy Thompson	Peter Koshi
William Moffett	

The Commissioners asked that staff engage in a partnership with the sports fishing community to find alternatives to slot and/or bag limits as well as the list of lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Alternatives will be presented at the December meeting with public comment.

15. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners discussed upcoming meeting agendas.

Commissioner McIsaac supported the draft agenda for the November 1 conference call and provided suggested changes to the year-at-a-glance.

Commissioners agreed that there will be a briefing on the November 18 PRC recommendation at the December meeting with public comment, but that no decisions would be made at that time on changes to current policy, and from there decided appropriate action moving forward in scheduling a decision.

Vice Chair Baker reiterated the Big Tent committee 2020 meeting schedule locations for Commissioner Graybill:

16. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Vice Chair Baker and Commissioner Smith requested a blue sheet on small scale pollinator habitats with a February 2020 deadline for briefing.

The Commissioners liked the new template of the Directors report.

Tumwater Hatchery Falls – Briefing

Eric Kinne, Hatchery Division Manager and Tim Burns, Capital & Assets Management Program Director briefed the Commission on the renovation of the Tumwater Fall Hatchery.

17. Tour of Tumwater Hatchery

Available Commissioners and Department staff will depart to tour the Tumwater Hatchery after the conclusion of the briefing. The public may attend but must provide their own transportation.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting following the tour of the Tumwater Hatchery.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.



Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant