



Fish and Wildlife Commission Presentation Summary Sheet

Meeting date:

8/5/2022

Agenda item:

2023 Agency Request Legislation – Decision

Presenter(s):

Tom McBride, Legislative Director

Background summary:

Legislative policy proposals were solicited from the programs and regions; reviewed by EMT and briefed to the FWC. Draft fact sheets and draft statutory language are included within the materials for this presentation. The Department is recommending that we advance four items:

1. Hatchery routine maintenance exempt from Shoreline Management Act permitting requirements.
 2. Recreational fishing licenses required for freshwater smelt, crawfish and common carp.
 3. Wildlife disease prevention authority for highway signage to voluntary check stations.
 4. Capitalizing an account to provide for shoreline restoration revolving funds.
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Staff recommendation:

Staff are seeking approval from the Commission to advance these four items to the Governor's Office as agency request legislation.

Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:

1. Hatchery routine maintenance exempt from Shoreline Management Act permitting requirements. This will allow for more timely routine maintenance, at reduced cost.
2. Recreational fishing licenses required for freshwater smelt, crawfish, and common carp. This will increase compliance with current regulations protecting natural resources through better education.
3. Wildlife disease prevention authority for highway signage to voluntary check stations. This will allow for early detection of wildlife diseases, which allows for prevention actions at an effective and efficient time.
4. Capitalizing an account to provide for shoreline restoration revolving funds. This will provide a public incentive to restore shorelines to the benefits of species and ecosystem health.

Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:

1. Hatchery routine maintenance exempt from Shoreline Management Act permitting requirements. This will reduce administrative costs by exempting routine maintenance from permitting under the SMA.
2. Recreational fishing licenses required for freshwater smelt, crawfish and common carp. This is intended to educate members of the public to take limitations and fishing regulations, slight revenue will offset outreach and education.
3. Wildlife disease prevention authority for highway signage to voluntary check stations. This will involve some increased cost to sign and staff checkpoints.
4. Capitalizing an account to provide for shoreline restoration revolving funds. This will include costs in later years, after administrative structure of the program is adopted.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

Primary outreach for all proposals was through two meetings and discussions with the Budget and Policy Advisory Group. Several conversations with our AAGs about disease checkpoints and legal requirements of revolving fund loan programs. Presentation of the fishing licenses changes with fishing advocates. There is also conversation ongoing with the Department of Ecology (routine hatchery maintenance and shoreline restoration revolving fund) and Puget Sound Partnership (shoreline restoration revolving fund).

Action requested and/or proposed next steps:

Approval of proposed agency request legislation.

Draft motion language:

"I move to approve the hatchery routine maintenance agency request legislation proposal as proposed by staff."

"I move to approve the recreational license agency request legislation proposal as proposed by staff."

"I move to approve the wildlife disease checkpoint agency request legislation proposal as proposed by staff."

"I move to approve the account capitalization request for revolving funds to address shoreline restoration."

Post decision communications plan:

The Department will continue to work with members of the Budget and Policy Advisory Group and other advisory groups and stakeholders to secure further support for the bills. Legislative fact sheets and other outreach materials will be posted to the Department's website and provided to the Commission.