



**Minutes**  
**Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting**  
December 14-15, 2018 – Olympia

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**Attendance**

**Commission:**

Brad Smith, Chair  
Larry Carpenter  
Kim Thorburn  
Barbara Baker  
Dave Graybill  
Don McIsaac  
Bob Kehoe  
Jay Holzmilller

**Commission Staff:**

Tami Lininger

**Department Staff:**

Kelly Susewind, Director  
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director  
William Frymire, AGO  
Nate Pamplin  
Ron Warren  
Bill Tweit  
Julie Sandberg  
Ryan Lothrop  
Kelly Cunningham  
Kyle Adicks  
Ciera Strickland  
Morgan Stinson  
Larry Phillips  
Eric Gardner

Kyle Spragens  
Joe Anderson  
Penny Becker  
Becky Bennett  
Cynthia Wilkerson  
Jeff Davis  
Dan Brinson  
Anis Aoude  
Hannah Anderson  
Eric Kinne  
Scott Pearson  
Jerry Nelson

**Public:**

Jay Shepherd	Arron Scotten	Casey McLean	Doug Hieronymus
Rick Cook	Jeff Friedman	Martha Jordan	Amy Fenlon
Bill Richardson	Tom Davis	Robert Sudar	Anne Kroeker
George Harris	Steph Sten	Phil Thorson	Ben Nelson
Laurence Bucklin	David Linn	Karin Roemers-Kleven	Deborah Giles
Cindy Hansen	Aaron Peterson	Josh Bouma	Greg Mueller
Patrick Pattillo	Comer LaRue	Michael Schmidt	Colleen Weiler
Chris Hunt	Peter Steelquist	Rachel Vasak	Jason Lundgren
Ross Barkhurst	Rick Cook	Jim Coleman	Scott Brown
Lee Hines	Fred Muscato	Heath Heikkila	Bryce Devine
Darren Crookshanks	Lori Steele	Irene Martin	Kent Martin
Francis Estalilla	Chad Price		

**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

**Fish Committee meeting** – Commissioners Carpenter, Graybill, Thorburn, Kehoe

Location: Director's Conference Room 537 – 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**Agenda topics**

- Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622 review
- Columbia River Policy review – review list of ideas

**Friday, December 14, 2018**

**Wildlife Committee meeting** – Commissioners Holzmilller, Thorburn, Baker

Location: Room 175 A & B

Agenda topics

- Lands showcase marketing and communication
- Science Division update

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

**a. Commissioners' Discussion**

The Commissioners discussed the following items:

- Mountain Quail release
- Columbia River Policy update
- Bellingham meetings with Director Susewind
- Update on budget

**b. Meeting Minute Approval**

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2018 conference call.

**Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.**

**c. Committee Reports**

Commissioner Thorburn highlighted the topics from the Wildlife Committee:

- Science Division overview
- Lands showcase
- Commission discussion on wolf plan

Commissioner Carpenter highlighted the topics from the Fish Committee:

- Columbia River Policy Comprehensive Review, concurrency and next steps
- Willapa Bay Policy review

**2. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Casey McLean – pinnipeds                       | Jeff Friedman – pinnipeds                           |
| Martha Jordan – swans                          | Laurence Bucklin – Point No Point                   |
| David Linn – wolves and salmon                 | Karin Roemers-Klevan – pinnipeds                    |
| Rick Cook – salmon policy/two pole             | Doug Hieronymus – pinnipeds in Willapa/Grays Harbor |
| Michael Schmidt – pinnipeds                    | Dr. Deborah Giles – pinnipeds                       |
| Arron Scotten – wolves                         | Tom Davis – Wildlife Damage WAC                     |
| Robert Sudar – Columbia River                  | Colleen Weiler – pinnipeds                          |
| Robb Krehbiel – Orca Task Force recommendation |   |

**3. Director's Report**

The Director provided a written report and briefly discussed various topics including:

- Legislative preparations/meetings
- Wolf update
- North of Falcon
- Town Hall meetings
- Budget overview

**4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision**

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager briefed the Commission and requested approval for two acquisitions.

Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, provided comments.

**Commissioner Carpenter moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the transactions as presented. Motion passed.**

**5. Landowner Hunting Permits - Briefing**

Department staff will Ciera Strickland, Program Specialist and Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager briefed the Commission on the Landowner Hunting Permit Program and provided an overview of the current benefits, challenges and public perception.

**6. Pinnipeds - Briefing**

Nate Pamplin, Policy Director; Dr. Joe Anderson, Fish Program Senior Research Scientist, and Dr. Scott Pearson, Wildlife Program Senior Research Scientist brief the Commission on recent analyses examining pinniped consumption of salmonids in Puget Sound and the Outer Coast. In addition, Department staff provided management options within the Marine Mammal Protection Act and associated pros and cons.

**7. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) – Briefing**

Rachel Vasak, Executive Director Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and Jason Lundgren, Executive Director, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group presented an informational overview of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG) Program.

**8. Priority Habitats and Species – Briefing**

Terra Rentz, Ecosystem Services Division Manager and Jeff Davis, Habitat Assistant Director briefed the Commission on the Priority Habitats and Species Program and the status of the new management guidelines for riparian ecosystems.

**9. Abalone Status Review and Listing Recommendation – Briefing**

Hank Carson, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Policy Coordinator provided a briefing on the status of abalone population and proposed a preliminary listing recommendation.

Item #10 was removed from the agenda prior from the meeting.

**11. 2109-20 North of Falcon Policy Review C-3608 – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Kyle Adicks, Intergovernmental Salmon Manager provided a briefing of the Commission's North of Falcon Policy C-3608 (currently in effect through December 31, 2018) setting guidelines for salmon management and proposed modifications for the Commission's consideration of the January 2019 through December 2020 policy.

The following people provided testimony:

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Cindy Hansen

Dr. Deborah Giles

**12. Executive Session**

This item was removed

Chair Smith recessed the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

**Big Tent Committee meeting** – Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Smith, Graybill

Location: Director's Conference Room 537 – 5th floor (guests must have badge from reception)

**Agenda topics**

- Public Affairs staffing update
- Overview of WDFW's social media
- Strategic Plan update & guidelines

**Saturday, December 15, 2018**

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

**13. Future Meeting Planning - Discussion**

Commissioners and staff discussed upcoming meetings and conference calls.

**14. Open Public Input**

The following people provided input on various topics:

Scott Brown – HPA Rulemaking

Item #15 and #16 were heard after item #17.

**17. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief**

The Commissioners and staff discussed the following items:

Commissioner Thorburn highlighted the topics of the Big Tent Committee

Social Media update

Staffing in Public Affairs

Strategic Planning

Commissioner Carpenter made a motion requesting a briefing on bird predation on salmon smolts, Commissioners Holzmilller seconded the motion and it passed

Commissioner Baker made a motion requesting a briefing on whale entanglements in the coastal Dungeness crab fishery, Commissioner Carpenter seconded the motion and it passed.

Commissioner Graybill requested that the briefing on spring salmon allotments happens soon. He also requested an update on the guide meetings that are taking place regarding log books.

**15. Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy Review – Discussion, Public Input and Guidance**

Commissioner Carpenter provided an overview of the discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and what the next steps would be for the proposed sub-group. Bill Tweit, Special Assistant and Ryan Lothrop, Columbia River Policy Coordinator received direction from the Commission on issues identified in the review of Policy C-3620.

The following people provided input:

Ross Barkhurst

Jim Coleman

Heath Heikkila

Bryce Devine

Darren Crookshanks

Kent Martin

Liz Hamilton

Francis Estalilla

**16. Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 – Briefing and Public Hearing**

Laura Heironimus, CRMU Sturgeon/Smelt/Lamprey Unit Lead and Bill Tweit, Special Assistant provided a briefing of the Commission's Lower Columbia Sturgeon Management Policy C-3001 (currently in effect through December 31, 2018) setting guidelines for management of the Lower Columbia River white sturgeon population and fisheries, and reviewed the propose modifications for the Commission's consideration.

No one provided comments.

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

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Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant