



Minutes Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission

Conference Call
Friday, February 16, 2018
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:	Department Staff:
Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair	Joe Stohr, Acting Director
Kim Thorburn	Bill Frymire, AAG
Dave Graybill	Ron Warren
Don Mclsaac	Richard Tveten
Barbara Baker	Eric Gardner
Bob Kehoe	Kelly Cunningham
Jay Holzmilller	Paul Dahmer
	Annette Hoffman
Commission Staff:	Chad Herring
Tami Lininger	

Friday, February 16, 2018

Vice Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

A. Robinson Canyon Restoration - Decision

Richard Tveten briefed the Commission and requested approval for the Robinson Canyon forest thinning project on the LT Murray Wildlife Area.

Commissioner Thorburn moved to approve the thinning project as presented by staff, Commissioner Holzmilller seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried.

B. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622 – Guidance/Decision

Commissioners discussed the Willapa Bay Policy and provided guidance to staff.

Commissioner Mclsaac made a motion to provide the following guidance to staff, Commissioner Kehoe seconded the motion – all were in favor and the motion passed.

General Guidance

Policy implementation in 2018 to achieve priorities or goals for one fishing sector should not result in eliminating the opportunity of any fishing sector.

Chinook Fishery Management

Willapa Bay chinook fisheries should be actively managed to not exceed the 20% cap in 2018.

Recreational Fishery

- In achieving a priority for the recreational fishery for chinook salmon, design the 2018 fishery
 - after exploring a reduction in the 4 adult salmon bag limit;
 - to curtail high catch periods in June, July and early August near the ocean boundary if necessary to conform to this guidance;
 - to focus on mark selective fishing where ever practical;
 - to not exceed 20% impacts after accounting for incidental impacts needed in commercial fisheries (see below); and
 - to include active monitoring of the bay fishery prior to September 30 and active management of the bay fishery if the total fisheries impact ceiling of 20% on natural origin fish is in reasonable jeopardy of being exceeded.

Commercial Fishery

- The natural origin chinook salmon 6% impact “set-aside” for commercial fishing with alternative gear, together with 3% impacts relating to historic impacts, shall be used in pre-season planning to cover chinook incidental impacts in all commercial fisheries - targeting coho, chum, or hatchery chinook salmon. Active management is expected in-season, and it may be that more or less than the 9% level ultimately occurs - within the constraint of the 20% impact rate cap and the provisions of this guidance.

Status of Policy C-3622

- Policy C-3622 is to remain in effect in 2018, except as clarified or modified by this guidance; this guidance applies only to 2018.

C. Meeting Minute Approval – Decision

The Commissioners considered approval of the following minutes:

February 8-10 meeting

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Commissioner Graybill seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

D. General Discussion

Commissioners and the Director discussed the March 15-17, 2018 agenda.

Vice Chair Carpenter recessed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant