



• **Minutes**

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Hybrid Meeting

Friday, November 18, 2022

8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Natural Resource Building - Room 172
1111 Washington Street SE Olympia, WA 98501

Attendance

Commission:

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson
John Lehmkuhl
Melanie Rowland
Tim Ragen
Don McIsaac

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Amy Dona, AGO
Theresa Nation
Matt Curtis
Margen Carlson
Anis Aoude
David Trimbach

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

Commissioner McIsaac provided a report out from the Special Fish Committee meeting on November 17, 2022. The following is the committee's recommendation.

FC Policy Recommendations: to the full Commission, as policy oversight input to the process for the public and co-managers to consider, and for the Director to consider for his delegated decision on 22-23 recreational fishing season regulations

1. Fishing seasons design should be based on the SSMP, not the draft CSPIP.
2. Fishing seasons in the Quillayute system, Hoh, and Upper Quinault include allowing fishing from a boat.
3. Fishing (angling) be allowed near hatcheries, including Willapa and GH systems, in limited areas and times where there is high abundance of hatchery fish. (No particulars of area boundaries or dates, just the general policy application.)

Staff will take the recommendations for consideration during the North of Falcon process.

Commissioner Smith recommended that the Commission write a letter of support for RAWA. A letter was proposed to the Commission by staff and approved by the end of the meeting.

1. Shoreline Armoring Rule Making (SSB 5273) – Decision

Theresa Nation, Environmental Planner, Habitat Program, and Margen Carlson, Director, Habitat Program asked the Commission for a decision on the amendment to WAC 220-660-370 Bank

Protection to align with Substitute Senate Bill 5273 (SSB 5273), passed by the legislature in 2021.

The Commission agreed to table this decision until the December meeting to fully vet the feedback provided by members of the legislature.

2. Spring Bear Petition – Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program asked the Commission for a decision on a proposal to immediately begin rulemaking for the 2023 Spring Bear Hunting Season/2023 Spring Black Bear Special Permit Hunts.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the petition as presented. The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioners Linville, Thorburn, McIsaac and Anderson opposed and Commissioners Rowland, Ragen, Smith, Lehmkuhl and Baker for. Motion passes.

3. Black Bear Timber Damage Petition - Briefing, Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager, Wildlife Program asked the Commission for a decision on a proposal to immediately begin/resume possible rulemaking/rulemaking amendments for Black Bear Timber Damage Depredation Permits.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to deny the petition and direct the department to continue the rule-making process related to WAC 220-440-210. The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioners Baker, Thorburn, Linville, McIsaac, Anderson, Lehmkuhl against. Commissioners Smith, Ragen, Rowland for. Motion fails.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the petition, and direct the department to continue the rule-making process related to WAC 220-440-210. The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioners Ragen, Smith and Rowland against. Commissioners Linville, Thorburn, Anderson, Lehmkuhl and Baker approve. Motion passes.

4. Spring Bear Policy Discussion– Decision

David Trimbach, Conservation Social Scientist led a discussion with the Commission to consider options to establish a policy for Spring Bear hunting, ranging from establishing a policy to eliminate future spring bear hunts to establishing a policy to allow spring bear hunts under existing policy or in accordance with criteria set in a new policy.

Take aways from the discussion:

Purpose: Getting unstuck, making a Spring Bear hunt decision, developing a policy, following the legislative mandate, answer why, "Why do we hunt bears? Why in the Spring?"

Shared Problem: Include the broader public, the status quo is imprecise regarding recreation, a decision vs a policy.

Objectives:

- Comply with mandate
- Maintain public trust
- Provide accountability/transparency and clarity about hunt expectations
- continue traditional sustainable hunting, respect diverse values around wildlife, and
- be consistent with game management principles, ensure policy reflects science that backs up the mandate.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith that the Commission does not approve recreational hunting of black bears in the Spring.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioners Ragen, Smith, Lehmkuhl, Rowland and Baker in favor. Commissioner Thorburn, Anderson, McIsaac, and Linville opposed. Motion passes.

Kelly Susewind commented for the record that there may be situations where staff come back to the Commission to address management need to address recreational hunters.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant