# Minutes

**Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting**  
**December 6-7, 2013**  
Natural Resource Building, Room 172, Olympia, Washington

## Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission:</th>
<th>Department Staff:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miranda Wecker, Chair</td>
<td>Phil Anderson, Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brad Smith, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Joe Stohr, Deputy Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Holzmiller</td>
<td>William Frymire, AGO</td>
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<td>Robert Kehoe</td>
<td>Joe Shorin, AGO</td>
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<td>Rollie Schmitten</td>
<td>Mike Grossman, AGO</td>
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<td>Jay Kehne</td>
<td>Nate Pamplin</td>
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<td>Conrad Mahnken</td>
<td>Jim Scott</td>
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<td>Larry Carpenter</td>
<td>Randi Thurston</td>
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<td>Dan Budd</td>
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<td>Joanna Elde</td>
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<td>Mike Cenci</td>
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<td>Steve Crown</td>
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<td>Lisa Veneroso</td>
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<td>Ron Warren</td>
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<td>John Whalen</td>
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<td>Heather Reed</td>
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<td>Cindy Le Fleur</td>
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<td>Brad James</td>
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## Commission Staff:

| Tami Lininger

## Public:

- Ron Gardner
- Robert Rao
- Melanie Rabagla
- Kevin Lanier
- Nathan Bryant
- Perry Harmon
- Jeff Eklund
- Ben Lowery
- Andy Shaub
- Terry White
- Kody Balderston
- Kim Malcolm
- Shane Vanderlinda
- Jeremy Koch
- Merry Coleman
- John Hill
- Stephan Pittman
- Jensen Codera
- Llyod Bird
- Greg Johnson
- Ted Fehr
- Curtis Snyder
- Jack Hollingsworth
- James Rubell
- Ron Schwartz
- Jim Wilere

- Lisa Askew
- Joe Verdoes
- Steve Gacke
- David Jennings
- Oliver Smith
- Lisa Woodward
- Lyle Fox
- Daniel Hubbard
- Joseph Princen
- Ben Rogers
- Tom Millirons
- Arvyne Lensico
- Darrell Smith
- Bill Briere
- Tracy Richmond
- Frances Estalilla
- Bill DeVrient
- Trenton Codera
- Dave Hamit
- James Beasley
- Billy Joe Anderson
- Joe Princen
- Tom Wilkin
- Fred Newl
- Norm Reinhardt
- Aaron Jordan
- Stan Kramer
- Tom Davis
- Louise Reed
- Ed Fedder
- Mike Nelson
- Randy Woodward
- Ray Vermillion
- Loren Gee
- Art Holman
- Robert Gray
- Time Stuart
- David Gratzer
- Chuck Stewart
- Kristina Hinsworth
- Adin Daneken
- Rick Moore
- Martin Sallis
- Brad Deck
- Alez Patton
- GW “Bill” Osborn
- Joe Superfiskey
- Lael Johnson
- Bob Lebu
- Don Melendez
- Christian Bakker
- Kellon Lindley
- Bob Lake
- Tom Bugert
- Andrew Marks
- Tim Hamilton
- Mark Betrozoff
- Bryanne Zimmerman
- Ian Winder
- Andrew Moravec
- William Bakker
- Gabe Reed
- Mike Curtis
- Darrin Koob
- Garrett Sanislo
- Nick Petosa
- Clarissa Snyder
- Ivan Khorseel
- Randy Stoneman
- Ross Barkhurst
- Keith Johnson
- Allyn Cole
- Daniel Brown
- Allans Hollingsworth
- Greg DeLarp
- Joe Koski
- C. John Campbell
- Jason Bun
Friday, December 6, 2013

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

1. Call to Order
   a. Commissioners’ Discussion:
      - Commissioner Mahnken – BPA – Hatchery Reform Policy
      - Commissioner Kehne – Grazing season with wolf and livestock operations
      - Chair Wecker – ADA Committee
        o Youth Council report

   b. Meeting Minute Approval
      - November 8-9, 2013 regular meeting

Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten approve the minutes as proposed. Motion passed. Commissioner Carpenter abstained

2. Open Public Input
The following people provided input on various topics:
   Bob Lake – Grays Harbor
   Joe Verdoes – Puget Sound Shrimp Policy
   Tom Davis – Skagit Elk & HPA Rules

3. Director’s Report
The Director briefed the Commission on the following items:
   • SW Washington elk hoof lesions
   • Coastal crab fishery
   • Federal funding
   • Legislative activities
   • NOAA Fisheries reorganization
   • National Marine Resources Advisory Council
   • Co-management update
   • Tribal hunting agreements
   • Wolf management activities
   • Moon snails

Deputy Director Joe Stohr provided the Commission with an update on work at the Boyd’s Creek Hatchery and Point No Point boat launch. In regards to delisting of gray wolves under federal law, the Commission indicated its strong support for the Department's stated position of support for federal delisting. The Commission agreed to co-sign the letter to the Service describing the Department's position.
4. HPA Rules - Briefing
Randi Thurston briefed the Commission on the purpose, scope and timeline for updating the hydraulic code rules.

5. Proposed Land Transactions - Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision
The Commission considered approval of three land transactions presented by Dan Budd, Real Estate Section Manager, Wildlife Program, Steve Pozzanghera, and Charlie Raines from Forterra for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:

**Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Kehne, to approve the proposed land transactions as presented. Motion passed.**

6. Dive Fishery Rules - Decision
Deputy Chief Mike Cenci briefed the Commission and requested approval on the proposed changes to commercial scallop, sea cucumber, and urchin dive fishery rules to reduce illegal geoduck harvest and streamline, clarify, and update rule language.

**Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter, to approve the proposed updates as presented. Motion passed.**

7. Batch 5 WAC Overhaul Technical Changes – Decision
Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, and Deputy Chief, Mike Cenci briefed the Commission and requested approval of the 5th batch of WAC overhaul technical changes. These changes include repealing outdated rules, consolidating rules, correcting references, and updating language for clarity.

**Vice Chair Smith moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmitten approve the proposed updates as presented with floor amendments. Motion passed.**

*Note that item 9 was heard prior to item 8.*

8. Naselle River Internal Combustion Motors – Briefing and Public Hearing
Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on the reorganization of WAC 232-28-619, including changes on the Naselle River.

The following person provided input:
Steve Gacke

John Whalen briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on the reorganization of WAC 232-28-619, including increasing the daily bag limit for walleye on the lower San Poil River from 8 fish to 16.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:
Joanna Eide, Criminal Justice Liaison/Regulations Coordinator, briefed the Commission and held a public hearing on WAC 232-28-619 that is a large rule, containing all water bodies of the state that have exceptions to the general statewide recreational fishing rules. At the request of the Code Reviser, and to maximize efficiency and understandability of the code, the department proposed splitting this massive rule into more manageable pieces based on geographic area. These changes are technical in nature and do not affect the underlying effect of the provisions.

No one signed up to provide public testimony for this item:

11. Using Descending Devices to Improve the Survivability of Released Rockfish – Briefing
Heather Reed, Coastal Marine Resources Policy Coordinator, provided the Commission with a briefing on recent studies that show improved survivability of rockfish released back to the depth of capture using descending devices and reported on actions taken through the Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve lower mortality rates for coastal rockfish released with descending devices compared to rockfish released at the surface. Heather Reed and Ron Gardner, Puget Sound Anglers, provided an overview of outreach efforts to improve awareness of recreational anglers on the benefits of using descending devices to release rockfish and properly identifying the rockfish they catch and release.

12. Executive Session
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), the Commission met in executive session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency is, or is likely to become, a party. No action was taken in executive session, and the public was not permitted to attend the executive session.

Chair Wecker recessed the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Chair Wecker called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

13. Open Public Input
The following person provided input for this item:
David Jennings - Rockfish

Ron Warren, Region 6 Fish Program Manager, briefed the Commission on Grays Harbor salmon fishery management and challenges. The Commission instructed the department to publish the draft Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy and allow the public to comment on it for 30 days.
The following people provided public testimony for this item:

John Campbell          Frances Estalilla          Nathan Crouch
Allan Hollingsworth   Jack Hollingsworth       Joe Superfiskey
Bob Lake               Andy Mitsby               Jim Rubert
Martin Sallis          Robert Barkhurst          Dave Hamilton
David Hollingsworth   Loren Gee                Tim Hamilton
Art Holman             Norm Reinhardt            Melanie Rabaglia
Robert Rao             Duane Inglin

15. Review of Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 – Briefing and Public Hearing
Cindy Le Fleur, Region 5 Fish Program Manager, and Brad James, Fish Biologist, provided the Commission with information regarding policy C-3001 and provided updated information on stock status, fishery management, and other information for the annual review. The Commission instructed the department to publish the proposed policy for public review and comment. The Commission will hear public input at the January 10-11, 2014 meeting and a decision is planned for February.

The following people provided public testimony for this item:
Robert Fehlen
Harry Barber
Butch Smith

16. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief
The annual meeting with the Governor is scheduled for December 16, since this is not a regular meeting time Chair Wecker and Vice-chair Smith will represent the full Commission at the meeting and report back. They will also request a meeting with the full Commission as soon as possible in 2014.

Chair Wecker adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

TLL

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant