



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, April 09, 2021
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Larry Carpenter, Chair
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair
Don McIsaac
Fred Koontz
Lorna Smith
Molly Linville
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Ron Warren
Margen Carlson
Theresa Nation
James Losee
Kelly Cunningham
Ken Warheit
Anis Aoude
Brock Hoenes

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepper

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

A. ESHB 1261 Mineral Prospecting – Decision

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director and Theresa Nation, Environmental Planner asked the Commission for a decision on the Hydraulic Code rule proposal to implement ESHB 1261.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith adopt the determinations made in the Final Regulatory Analyses as summarized by staff today, and to adopt the amended rules as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

B. Petition – Hoh River – Decision

James Losee, Region 6, Fish Program Manager briefed the Commission on a petition that asked for the repeal of regulation WAC 220-312-020 section (41)(e)(iii) which prohibits fishing from floating devices on the Hoh River above Morgan's Crossing. He provided some context for the current rule and recommended denial of the petition.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to deny the petition to change existing regulations on Morgan's Crossing Boat Launch upstream to the Olympic National Park boundary below the mouth of South Fork Hoh River to allow fishing from a boat. All in favor. Motion passes.

C. Hatchery Policy (C-3619) Review – Decision

Ron Warren, Director of Fish Policy and Kenneth Warheit Supervisor, Genetic and Fish Health Laboratories briefed the Commission on the final draft and asked the Commission for a decision on the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C-3624 that this would supersede Commission Policy C-3619.

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Commissioner McIsaac made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C-3624. This action supersedes Policy C-3619. All in favor. Motion passes.

D. 3- Year Season Setting Rules – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager and Brock Hoenes, Ungulate Section Manager, Game Division asked the Commission for a decision on rule changes and updates regarding 3-year hunting season rules. Action was first taken on several recommended staff adjustments made after review of public testimony.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz to adopt recommended rule adjustments to WAC-220-412-070, as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion. **All in favor. Motion passed.**

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to adopt recommended adjustments to WAC's 220-410-050 Game management units (GMUs) boundary descriptions — Region five, 220-415-040 Elk Area Descriptions, 220-415-050 Elk general seasons, and 220-415-050, as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion. **All in favor. Motion passed.**

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz to adopt recommended adjustments to WACs 220-416-010 and 220-417-030, as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion. **All in favor. Motion passed.**

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commission Linville, to accept the recommended 3 – year season setting rules, including all those with the approved adjustments, as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz to amend the WAC 220-415-090 (2019-2020), Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations to include the year 2021.

The Commission discussed the amendment. The amendment failed with a 6 to 1 vote, Smith voting in favor.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Koontz to amend the WAC 220-415-090 (2019-2020), Fall black bear hunting seasons and regulations to include the years 2021-23.

The Commission discussed the amendment. The second amendment failed with a 5/2 vote with Commissioners Koontz and Smith voting in favor.

The Commission then voted on the original motion. **All in favor. Motion passed.**

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Chair Carpenter asks that there be a discussion with the Wildlife committee about the ongoing APR issue. Commissioner Thorburn reported on the discussions that have occurred at the committee level. Chair Carpenter will follow up with Commissioner Thorburn.

E. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioner Smith asked for guidance from staff about in-person meeting protocols. Director Susewind will inquire with Deputy Director Windrope and provide the Commission an update.

F. General Discussion

There was no general discussion.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 12:36pm.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant