



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, December 18, 2020
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

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

Department Staff:

Amy Windrope, Deputy Director
Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Anis Aoude
Dr. Julie Watson

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Friday, December 18, 2020

Vice Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The WDFW Managed Nonlethal Pursuit Training Program decision has been moved to a January 2021 agenda item.

A. Governor's Budget Update – Briefing

Nate Pamplin, Director of Budget and Government Affairs, provided an update on the Governor's operating and capital budget proposals and how it affects WDFW.

B. Spring Bear Hunting Seasons – Decision

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

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville to adopt WAC 220-415-080 as presented by staff. Commissioners Linville, Anderson, McIsaac, Graybill, Carpenter, Kehoe, Thorburn, and Smith voted yes. Commissioner Baker voted no. (8/1) Motion passes.

The Commission agreed to continue the conversation within the Wildlife committee during upcoming season setting.

C. Commercial Whale Watching – Decision

Dr. Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead, provided an overview of the commercial whale watching rule package and asked the Commission for a decision on rules regarding licensing commercial whale watching and the commercial viewing of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to adopt WAC chapter 220-460 that is included in Option A with all proposed adjustments presented by staff in commission materials for the Dec. 4 meeting.

This includes the 7-day viewing opportunity with 3 motorized commercial whale watch vessels allowed daily during July through September.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Baker to amend Commissioner Kehoe's motion to adopt Option A with only 1 motorized commercial whale watch vessel allowed from Friday through Monday during July through September instead of 3 motorized vehicles. Commissioners Smith, Anderson, and Baker voted yes. Commissioners Linville, Thorburn, Kehoe, Carpenter, Graybill, and McIsaac voted no. (3/6) The Amendment to the Motion fails.

The Commission then returned to the initial motion by Commissioner Kehoe for a vote. Commissioner Baker reiterates the motion.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to adopt WAC chapter 220-460 that is included in Option A with all proposed adjustments presented by staff in commission materials for the Dec. 4 meeting. This includes the 7-day viewing opportunity with 3 motorized commercially whale watch vessels allowed daily during July through September. Commissioner Smith voted no. Commissioners Thorburn, Graybill, Kehoe, McIsaac, Carpenter, Linville, Anderson and Baker voted yes. (8/1) Motion passed.

The Commission discussed their thoughts on the draft Commission policy statement regarding the recovery of Southern Resident killer whales. The Commission agreed to have staff bring the statement to the January 28, 2021 Commission meeting for further consideration.

D. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioner McIsaac asked that the draft Hatchery policy for SEPA review be added to the January 8 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Anderson asked that WDFW Managed Nonlethal Pursuit Training Program and the Pinniped conservation and management blue sheet be placed under the January 28-29, 2021 agenda.

E. General Discussion

Commissioners Carpenter and McIsaac reported out on the Fish committee meetings scheduled on December 11, 2020.

Commissioner McIsaac shared his concerns about the wild steelhead population restrictions to sportfishing in rivers throughout the Washington coast.

F. Executive Session

Executive Session was postponed until the January 8, 2021 meeting.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting 10:46 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant