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

**Commission Staff:**
Nikki Kloepfer

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

**Public Staff:**
Curt Wilson
Shannon Moore
Jacob DeCraft
Alan Chapman
James Howe
Marc Wallace
Mike Rathvon
Bob Cooper
Roger Goodan
Chris Johnson

**Public Staff:**
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

**Public Staff:**
Joel Nania
Steve Lebsack
Dana Steiner
Brian Henderson
Mel Walters
Daniel Zimmerman
Riley Starks
Phil Anderson
J erry Montogue
Rob Harriman
Martha Hall
Franchesca Perez
Shaun Seaman
Doug Karlberg
Rachel Vasak
J essie 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, Mcl saac, 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, Mcl saac, 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 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
   - Charles Malmgren – Chinook enhancement for SRKW
   - Curt Kraemer – Game fish seasons during North of Falcon
   - Sandy Atkinson – Stillaguamish closure
   - Ron Pera – Stillaguamish closure
   - Martha Jordan – North American Non-Lead Partnership
   - Ron Wesen – Skagit elk issues
   - Dave Thomas – Skagit elk issues
   - Ron Garner – HSRG, Crab policy, 10 year – Resource management plan
   - Steve Fransen – Opposing closing recreational angling
   - Larry Bucklin – Puget Sound Anglers
   - Shannon Moore – Hatcheries
   - Janis D. Schweitzer – Skagit elk issues
   - Phil Brockman – Skagit elk issues
   - Randy Good – Skagit elk issues
   - Gary Hagland – Skagit elk issues
   - Bill Schmidt – Skagit elk issues
   - Thomas Freeburg – Stillaguamish closure
   - Martha Hall – Non-hunting representation
   - Dale Dennis – Stillaguamish closure
   - Gordon Ruh – Puget Sound crab policy
   - Doug Karlberg – Hatchery management
   - 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 made a motion, seconded by Chair Carpenter to approve the transactions as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.

5. **Amendment to Dealer Fee WAC for CRSSE 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 made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn 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

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 made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson 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
220-330-020 Personal-use shellfish gear—Unlawful acts.
220-330-040 Crab—Areas and seasons—Personal use.
220-330-070 Shrimp—Areas and seasons.
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.
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 made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn 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 spring chinook season and North of Falcon planning since the PRC process is not completed. The commission agreed to delegate exploring these preparations to the Director for the 2020 spring chinook season and North of Falcon negotiations. The Director is expected to report back to the Commission on this matter at the January Commission meeting.

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.

The following people provided comments:
Steven Fransen  Ron Robertson
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 made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Graybill 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, seconded by Commissioner Linville to accept the Blue Sheet on development of a policy document on non-native game fish & fisheries. All in favor. Motion passed.

16. **Future Meeting Planning**

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

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.

Nichole Diane Kloepfer
Nikki Kloepfer, Executive Assistant