



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 13-14, 2019 – Bellingham

Attendance

WA Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Bob Kehoe
Dave Graybill
Donald McIsaac
Kim Thorburn
Molly Linville
James R. Anderson
Brad Smith

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind,
Director
Amy Windrope, Deputy
Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Anis Aoude

Julie Watson
Bill Tweit
Steve Caromile
Craig Burley
Samantha Montgomery
Rachel Blomker
Dayv Lowry
Phill Dionne
Chris Eardley

Laurie Peterson
Aaron Dufault
Edward Eleazer
Ryan Lothrop
Kelly Cunningham
Justin Spinelli
Edie Thomas
Brendan Brokes
Kyle Adicks

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Public:

Bryan Townley
Comer LaRue
Steve Stout
John Westfield
David Parnicky
Irene Martin
Kent Martin
Tom Allen
John Gurdee
Russell Carver
Rob Larsen
Ron Wesen
Curt Kramer
Charles Malmgren
Bill Schmidt
Phil Brockman
Sandy Atkinson
Dale Dennis

Curt Wilson
Shannon Moore
Jacob DeCraft
Alan Chapman
James Howe
Marc Wallace
Mike Rathvon
Bob Cooper
Roger Goodan
Chris Johnson
Amy Fenlon
Brad Felger
Frank Bob
Leland Brown
Chris Parrish
Brian Lipscomb
John Jonasson
Martha Jordan
Heath Heikkila

Art Thomas
Steve Fransen
Karl Frantz
Steve Carpenter
David Radosevich
Mike Gurnee
Charles Silver
David Taylor
Hilda Wiens
Sean Mitchell
Hernandez Ruffin
Tino Villaluz
Shannon Moore
Patrick Pattillo
Doug Davidson
Gary Hagland
Dave Thomas
Janis Schweitzer
Ron Pera

Joel Nania
Steve Lebsack
Dana Steiner
Brian Henderson
Mel Walters
Daniel Zimmerman
Riley Starks
Phil Anderson
Jerry Montogue
Rob Harriman
Martha Hall
Franchesca Perez
Shaun Seaman
Doug Karlberg
Rachel Vasak
Jesse Pecor
Bill Hebner
Gordon Ruh
Larry Bucklin

Friday, December 13, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 November 15 conference call.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the November 15 conference call as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:

Wolf Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Kehoe, Anderson, Thorburn, Baker, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Wolf committee received an update by Julia Smith, Wolf Coordinator, on the status of post recovery planning now that scoping has closed. Committee members and staff discussed the role of the committee and commission in plan development moving forward. Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, provided an update on the status of the periodic status review. The contract to model the state wolf population and recovery by a UW post doc has been instituted. Committee members discussed the department's response to the Governor's letter and the members' interest in further discussing wolf conservation and management with the Governor during our annual meeting.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, Thorburn, Anderson, Linville

Commissioner Thorburn reported that the Wildlife committee was provided an update by Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director and Anise Aoude, Game Division Manager, and program staff, on the current work around the Cougar CR-102 scoping and related wildlife conflict. Staff have made efforts to communicate public safety and started a video series educating the public about [Washington's Cougars](#). The committee was provided an overview of Washington's existing work on non-lead was ammunition in preparation for the briefing that would be provided the Commission the following day.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Baker, Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill and Anderson

Chair Carpenter reported that the Fish committee staff briefed that Ron Warren, Fish Policy Director, gave an update on Willapa Bay. Craig Burley, Fish Program Deputy Director briefed on agenda item #15, HB1579 options based on public feedback before its presentation to the Commission. Staff provided a briefing on the status of Puget Sound Crab. Chair Carpenter asked the staff to research the Puget Sound Crab policy further and add it as a fish committee agenda item and the January meeting.

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Anderson, Smith, Linville, Kehoe

Commissioner Smith reported that the Habitat committee was briefed by Margen Carlson, Habitat Director on HPA civil authority rulemaking and provided the committee with the [flow chart of tools](#) available for compliance as provided by the legislature. The priority habitats and species – Riparian

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volume 2 document it is in the process of being updated. The department is currently working with tribal and community partners to ensure equity in aquatic and terrestrial presentation. The committee didn't have enough time to discuss fish passage and screening rulemaking. The intent is to start the conversation as fish passages have never had formal rule making.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Larry Bucklin – Overharvest concerns	Janis D. Schweitzer – Skagit elk issues
Charles Malmgren – Chinook enhancement for SRKW	Phil Brockman –Skagit elk issues
Curt Kraemer – Game fish seasons during North of Falcon	Randy Good – Skagit elk issues
Sandy Atkinson – Stillaguamish closure	Gary Hagland – Skagit elk issues
Ron Pera – Stillaguamish closure	Bill Schmidt – Skagit elk issues
Martha Jordan –North American Non-Lead Partnership	Thomas Freeburg – Stillaguamish closure
Ron Wesen – Skagit elk issues	Martha Hall – Non-hunting representation
Dave Thomas – Skagit elk issues	Dale Dennis – Stillaguamish closure
Ron Garner – HSRG, Crab policy, 10 year – Resource management plan	Gordon Ruh – Puget Sound crab policy
Steve Fransen – Opposing closing recreational angling	Robert Sudar – Columbia River Policy
Larry Bucklin – Puget Sound Anglers	Doug Karlberg – Hatchery management
Shannon Moore – Hatcheries	Tino Villaluz – Skagit elk issues

Chair Carpenter requested that the director provide a report out on the Skagit Elk efforts since the June briefing to the Commission.

3. Director's Report

The Director provided written highlights on the following:

- Forage fish research
- Waitt's lake opening day
- Partnership to protect biodiversity and working lands
- Partnership with Mobius Science Center
- Leque Island estuary restoration

New Region 4 Director Brendan Brocks provided a summary of major activities in the region. The Director gave a lightening-round summary of important meetings and activities.

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Comment and Decision

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director asked the Commission for approval of a land donation by former Commissioner Larry Cassidy. Located in the Chief Joseph Wildlife, Snyder Bar Access Areas. This proposal is to acquire by donation, 1.8 (+/-) acres in Asotin County from Frank (Larry) and Marilou Cassidy, to be added to the Snyder Bar Water Access Area. The property is valued at \$32,000 and the acquisition costs are being provided by the Fish Program.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Thorburn seconded by Chair Carpenter moved to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. Amendment to Dealer Fee WAC for CRSE and License Package – Briefing, Public Comment, and Decision

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Governmental Affairs, briefed the Commission and requested approval on proposed edits to the dealer fee WAC to eliminate references to the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement and to clarify the cumulative dealer fees charged to bundled license packages.

No comment was provided at this time.

Commissioner Kehoe, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn moved to amend WAC 220-220-320, as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. Southern Resident Killer Whales – Briefing

Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead, briefed the Commission on the status of Southern Resident Killer Whales, the Department’s implementation of the Governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force Year 1 recommendations and provided an overview of the Task Force’s Year 2 recommendations.

Commissioner Smith asked that the Commission is kept in the loop of meetings being held as to have the option to participate in the scoping process.

7. Blue Sheet: Non-toxic Ammunition and North American Non-lead Partnership – Briefing

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director gave an introduction of Christopher Parish, The Peregrine Fund and Leland Brown, Oregon Zoo, founders of North American Non-lead Partnership. They briefed the Commission on non-toxic ammunition and the North American Non-lead Partnership.

Commissioner Thorburn requested that staff look into how the department can participate in the partnership.

8. Marine Fish and Shellfish Sport Fishing Rule Simplification – Decision

Dayv Lowry, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, Phill Dionne, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist, and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Shellfish Policy Coordinator asked the Commission to adopt the proposals to simplify and improve marine fish and shellfish recreational rules while addressing conservation objectives.

Commissioner Thorburn, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, moved to adopt the following Forage Fish, Marine Fish, and Shellfish Sport Fishing Rule Simplification proposals as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

- 220-315-010 Forage Fish-Lawful gear**
- 220-315-030 Smelt-Areas and seasons**
- 220-310-160 Daily limits forage fish and other food fish not otherwise provided for**
- 220-300-040 Definitions-Bottomfish**
- 220-300-130 Definition-Forage fish**
- 220-300-370 Food fish-Classification**
- 220-330-010 Shellfish—Daily limits.**
- 220-330-020 Personal-use shellfish gear—Unlawful acts.**
- 220-330-040 Crab—Areas and seasons—Personal use.**
- 220-330-070 Shrimp—Areas and seasons.**

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220-330-090 Crawfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, goose barnacles—Areas and seasons, personal-use fishery.
220-330-120 Clams, oysters, mussels—Unlawful acts.
220-330-150 Oysters and clams on private tidelands—Personal use.
220-320-060 General provisions—Shellfish.
220-314-020 Possession limits-Bottomfish.
220-314-030 Halibut – Seasons-daily and possession limits.
220-314-040 Lingcod – Areas and seasons

Repealed:

220-330-030 Personal-use crab pot gear requirements.
220-330-050 Crab—Unlawful acts—Personal use.
220-330-060 Personal-use shrimp pot gear requirements.
220-330-080 Shrimp containers.
220-330-100 Personal-use crab, shrimp, crawfish—Unlawful acts.
220-330-130 Oysters and scallops—Gear.
220-330-180 Squid, octopus.
220-300-300 Geographical definitions—District 1.
220-300-310 Geographical definitions—District 2.

9. Sturgeon Sport Rules Update- Decision

Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager, Bill Tweit, Special Assistant, provided the Commission an updated briefing and asked for a decision on rule proposals for sturgeon sport fishing.

Commissioner McIsaac, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn, moved to adopt recreational sturgeon fishing regulations permanent amendments to; 220-310-100 - Fish handling rules - Removal from water. 220-316-010 - Sturgeon - Areas, seasons, limits and unlawful acts as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

10. Hatchery Reform Policy C-3619 – Briefing, Public Comment

Laurie Peterson, Fish Science Division Manager, and Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy provided the Commission with a status update on the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (C-3619) review project.

The following people provided comments:
Bob Harriman

Ron Warren asked for Commission guidance on a Tribal request to consider a joint Co-Managers policy on salmon hatcheries and another meeting between Tribal policy representatives and the Commission on the State Hatchery Policy.

Commissioner McIsaac provided comments on possible guidance from the Commission on the process moving forward and the questions about further Tribal involvement. Chair Carpenter requested a written summary of Commissioner McIsaac's talking points to provide Commissioners and to staff. Written guidance was provided to the Commission and is available [here](#).

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: Boundary Bay Conference Room. Executive session ended at 5:00pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

12. Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Bill Tweit, Special Assistant and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager provided the Commission an update on the progress and discussions conducted by the PRC toward the purpose of recommending a possible revision to the Columbia River Salmon Management Policy C-3620 that can be accomplished concurrently among Oregon and Washington.

The following people provided comments:

Irene Martin	Art Thomas
Heath Heikkila	Shannon Moore

No action on such policy issues was taken by the Commission at this meeting. The Commission prioritized discussion of the process to optimize public notice and opportunities for public comment leading to final Commission action at some point in the future.

Commissioner McIsaac presented a [policy review process](#) for notice to the public that included a multiple meeting process for the Joint-State Policy Review Committee (PRC) with one meeting in an east-side location and a two meeting Washington Commission process to consider any PRC recommendations with one meeting on the west side and one meeting on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. The Commission agreed to move forward with this process.

Vice Chair Baker noted a letter from Oregon Fish and Wildlife Director Curt Melcher suggesting that he and Director Susewind work together to provide concurrency and allocation direction for the upcoming North of Falcon planning since the PRC process is not completed. The commission agreed to delegate these preparations to the Director for the 2020 North of Falcon negotiations.

13. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

- Heath Heikkila – Hatchery management
- Steven Fransen – Recreation fishing season closures
- Rob Larsen – Marine mammals
- Chris Johnson – Salmon management
- Bob Harriman, Robo duck, sportsman license, 2 deer tag system, turkey harvest weapons
- Charles Sullivan – Hatchery management
- Alan Chapman – Hatchery management
- Shannon Moore – Samish bay fishery
- Kent Martin – Alternative fish gear

Chair Carpenter requested an oyster briefing around species restoration and water quality. Staff will provide a timeline at the next Fish committee meeting in January.

14. Baker Lake and Skagit River Sockeye Salmon Review – Briefing, Public Comment

Aaron Dufault, Anadromous Resources Policy Analyst, and Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager, provided the Commission with an overview of Baker Lake and Skagit River sockeye fishery management and an update on this year's fisheries.

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The following people provided comments:

Steven Fransen	Ron Robertson
John Westerfield	Bryan Townley
Heath Heikkila	Roger Goodan
Bob Cooper	Bob Harriman
Comer LaRue	Rob Larsen
Mike Stefanick	Jacob DeCraft
Art Thomas	

The Commission provided staff guidance to discuss with the Tribes the goal to address and prioritize the harvest equity during the North of Falcon 2020 season setting process.

15. Implementation of House Bill 1579, and Freshwater Gamefish Rule Housekeeping – Public Comment, Decision

Steve Caromile, Inland Fish Program Manager, and Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager asked the Commission to adopt the presented proposals for the purpose of implementing the Southern Resident Killer Whale HB1579 (Section 2) as it relates to liberalizing bag limits for walleye, bass, and channel catfish in anadromous waters in order to reduce the predation risk to salmon smolts. Other technical and housekeeping rule changes for freshwater gamefish were also considered for adoption.

The following people provided comments:

David Taylor	Joe Boyd
David Parnicky	Bob Harriman
Marc Wallace	Hernandez Ruffin
Joel Nania	Steve Lebsack

Commissioner McIsaac, seconded by Commissioner Graybill moved to adopt game fish housekeeping rules and Option B2 permanent amendments as listed below and presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

220-310-070 Statewide bait rules

220-310-090 Game fish possession limits and size limits

220-312-010 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rule –General rules

220-312-020 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules –Coast

220-312-030 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Southwest

220-312-040 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Puget Sound

220-312-050 Freshwater exceptions to statewide rules – Eastside

Commissioner Thorburn presented a Blue Sheet on development of a policy document on non-native game fish & fisheries, deadline end of 2020. It will be assigned to the Fish program.

Commissioner Graybill made a motion to accept the Blue Sheet on development of a policy document on non-native game fish & fisheries, seconded by Commissioner Linville. All in favor. Motion passed.

16. Future Meeting Planning

Chair Carpenter tabled the future meeting planning discussion until the December 27, 2019 conference call.

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Commissioner McIsaac is unable to attend the December 27 conference call and will provide draft agenda and year at a glance edits to Nikki to present at the call.

17. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

Chair Carpenter tabled further discussion until the December 27, 2019 conference call.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:17pm.

Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant