



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/27/2021

Agenda item:

Columbia River Commercial License Reduction Program and Alternative Gear Development and Implementation (CR License Reduction and Alt Gear)

Presenter(s):

Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant, Dr. Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Mgmt Unit Lead, and Morgan Stinson, Chief Financial Officer

Background summary:

At this briefing, staff will present for approval an operating request for the 2022 legislative session. The dollar amounts may have small changes before submission to OFM in September. After the veto of the Columbia River license reduction by the Governor in May of 2021, WDFW added placeholders for a license reduction and alternative gear to the list of packages for budget development. The Governor sent a letter to the Commission and Director on June 8th, requesting options by September 30th, 2021.

Staff recommendation:

Final approval for the 2022 supplemental operating budget package as presented.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

N/A

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

Secure funding for emergent costs in the 2021-23 BN and ongoing.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

The Department's Budget and Policy Advisory Group was briefed on draft 2022 supplemental budget proposals at their May meeting, and again in July. The Fish committee was briefed on the previous version of the proposal on August 5th, and the Commission heard budget proposals during the meeting on the 6th.

Staff have conducted focus groups with commercial fleet and rec angler representatives' multiple times between July and August and collected feedback and concerns. Columbia River license holders and NWIFC and other tribal entities received a letter in August to increase awareness of the conversation on the 27th and the Governor's letter.

The sub-committees of the Oregon and Washington fish and wildlife agencies did not add this topic to the Special Joint-State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Review Committee agenda for July 28th, and it is not yet added to the October 27th meeting agenda.

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approve the budget request

Draft motion language:

“I move to approve the Columbia River License Reduction Program and Alternative Gear Development and Implementation decision package, adding it to the WDFW’s 2022 supplemental operating budget request as presented by staff, with allowance for minor adjustments as staff prepare final documents for submittal to the Office of Financial Management.”

Post decision communications plan:

The budget request will be submitted to OFM in September and staff will update the Department’s website on the 2022 legislative session and budget proposals.

Form revised 8-4-20