Friday, December 4, 2020

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

1. **Call to Order**
   a. **Commissioners’ Discussion**
      Commissioner Thorburn mentioned the passing of Donna Roloff and her family’s contribution to the conservation of Washington’s land and wildlife.
   
   b. **Meeting Minute Approval**
      The Commission considered approval of the October 23-24, 2020 and November 20, 2020 meeting minutes.

      Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the October 23-24, 2020 webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

      Commissioner Smith made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2020 web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passed.

   c. **Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:**
Fish Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Carpenter, Kehoe, Graybill, McIsaac, Baker, Anderson
Commissioner Graybill reported that the committee was provided an update on the progress with the Willapa Bay policy and Hatchery policy. The Fish committee provided a recommendation with languages changes, a timeline and next steps, for the Hatchery policy Commission agenda item on Saturday.

Wildlife Committee
Commissioners in attendance: Anderson, Baker, Thorburn, Linville, McIsaac
Commissioner Thorburn reported that the committee was provided an update on the non-lead partnership. It's currently in a holding pattern due to Covid. Staff provided a briefing on the bear/cougar tooth aging process as a tool to monitor harvest age structure and to validate field aging. The committee was given an overview on the Spring Bear hunt presentation that will be provided to the Commission later today. Staff gave a presentation on the periodic status review process and the status of upcoming reviews. The grazing rule/policy timeline has been pushed out due to the overwhelming amount of feedback from constituents. The committee was given an overview of fire response on WDFW-owned lands and there is an ADA issue regarding a rule on permits that will be added to January Wildlife committee's agenda.

2. Open Public Input
The following people provided input on various topics:

- Shannon Moore – Willapa Bay
- Michelle Blake – Non-lethal management
- David Linn – Wildlife conservation
- Ravae O'Leary – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries
- Rod Fleck – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries
- Marie Neumiller – Wildlife conservation
- Robert Sudar – Columbia River/ Local seafood
- Samantha Bruegger – Spring bear hunts
- Rachel Bjork – Wildlife conservation
- David Moskowitz – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries

3. Director's Report
The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- OR/WA commissioner meetings
- Region open houses
- Treaty hunting rights/Tribal Co-Manager Hunting Summit
- North of Falcon preparation
- Land tribal ownership discussions
- Skokomish River concerns
- Centennial Accord
- DOT injunction
- Governors initiative on riparian efforts
- Strategic plan
- Northeast Washington Wildlife Group meeting about antler-point hunting restrictions
- Senate Agricultural Committee – agency talk on Columbia River

Director Susewind provided a briefing with staff on current Coastal Steelhead season concerns. Commissioner Thoburn suggested a briefing on the state of Steelhead.

Counselor Panesko provided a management change update.

Deputy Director Windrope provided recruitment changes and the continuing internal development of safety protocols during COVID.
4. **Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Comment, Decision**

   Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager asked the Commission for approval of a land transaction- recommended by the Department.

   There was no public comment for this item.

   **Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to approve the transaction- as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passed.**

   The Commission and staff gave Julie their sincerest thanks for her service as she transitions to retirement.

5. **Spring Bear Hunting Seasons - Briefing, Public Hearing**

   Anis Aoude, WL Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WAC 220-415-080 Spring black bear special permits.

   The following people provided comments:
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marie Neumiller</td>
<td>Malaya Lualhati</td>
<td>Martha Hall</td>
<td>Robert Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Linn</td>
<td>Dan Paul</td>
<td>Sharon Stroble</td>
<td>Sophia Ressler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Coleman</td>
<td>Claire Davis</td>
<td>Stephanie Taylor</td>
<td>Rachel Bjork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob McCoy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Commercial Whale Watching – Briefing, Public Hearing**

   Dr. Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead briefed the Commission on the rule package regarding commercial whale watching of Southern Resident Killer Whales, including options regarding months, days, and number of vessels permitted. The briefing included analysis and presentation of comments received on the proposed options.

   The following people provided comments:
   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Will Hall</td>
<td>Stephanie Solien</td>
<td>Les Purce</td>
<td>Robb Krehbiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Goodremont</td>
<td>Sophia Ressler</td>
<td>Brendan Flynn</td>
<td>Kevin Campion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Jasny</td>
<td>Donna Sandstrom</td>
<td>Erin Gless</td>
<td>Rein Attemann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Stolmaier</td>
<td>David Bain</td>
<td>Gene Helfman</td>
<td>Todd Hass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Balcomb-Bartok</td>
<td>Monika Shields</td>
<td>Nora Nickum</td>
<td>Amanda Colbert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitney Neugebauer</td>
<td>Jeff Friedman</td>
<td>Ariel Yseth</td>
<td>Amy Eberling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Hansen</td>
<td>Janet Thomas</td>
<td>Lovel Pratt</td>
<td>Joe Scordino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Balcomb</td>
<td>Toby Cooper</td>
<td>Peter Hanke</td>
<td>Butch Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alisa Lemire Brooks</td>
<td>Ron Gardner</td>
<td>Tamara Kelley</td>
<td>Tim Ragen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Bordin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   There will be a special meeting scheduled next week for the Commission to dive deeper into the Commercial Whale changes before a decision is made December 18.

7. **Promoting Washington's Sustainable Seafood - Briefing**

   Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant to the Director and Carrie McCausland, Director of Public Affairs and MaryAnn Wagner, staff with Washington Sea Grant briefed the Commission on WDFW’s management role and the resulting impact on locally harvested seafood.
8. **Blue Sheet: Pinniped Conservation and Management – Briefing**
   This item was moved to the January 29-30, 2021 Commission meeting due to time constraints.

9. **WDFW Managed Nonlethal Pursuit Training Program– Briefing, Public Hearing**
   Rebecca Bennett, Community Outreach Liaison and Captain Jeff Wickersham, WDFW Enforcement briefed the Commission on the proposed nonlethal pursuit pass program.

   The following people provided comments:
   
   Marie Neumiller  Martha Hall  Rachel Haymon  Bob McCoy
   Rachel Bjork  Sophia Ressler  James Van Geystel  Mic O'Brien
   Dan Paul  Bruce Duncan  David Linn  Jerry Anderson
   Debra Chase  Gabrielle Gilbert  Rob McCoy  Buddy Woodberry
   Bart George  Lucas Getman  Lynn Mason  Sharon Stroble
   Roxane Auer  Greg Jones  Ronald Reed  Dr. Susan Kane-Ronning

   The Commission agreed to move Executive Session from the end of the day on Friday to the end of the meeting on Saturday.

**Recess**

**Saturday, December 5, 2020**

10. **Open Public Input**
   The following people provided input on various topics:
   
   Martha Hall – Spring bear  Ron Reed – Cougar incident
   Samantha Bruegger – Spring bear  Sharon Stroble – Spring bear
   David Linn – Wildlife conservation  Lynn Okita – Spring bear
   Ravae O'Leary – Coastal Steelhead Fisheries  Stephanie Taylor – Spring bear
   Claire Davis – Spring bear  Chris Bachman – Spring bear
   Ilene LeVee – Spring bear baiting

11. **Hatchery Policy (C-3619) Review – Briefing, Public Comment**
   Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy asked the Commission to consider next steps for the revised language to Policy C-3619.

   The following people provided comments:
   
   Greg King  George Harris  Butch Smith  Ron Garner
   Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Olsen

   The Fish committee brought forth a recommendation that included a revised schedule and guidance on policy language from the Writing Workgroup. The Commission discussed the recommendation and approved it without objection; the document is available on the Commission website [here](#).

12. **Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (C-3622) – Briefing, Public Comment**
   Chad Herring, Fish Anadromous Resource Policy Analyst and Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy briefed the Commission on revisions to the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy and asked the Commission for guidance on next steps.
The following people provided comments:
Greg King  Ron Gardner   Butch Smith   Jason Lake
Pacific County Commissioner Lisa Olsen

Commissioner McIsaac recommended that the Commission accept the Willapa Bay policy review report as final, with the exception of needing clarity about the Fall Chinook escapement goal status as it did not show up in the review report until a late stage. The Commission accepted the Willapa Bay report as final without objection. The Commission also approved moving forward with considering changes to the current policy.

Director Susewind suggested that the next step be that staff provide the Commission with a revised policy language alternative that includes a list of options and a recommendation. The Commission unanimously supported the suggestion.

Ron Warren and the Commission gave their thanks to Chad Herring for all his work on Willapa Bay. Ron Warren introduced Marlene Wagner who is now the Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor Fishery Policy Lead.

Ron Warren and Marlene Wagner will come back to the Commission with a process and timeline suggestion based on the feedback received from the meeting today.

13. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief
The Commission, staff, and a few continents gave their thanks to Commissioner Graybill for his service as this was his last meeting and his term expires at the end of the month.

Commissioner Baker asked if staff could let the Commission know when Senate and House hearings concerning the agency occur.

Commissioner McIsaac provided input on the Year at a Glance and asked the staff to proposed placement of the many items in the “to be determined” category on some point on the 2021 calendar; there was no objection to this direction. He also withdrew his North of Falcon Blue Sheet request.

14. Executive Session
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission met in executive session. No action was taken and the public was not permitted to attend.

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant