



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Special Web Conference
Friday, November 19, 2021
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:	Department Staff:	Commission Staff:
Larry Carpenter, Chair	Amy Windrope, Deputy	Kelly Cunningham	Nikki Kloepfer
Barbara Baker, Vice Chair	Director	Theresa Nation	
Don McIsaac	Kelly Susewind, Director	Margen Carlson	
Fred Koontz	Joe Panesko, AGO		
Lorna Smith	Anis Aoude		
Molly Linville	Eric Gardner		
Kim Thorburn	Stephanie Simek		
James R. Anderson			

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

Commissioners acknowledged the passing of Conrad "Connie" Mahnken. He was a Fish and Wildlife Commissioner from 2009-2016.

Chair Carpenter gave his thanks for the support he's received due to a loss in his family. He gave a special thanks to Vice Chair Baker for stepping into his role in the interim.

Commissioner Thorburn reported on her recently experience with white tail deer and chronic wasting disease check stations and surveillance.

A. Spring Bear Hunting Seasons – Decision

Stephanie Simek, PH.D. Carnivore, Furbearer, Game Bird Section Manager, Wildlife Program 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 the recommended rule changes as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion. The motion failed with a 4 to 4 vote, Linville, Thorburn, Anderson and McIsaac in favor and Koontz, Smith, Baker and Carpenter against.

Chair Carpenter requested a 1-year pause given the amount of discussion on this rule this year for staff to further evaluate this opportunity, address some of the concerns that I and other commissioners expressed and advance another rule proposal for the 2023 season.

Deputy Director Windrope indicated she would take the information back to staff and bring forth options for the process moving forward at an upcoming meeting.

B. 2021-22 Coastal Steelhead Fishing Regulations Options – Briefing

Kelly Cunningham, Fish Program Director asked the Commission for guidance on coastal steelhead fishing regulation options for the 2021 – 22 season.

Director Susewind and the Commission agree that there is a long-term decline in the population, that staff need to be attentive to all user groups, and that this is staff's top priority.

Chair Carpenter provided a report out from the November 17 Special Fish committee meeting.

Director Susewind acknowledged the perspectives and feedback from individual Commissioners. Formal guidance from the Commission is not required for a decision. The Director will make a decision on season setting December 1.

C. Hydraulic Code Rule Making (E2SHB-1382) – Briefing

Margen Carlson, Habitat Director and Theresa Nation, Environmental Planner, Habitat Program briefed the Commission on the Hydraulic Code rule proposal to implement E2SHB-1382.

D. Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed the upcoming meeting agendas and review an updated Year-at-a-Glance. The following actions came out of the discussion:

- An update of the GMP schedule and next steps at the Wildlife committee.
- Adding a Willapa Bay Policy review to the December Fish committee meeting
- A director report out on any flood damage to hatcheries and surrounding facilities.
- A full Commission briefing on UW's Wolf model at the January Commission meeting.

E. General Discussion

There was no general discussion for this meeting.

Vice Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant