



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, October 01, 2021
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

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

Department Staff:
Nate Pamplin
Joe Panesko, AGO
Heather Hall
Aaron Dufault

Commission Staff:
Nikki Kloepfer

Friday, October 01, 2021

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

A. Coastal Commercial Dungeness Crab Regulation Changes and Electronic Fish Ticket Reporting for Coastal and Puget Sound Shellfish – Decision

Heather Hall, Intergovernmental Ocean Policy Manager and Aaron Dufault, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager asked the Commission to approve additional rule changes that build on and continue to support the entanglement risk reduction measures approved in 2020 and expand mandatory electronic fish ticket reporting to coastal and Puget Sound shellfish fisheries.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt revisions as presented by staff in the CR-102, except for WAC 220-352-060 (1), (2), and (4) (a) and WAC 220-340-420 (5), adopt the revisions that are shown in Attachment A that are in addition to those already described in the CR-102. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt a January 1, 2022, effective date for all proposed changes. All in favor. Motion passes.

The Commission requested that Heather Hall coordinate with Nichole Kleopfer and identify time for a follow-up briefing/status update on progress.

Commissioner Smith mentioned having all materials related to the incidental take permit be in one accessible location. Nate Pamplin suggested the creation of a landing page for this effort on the Department website.

B. 2022 Commission Meeting Dates

The Commission discussed the 2022 Commission meeting dates and tentative locations and made the following modifications as a final consensus decision:

- The September meeting changed from webinar to hybrid meeting in Clarkston;
- The October meeting changed from a webinar to a hybrid meeting in Colville; and

- Add a stand-alone cougar briefing, that was proposed as a wildlife committee agenda item, to full Commission special meeting on Jan 28, 2022.

Vice Chair Baker also noted that there will be a procedure discussion on hybrid meetings, for example, to prioritize people in the room first, prior to taking comments from Zoom. The Commission may discuss this further at the next Commission Workshop that was originally scheduled in November but will likely be pushed to January 2022. She hopes by then a commissioner is appointed by Governor's office.

C. Future Meeting Planning

Commissioners made the following suggestions to the Year-at-a-Glance.

Commissioner McIsaac highlighted the October Fish Committee agenda changes that had been discussed by Fish Committee members via email, including moving the Willapa Fish Committee agenda item to a stand-alone Fish Committee meeting within the two weeks following the October Commission meeting. There were no objections to these changes.

He also suggested Commissioners think about the idea of sending staff questions or topics they would like staff to address at the December Fish committee pound net briefing, by the end of October. Commissioner Koontz suggested that the December meeting pound net discussion be focused on the question of the necessary research to accurately compare gear types in respect to mortality and selectivity. Commissioner Thorburn felt including the policy issues surrounding why and how pound nets would be integrated into the commercial fishery were important topics. Vice Chair Baker stated that any modifications to the committee or Commission agenda needs to be discussed with Fish Committee Chair Carpenter present. There were no objections to further discussion at next Commission meeting.

D. General Discussion

Commissioner Smith attended an Olympic Panthera workshop. Commissioner Thorburn saw a Prothonotary Warbler, three weeks ago, that likely came in from hurricane Ida and Commissioner Anderson dug some clams.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant