



Minutes

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

December 8-10, 2022 – Clarkston Hybrid

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Attendance Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>	<u>Commission Staff</u>
Barbara Baker, Chair	Joe Panesko, AGO	Eric Gardner	Lauren Satterfield	Nichole Kloepper
Molly Linville, Vice Chair	Kelly Susewind, Director	Jeff Davis	Dr. Beth Gardner	
Donald McIsaac	Amy Windrope, Deputy Director	Donny Martorello	Dr. Sarah Bassing	
Lorna Smith	Theresa Nation	James Losee		
Tim Ragen	Margen Carlson	Toby Harison		
John Lehmkuhl	Cynthia Wilkerson	Chris Donley		
Jim Anderson	Charlene Hurst	Lisa Coffman		
Melanie Rowland	Ryan Lothrop			

Friday, December 9, 2022

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

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

Commissioner Rowland shared her birding experiences.

The Commission agreed to postpone executive session to a later date.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the October 27-29, 2022, webinar meeting minutes and November 18, 2022, web conference.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes from the October 27-29, 2022, webinar as presented. All in favor. Motion passes.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Linville, to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2022, 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:

Habitat Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Linville, Lehmkuhl, Smith, Ragen
Commissioner Linville report that the committee was provided a [Grazing program update](#). Staff presented a grazing [Simcoe permit](#) for recommendation from the committee to the full Commission. Margen Carlson, Director of the Habitat Program provided an overview of the [Yakima Beaver Relocation](#) program. The committee agreed to move the permit to the full Commission for approval.

Fish Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members McIsaac, Ragen, Linville, Anderson
Commissioner McIsaac reported that staff provided a briefing on the [Coastal Steelhead Proviso Package](#). The committee agreed to endorse the plan with minor edits and the budget request. The committee discussed the Co-Manager Hatchery Policy, the [Draft Final Policy](#) and [Proposed Commission schedule](#). The committee discussed the [Terms of Reference for Workshops on Hatchery Production](#). The committee supported the staff suggestions and will bring the recommendation to the full Commission during meeting debrief. The committee was also provided an overview of the [C-3630 Columbia River Annual Report](#) that will be presented to the full Commission on Saturday. The committee elected Commissioner Anderson as interim chair to assign chair duties during the absence of Commissioner McIsaac.

The committee also provided recommendations that will be provided to the full Commission from their November 30 hybrid meeting for consideration.

Wildlife Committee

Commissioners in attendance: Committee members Thorburn, Anderson, Smith, Rowland

Commissioner Thorburn reported that staff provided an overview of the [Waterfowl & Migratory Gamebirds Management Plan](#) and the committee reviewed draft issue statements to bring to the full Commission for recommendation. Staff provided an update on the season-setting principles. The committee discussed and made the following motion to delegate 1-year of decision-making authority to the director for the 2023/24 game seasons.

Vice Chair Linville made a motion, seconded by Commission Thorburn, that the Commission delegates decision making authority to the Director regarding changes to the WACs listed below for the 2023/2024 seasons as they relate to season dates, permit numbers, geographic boundaries. If changes are proposed that fall outside of the scope of this delegation, the director shall hold them for the next 3-year season setting process and Commission decision-making, or, if the issue is time sensitive, he shall seek direction from the Commission to determine if further delegation of the authority is granted for that purpose or if another process is needed.

- WAC 220-412-100 LHP small revision
- **WAC 220-412-050 Landowner raffle hunts** (red)
- WAC 220-415-030 Deer Special permit adjustment
- WAC 220-415-060 Elk Special Permit adjustment
- WAC 220-15-070 Moose Season and permits adjustment
- WAC 220-415-120 Bighorn sheep season and permits adjustment
- WAC 220-415-130 Mountain goat season and permits adjustment
- WAC 220-416-060 Migratory waterfowl season
- **WAC 220-416-010 Small game seasons** (red)
- **WAC 220-412-070 Big Game and Wild Turkey Auction, Raffle, and Special Incentive Permits** (green)

Red: Signifies no changes – just in case

Green: Signifies small changes to be made

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to amend the initial motion to remove WAC 220-416-010 Small game seasons. The motion was discussed and the motion failed by a 5/3 vote. Commissioners McIsaac, Thorburn, Linville, Anderson, and Lehmkuhl voted to deny. Commissioners Rowland, Smith and

Ragen to approve.

After the failed motion to amend, Commissioners returned to a discussion of the main delegation motion and voted. All in favor. Motion passes.

Staff will provide travel binders and/or an online resource for the committee to use to track Game Management Plan materials.

Chair Baker provided a report on the Governor’s meeting with the Director, Chair and Vice Chair. They discussed wolf rulemaking and the Commission’s previous decision to not move forward with the rulemaking.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

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| Donny Jackson – predator management | Sam Bruegger – hunter DFW funding |
| Samme Charriere – land management | Wes Vaughn – predator management |
| Greg Kain – fisheries management | Warren Horton – pheasant management |
| Rachel Bjork – grazing permit | Brian Burns – beaver management |
| Charlie Whitwam – Spring bear | Marie Neumiller – commission policy/ethics |
| Brant MacDuff – wildlife management | Glen Mendel – beaver management |
| Susan Kane-Ronning – beaver management | Doug Boze – Spring bear |
| Aaron Penvose – beaver management | John Foltz – beaver management |
| Patrick Connelly – beaver management | Will Christison – Spring bear |
| Jake Pickett – Spring bear | John Dykes – Spring bear |
| Commissioner Brian Shinn (Asotin) – Compact/delay fish seasons | |
| Commissioner Dixon (Garfield) – land management | |
| Commissioner Jay Holzmilller (former DFW) – salmon management | |

3. Director’s Report

Director Susewind deferred his report due to time constraints.

4. 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.

Commissioner Smith made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rowland to adopt the determinations made in the Final Regulatory Analyses as summarized by staff today, and to adopt the amended rule as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

The Commission agreed to strike items 6 and 11 due to time constraints. The items will be addressed at a January Commission meeting.

5. Lands 20/20 – Briefing

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division Manager, and Lisa Coffman, Lands 20/20 Coordinator, Wildlife Program, provided a briefing on the Lands 20/20 process, which is used to consider potential land acquisition projects, and an overview of the 2022 slate of projects under consideration, including a summary of public comments on these 15 projects.

Break

6. ~~Columbian River White-Tailed Deer Periodic Status Review – Briefing, Public Hearing, Decision~~

~~Taylor Cotten, Conservation Assessment Section Manager, and Jeffery Azerrad, Environmental Planner, briefed the Commission and asked for a decision on the recommendation to down list the Columbian River White-Tailed Deer status.~~

This item has been tabled and moved to the January 26-28, 2023, Commission meeting.

Lunch/Break

7. Blue Sheet: Beaver Management – Briefing

Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director, Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director, and Jeff Davis, Conservation Director, provided a briefing on beaver management in Washington state.

8. WDFW Predator-Prey Project – Briefing

Lauren Satterfield, Ph.D. Candidate University of Washington, Taylor Ganz, Ph.D. Candidate University of Washington, Dr. Sarah Bassing, University of Washington, Donny Martorello, Chief Scientist, Wildlife Program, and Eric Gardner, Wildlife Program Director, presented preliminary findings from the WDFW-UW cooperative predator-prey project conducted in northcentral and northeastern Washington.

9. Coastal Steelhead Proviso Plan – Briefing, Public Comment, Decision

James Losee, Region 6, Fish Program Manager, and Toby Harbison, Region 6, Research Scientist, briefed the Commission on the status of the Coastal Steelhead Proviso Plan.

The following people provided comments:

Greg Kain	Jonathan Stumpf	Brian McLachlan	Ravae O’Leary
Brian T	Hal Boyton	Ty Wyatt	
Robert Larson	Thomas Wallace	Frank Urabeck	

Commissioner McIsaac made a recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to endorse the December 1, 2022 draft of the Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan, with the two revisions described below, and to approve the supplemental budget request of \$5.9 M as described in the agenda item 9 materials.

The revisions to the December 1, 2022, Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan document are to 1. Replace the first sentence of the Executive Summary sentence with the following two sentences: It is important to note that the Coastal Steelhead Proviso Implementation Plan (CSPIP) is intended to advance steelhead fishery management in the river systems of Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the coastal Olympic Peninsula in a manner consistent with existing policies in the Statewide Steelhead Management Plan (SSMP), the Anadromous Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Policy C-3624 (2021), and the proposed Joint Comanager Hatchery Policy (currently under consideration). The CSPIP does not represent new policy. 2. Replace the last sentence in paragraph 5 with the following sentence: Importantly, the development of RMPS will consistent with adopted Department policies and be done in a manner cooperatively with Tribal co-managers and federal partners. All in favor of the recommendation.

~~10. **Protecting Southern Resident Killer Whales from the Effects of Vessels – Briefing**~~

~~Julie Watson, Killer Whale Policy Lead provide the Commission with an update on a process to evaluate the effectiveness of statutes and regulations designed to protect Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) from the effects of vessels, including the licensing of commercial whale watching and the regulation of recreational and commercial viewing of SRKW.~~

This item has been tabled and moved to the January 13, 2023, Commission meeting.

~~11. **Guide Logbook Rule Proposal – Briefing, Public Hearing**~~

~~Raquel Crosier, Special Assistant to the Director of the Fish Program, Chris Donley, Region 1 Fish Program Manager, and Captain Jeffrey Wickersham, Enforcement, presented an amendment to rules regarding reporting requirements for freshwater game fish guides, food fish guides, and combination game fish and food fish guides.~~

This item has been tabled and moved to the January 26-28, 2023, Commission meeting.

Recess

Saturday, December 10, 2022

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

12. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

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| Stan Wilson – Blue Mountain Elk | Dan Wilson – Spring bear |
| Ron Garner – Coastal Steelhead | Brian Love – Columbia River policy |
| Heath Heikkila – Columbia River policy | Rachel Bjork – hunting priorities |
| Alyne Fortgang – beaver management | Charlie Whitwam – Spring bear |
| Dale Magart – land management | Robert Sudar – Columbia River policy |
| Rachel Haymon – Klickitat cougars | Scott McGhee – hunting perspectives |
| Samme Charriere – land management | |
| Commissioner Justin Dixon – predator management | |

13. Regional Directors Report

The Regional Director briefed the Commission on various items and will provide follow up materials to the commissioners.

14. Annual Columbia River Fishery Salmon Management (C-3630) Report – Briefing

Dr. Charlene Hurst, Columbia River Management Unit Lead, and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Fishery Manager, provided the annual report for C-3630.

15. Meeting Debrief and Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed the following items for future meeting planning.

Commissioner Anderson, as interim Chair of the Fish Committee recommended the Commission place the schedule for the Commission process to consider adoption of the proposed Co-Manager Hatchery Policy into the Year-at-a-Glance planner, and adopt the Terms of Reference for a sequence of four workshops on changes in salmon hatchery production levels associated with prey enhancement for Southern Resident Killer Whales, and ask the

staff to propose a preliminary schedule for consideration at the January 26-28, 2023 Commission meeting.

Chair Baker noted that the January Big Tent committee will discuss DFW sustainability plan, FWC's draft conservation policy, get an update on the FWC Policy review, a legislative report, and have additional discussion o the Directors Delegation.

Chair Baker announced that the agenda items that were struck from the agenda, specifically the items tied to rulemaking will move to the January 27 meeting while the Southern Resident Killer Whale item will be moved to the January 13, 2023 meeting. A special meeting, executive session will be scheduled before the end of the year.

Vice Chair Linville provided notice to other commissioners that the Habitat committee at meetings moving forward will be for only committee members.

Chair Baker requested that the actions captured during the meeting be circulated to the Commission.

The Commissioners gave their thanks to Commissioner McIsaac as it was his last meeting as a Commissioner. Commissioner McIsaac gave his thanks for the support and his experience during his term.

~~16. Executive Session~~

~~Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g), the Commission met in an executive session. No action was taken during the executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend.~~

This item was struck from the agenda.

Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant