



## Minutes

### Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting September 16-17, 2021 – Webinar

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#### Attendance

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Commission Staff</u>
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	Michael Ritter	Nichole Kloepper
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Margen Carlson	
Donald McIsaac	Amy Windrope, Deputy		
Kim Thorburn	Director		
Molly Linville	Heather Hall		
Lorna Smith	Aaron Dufault		
Fred Koontz	Brock Hoenes		
Jim R. Anderson	Michael Garrity		

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#### Friday, September 17, 2021

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

##### **1. Call to Order**

###### **a. Commissioners' Discussion**

Vice Chair Baker expressed her support for this year's clamming opener. She's received a good deal of positive feedback from the public about it.

Commissioner Thorburn noted that the ADA Advisory Committee is currently soliciting for new members. She asked for a commissioner to volunteer with the interviews. Commissioner Smith volunteered. Those that are interested can apply [here](#).

Commissioners Smith and Koontz shared their experience with the Wild Fish Conservancy's Fish Trap tour.

###### **b. Meeting Minute Approval**

The Commission considered approval of the August 5-6, 2021 and August 27, 2021, draft minutes.

**Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the August 5-6, 2021, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.**

**Commissioner Thorburn made motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2021, web conference as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.**

###### **c. Committee Reports - This Section constitutes the formal minutes from each of the listed committee meetings:**

### **Big Tent Committee**

**Commissioners in attendance: Committee Members McIsaac, Baker, Thorburn, Koontz, and Commissioners Smith, Linville, Anderson**

Vice Chair Baker reported that the committee reviewed [Commission policies](#). There was discussion around establishing a style guide for policy formats. Staff will evaluate the policies and bring back recommendations for the committee whether policies should be sunset, repealed, and report-outs verified. This will be a reoccurring agenda item for future committee meetings.

The committee discussed the [2022 meeting dates](#). After discussion they asked for further staff development of a completed schedule and recommended that final approval of the meeting dates occur at the October 1 Commission web conference.

Vice Chair Baker and Jeff Davis, Conservation Director presented a first draft of a [Commission conservation policy guide](#). This was an effort provided by Vice Chair Baker, Jeff Davis, and Commissioner Koontz. The Committee discussed first impressions and asked Commissioner Thorburn and Koontz to work together on a second draft that would be provided to the Committee at its next meeting. The other participating Committee Commissioners are to provide their edits to Jeff Davis and Commissioners Thorburn and Koontz.

Vice-Chair Baker discussed the Conservation Roadmap that is outlined in the 25-year Strategic Plan, and whether a large summit/wildlife forum should be planned and/or regional meetings/townhalls. This will also be a topic at future committee meetings.

### **Joint State Columbia River Salmon Fishery Policy Committee**

**Commissioners in attendance: Baker, McIsaac, Carpenter, Anderson**

Commissioner McIsaac reported that the committee met by webinar on September 16 to discuss the status of the Upper Columbia River steelhead, associated fisheries, and surrounding environmental circumstances. Materials for reference are on the Commission website [here](#). Commissioner McIsaac complimented the staff on their responsible in-season management of fisheries steelhead in 2021.

### **Joint State-Tribal Hatchery Policy**

Commissioner McIsaac also reported on the initial meeting with Tribal Co-Managers to begin development of a Joint State-Tribal Hatchery, which took place September 15. They discussed the beginning implementation of goals and the challenges of developing a joint policy as directed in Policy C-3624, including formulating a writing group with Policy oversight. **Commissioners McIsaac and Anderson were in attendance.**

### **Fish Committee**

**Commissioners in attendance: Committee Members Carpenter, Anderson, Baker, McIsaac, and Commissioners Koontz, Smith, Linville, Carpenter**

Commissioner McIsaac reported that staff presented a [C-3622 Willapa Bay Salmon Management Update](#). At the next committee meeting, staff was assigned to bring forward their recommended draft policy language and a listing of any previous suggestions from Commissioners and the public that are not included in the new language draft, and any deletions from the current policy language, with rationale as to why such topics were not included in the new draft policy language.

Staff provided a report out on the [EPA Cold Water Refugia](#). Staff was asked to provide two referenced studies on the differential survival of migrating fish in the Columbia River that rested in

cold water refugia and those that did not. Committee members noted that this is a timely discussion with regard to future consideration by both Washington and Oregon in the PRC forum.

Staff also provided a [Columbia Basin Task Force Goals Report Out](#) however due to time restrictions it was suggested to be continued at the next Fish committee meeting if there were additional questions from Commissioners.

## **Habitat Committee**

### **Commissioners in attendance: Linville, Baker, Smith**

Commissioner Linville reported that there was a Special Habitat Committee meeting on September 7. Commissioner Koontz was unable to attend. The committee discussed landscape considerations and solar energy issues in the state. There will be a presentation to full commission on the topic later today.

## **2. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Chris Bachman – Draft conservation policy	David Linn – Wolf management
David Moskowitz – Steelhead management	Ilene LeVee – Wolf management
Larry Pryor – Willapa Bay	Martha Hall – Game management
Rachel Haymon – Cougar management	Stephanie Taylor – Wolf management
Josh Rosenau – Cougar management	
Rachel Bjork – Conservation policy/conservation policy	
Marie Neumiller – Wildlife management/conservation policy	
Pat Arnold – Conservation policy/cougar management	

## **3. Director's Report**

The Director provided oral highlights on the following:

- Several meetings with the mediators and tribes regarding the Resource Management Plan, when more information is available it will be sent to the Commission.
- The Shrubsteppe kick off meeting.
- An update on Togo pack depredations.
- The Governor's "Salmon bundle", including working with co-managers on a supplemental ask from the Governor's office, due by mid-December. Chair Carpenter suggested a briefing at a Fish committee.
- The Centennial Accord has been tentatively scheduled for October 26-27. Once more information is known it will be shared with the Commission.
- A Coastal Steelhead update on advisory group development, townhall scheduling, and Commission timeline. Commissioner Smith would like to be notified when townhall information is available.
- A summary of fire season impacts. DFW lands were opened up as of today.
- The Culture Audit was completed and published on Monday. Kelly Susewind and Amy Windrope met with the Diversity Advisory Committee yesterday to review the findings and implement next steps. An all-staff conversation will be held next Tuesday as part of the coffee chat.
- WDFW staff are at about 76% vaccinated, and the October 18 deadline for the Governor's mandate is coming fast. DFW continues to support staff through this challenging time.
- A response was given to the question about the study design for the Clifton Channel poundnet evaluation and the capacity for study design changes to evaluation marine mammal impacts. Commissioner McIsaac suggested a briefing on pound nets catch and release mortality and pinniped impacts. Kelly Susewind agreed to such a briefing

at the Fish committee and Chair Carpenter also suggested it come back to the Fish committee for additional discussion.

**BREAK**

**4. Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Regulation Changes – Briefing, Public Hearing**

Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager briefed the Commission on additional rule changes that build on and continue to support the entanglement risk reduction measures approved in 2020. In addition, rule changes are proposed to make electronic fish ticket reporting mandatory for several Puget Sound and Coastal shellfish fisheries.

The following people provided comment:  
Larry Thevik

A decision on the item will be made at the October 21, 2021, web conference.

**5. Importation of Dead Non-Resident Wildlife and Special Closures – Briefing, Public Hearing**

Brock Hoenes, Region 2 Director briefed the Commission on proposed amendments to WACS 220-413-030 Importation and retention of dead nonresident wildlife and 220-413-180 Special closures and firearm restriction areas.

The following people provided comment:  
Marie Neumiller

A decision on the item will be made at the October 22, 2021, webinar.

**LUNCH**

**6. Landscape Considerations and Solar Energy – Briefing, Public Comment**

Michael Garrity, Energy, Water, and Major Projects Division Manager, and Mike Ritter, Statewide Technical Lead briefed the Commission on industrial solar development statewide, with a focus on implications for shrubsteppe conservation.

The following people provided comment:

Marie Neumiller	Mickey Fleming	Rachel Bjork	Justin Allegro
Joshua Rosenau	Katie Ware	Deborah Jensen	Jordan Ryckman

**7. History of FWC Policies vs Rules – Briefing**

Joe Panesko, with the Attorney General's Office briefed the Commission on the FWC legislative history and explained the differentiation of policy from rulemaking.

**8. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**

The Commission discussed the following items that arose immediately before, during, or after the meeting:

Commissioner Thorburn asked to remove the cougar public safety science review from the October 21 Wildlife Committee agenda. She suggested scheduling a special 3-4 hour commission meeting in November after the commission has received the written report of the science review panel for its presentation and discussion. Commissioner Thorburn also asked

that the presentation of the PSR wolf population model from the October Wolf Committee meeting to the full commission meeting.

Commissioner McIsaac's suggestions the follow modifications on the Year-at-a-Glance, for Commission discussion:

- Move Crab decision to Oct 1 meeting,
- Move October Hatchery Policy item from a full Commission agenda item to the Fish committee only,
- Change the November 19 Steelhead briefing to full Commission agenda item and not a Fish Committee agenda item,
- In December, add a Columbia River Annual Report briefing to Commission, and
- Add a pound net briefing in the Fish Committee in December.

Commissioner McIsaac suggestions on the 2022 Fish and Wildlife Commission 2022 meeting include:

- In February move full meeting one week earlier to 2/17-19 and half day interim meeting to 2/4, to get more of a spread of time before the March meeting.
- In January move full meeting one week earlier to 1/13-15 and cancel the half day interim meeting, to keep a good time spread prior to the February full meeting and to recognize an interim meeting has to many difficulties to accomplish the first week of January
- In March and April, please be sure that the hunting pamphlet schedule won't be a reason that an April decision "can't be done".

The next Big Tent committee will address the Conservation Road Map and continue conversations about the Draft Conservation Policy and Commission Policy Organization.

Deputy Director Windrope noted the addition of a report on spring chinook releases in Willapa Bay to the next Fish Committee meeting and reiterated the listing of a Pound net briefing at the December Fish Committee meeting as per earlier conversations.

#### **9. Executive Session**

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110, the Commission will meet in Executive Session. No action will be taken, and the public is not permitted to attend.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

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Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant