



Minutes
Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission Meeting
April 4 - 6, 2019 – Olympia

Attendance

WA Commission:

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

Commission Staff:

Tami Lininger

WA Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Stohr, Deputy Director
William Frymire, AGO
Nate Pamplin
Ron Warren
Eric Gardner
Donny Martorello
Anis Aoude
Kyle Spragens
Ciera Strickland
Brock Hoenes
Rich Harris
Craig Burley
Ben Maketzje
Dan Brinson
Stephanie Simek
Kirt Hughes
Mike Scharpf

Chris Donley
Raquel Crosier
Pat Chapman
Teresa Scott
Randi Thurston
Kelly Cunningham
Chief Bear
Rebecca Bennett
Greg Haw
Mick Cope
Julie Sandberg
Sergeant Erik Olson
Carrie McCausland
Craig Bartlett
Edward Eleazer
Justin Spinelli
Chad Herring
Chris Donley

Public:

Denis DeSilvis
Dale Sharp
Diane Gallegos
Don Jenkins
Faye Peebles
Steve Curtis
Sophia Ressler
Shawn Doyle
Joe Durham
Harold Brunstad
Eric Johnson
Steve Gacke
Randy Good
Joe Kozki
Marcie Mullen
Charlene Robinson
Lisa Olsen
Steve Shanewise

Bruce Vandervort
Martha Jordan
Nick Babich
Brad Wood
June Dorning
Scott Brown
Kim McDonald
Ron Schweitzer
Andy Mitby
Marlisa Williams Dugan
Michael Brondi
Jim Sutton
Art Holman
Christi Lipscomb
Aileen Good
Robert Katzer
Brian Lipscomb
Marc Bush

Bill Hebner
Dave Duncan
Bryan Benkman
Laurie Arnon
Bill Bourgeois
Nancy Brown
Al Comstock
Bob Lake
Lance Gray
CJ Campbell
Eddie Hills
Greg King
Tim Hamilton
Janice Schmidt
Ryan Gray
Norm Reinhardt
John Jonasson

Jesse Pecor
Sarah Ryan
Bill Richardson
Heather Hilf
Karen Kautz
Steve Jones
Fred Muscato
Val Mullen
Greg McMillan
GW "Bill" Osborn
Ron Wesen
Bill Schmidt
Ross Barkhurst
George Vojkovich
Morris Robinson
Francis Estalilla
Teresa Jonasson

Thursday, April 4, 2019

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

Location: Director's Conference Room (537)

Agenda topics

- Public Affairs update – Carrie McCausland
- Strategic Planning update – Rob Geddis

Fish Committee meeting – Commissioners Carpenter, Kehoe, McIsaac, Graybill

Location: Room 175 A & B – first floor near the cafeteria

Agenda topics

- Willapa Bay
- Puget Sound Crab and Shrimp Update

Friday, April 5, 2019

Wildlife Committee meeting - Commissioners Thorburn, Baker, Holzmilller

Location: Room 175 A & B – first floor near the cafeteria

Agenda topics

- Hunt recommendation update
- Hunting contests

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

1. Call to Order

a. Commissioners' Discussion

The Commissioners discussed the following items:

Commissioner Thorburn talked about waterfowl counts.

b. Meeting Minute Approval

The Commission considered approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2019 meeting.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2019 conference call as presented. Motion passed.

c. Committee Reports

Commissioner Thorburn reported out on the Wildlife Committee topics.

Chair Carpenter announced that Commissioner Baker is now the Chair of the Big Tent Committee. Commissioner Baker reported that the committee topics were:

- Introduction of Carrie McCausland, Public Affairs Manager
- NPR public service announcements
- WDFW 25th Anniversary
- Strategic Planning

Chair Carpenter reported that the Fish Committee topics included an update on Puget Sound Crab and Shrimp and Willapa Bay.

Chair McIsaac reported the results of the Joint-State Columbia River Policy Review Committee meeting of March 14, 2019, the summary of which is found under this agenda item's meeting materials.

2. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Denis Desilvis – marketing	Bruce Vandervort – trapping laws
Jesse Pecor – Skagit elk	Dale Sharp – arrow weight
Martha Jordan – swan update	Dave Duncan – predators
Sarah Ryan – predators	Nick Babich – NOF/chum
Bryan Benkman – NOF/chum	

3. Director's Report

The Director provided an overview and highlighted the following topics:

- Congressional trip
- Website redesign
- Hunt of a lifetime
- Buttons the elk
- North of Falcon
- WDFW legislative and budget update

4. Land Transactions – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Julie Sandberg, Real Estate Section Manager, Mike Livingston, Region 3 Director briefed the Commission and requested approval on land transactions recommended by the Department for the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat and for the enhancement of public recreation opportunities.

Bill Richardson, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided input in support of the Cowiche transaction.

Commissioner Baker moved, seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to approve the land transactions as presented. Motion passed

5. Cougar Update

The Director provided an update on the existing cougar management policy and provided an analysis of options for addressing potential change to cougar management. Implementation of cougar control for safety reasons will be adjusted to allow the interpretation of threats to citizens to error on the side of safety to citizens, and the statewide approach to cougar management will be opened over the course of 2019 to allow for a decision by the Commission in early 2020 about whether to maintain the status quo or to adjust the status quo, in an open and transparent process with full public input to the Commission decision.

6. Small Game – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager requested approval from the Commission on proposed dates, bag limits, and other rules for small game.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WACs 220-416-110, 220-430-010, 220-450-010, and 220-417-030 as presented. The motion passed.

7. Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations – Decision

Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on migratory waterfowl seasons and regulations.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-416-060 and 220-413-090 as presented. The motion passed.

8. Landowner Hunting Permits – Decision

Ciera Strickland, Private Lands Access Program Manager requested approval from the Commission on landowner hunting permits.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-412-100 as presented. The motion passed.

9. Hunter Orange – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager requested approval from the Commission on hunter orange requirements.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-414-080 as presented. Motion passed.

10. Deer General Seasons and Special Permits - Decision

Brock Hoenes, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on deer general seasons and special permits.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WACs 220-413-030, 220-415-020, and 220-415-030 as presented. Motion passed.

11. Hunting Boundaries and Equipment – Decision

Brock Hoenes, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on hunting boundaries and equipment.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WACs 220-415-040, 220-410-040, 220-410-060, 220-413-180, and 220-414-070 as presented. Motion passed.

12. Reducing the Spread of Hoof Disease - Decision

Brock Hoenes, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on elk game management unit changes.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-413-200 as presented. Motion passed.

13. Elk General Seasons and Special Permits - Decision

Brock Hoenes, Deer and Elk Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on elk general seasons and special permits.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WACs 220-415-050 and 220-415-060 as presented. Motion passed.

14. Bighorn Sheep Seasons and Auction, Raffle, and Special Permits - Decision

Richard Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on bighorn sheep seasons and on new auction, raffle, and special permit opportunities.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WACs 220-412-070 and 220-415-120 as presented. Motion passed.

15. Mountain Goat Seasons – Decision

Richard Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on mountain goat seasons.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-415-130 as presented. Motion passed.

16. Moose Seasons – Decision

Richard Harris, Ph.D., Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, and Moose Section Manager requested approval from the Commission on moose seasons.

Commissioner Thorburn moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt WAC 220-415-070 as presented. Motion passed.

17. Annual Wolf Report - Briefing

Donny Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead, Benjamin Maletzke, Ph. D, Statewide Wolf Specialist and Dan Brinson, Conflict Section Manager, Wildlife Program provided the annual wolf update.

18. Requirements for Testing Commercial Fishing Gear – Briefing, Public Hearing and Decision

Sergeant Erik Olson briefed the Commission and requested approval on changes needed to amend rules to clarify the requirements for testing commercial fishing gear.

No one provided input.

Commissioner Kehoe moved, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adopt the amended rule as presented. Motion passed.

19. Abalone Status Review and Preliminary Listing – Briefing and Public Hearing

Hank Carson, Fish and Wildlife Research Scientist and Chris Eardley, Puget Sound Policy Coordinator summarized the public comment received during the review period and peer review of the preliminary status review document.

The following person provided testimony:
Sophia Ressler

20. Pass Lake Sport Fishing Rules – Briefing and Public Hearing

Edward Eleazer, Region 4 Fish Program Manager and Justin Spinelli, Fish and Wildlife Biologist briefed the Commission on proposals to allow harvest of all game fish except trout at Pass Lake in Skagit County.

No one provided testimony.

HPA Suction Dredging – Briefing and Public Hearing

Randi Thurston, Protection Division Manager, Pat Chapman, Regulatory Services Coordinator and Teresa Scott, Special Projects Coordinator, Habitat Program briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to the hydraulic code rules for suction dredging.

The following people provided testimony:

Scott Brown Steve Jones Billy Bourgeois Kim McDonald

Chair Carpenter recessed the meeting at 4:17.

Saturday, April 5, 2019

Chair Carpenter called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

21. Future Meeting Planning

This item was postponed until an upcoming conference call.

22. Open Public Input

The following people provided input on various topics:

Jim Sutton - predators NE WA	Steve Shanewise – Waterfowl Adv. Group
Ross Barkhurst – ecosystems	Marlisa Williams Dugan – sturgeon, herring, performance
Tim Hamilton – WBERT	Bob Lake – primary river
Ron Wesen – Skagit elk	George Vojkovich – Skagit elk
Eric Johnson – Skagit elk	Michael Brondi – Skagit elk
Eddie Hills – Skagit elk	Morris Robinson – Skagit elk
Brian Lipscomb – Skagit elk	Randy Good – Skagit elk
Cal Mullen – Skagit elk	Bill Schmidt – Skagit elk
Joe Durham – Wynoochee mitigation	

23. Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy C-3622 – Briefing, Public Comment and Policy Direction

Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst and Kirt Hughes, Statewide Salmon and Steelhead Manager briefed the Commission on progress of the comprehensive review for the Willapa Bay Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3622, and provided options for Commission direction for fishery planning.

The following people provided comments:

Lance Gray	Greg McMillan	Steve Gacke	Ryan Gray
Francis Estalilla	Lisa Olsen	Tim Hamilton	Bob Lake
Joe Durham	Ross Barkhurst	Art Holman	Marlisa Dugan
Norm Reinhardt	Andy Mitby	Greg King	

Commissioner Graybill made a motion seconded by Commissioner Thorburn to adopt Option C that was presented by staff, which essentially continues the guidance from 2018, particularly regarding the aggregate impact cap of 20% on natural origin fall chinook.

Commissioner Kehoe made a motion seconded by Commissioner McIsaac to amend the original motion to suspend the Fishery Management #6 in the Willapa Bay Policy. This amendment passed.

Item #6 of the Fall Chinook Salmon Species-specific guidance section on page 6 reads: Fishery Management After 2018. Fisheries in the Willapa Bay Basin will be managed with the goal of:

- a. Limiting the fishery impact rate on Willapa and Naselle river natural-origin fall Chinook salmon to no more than 14%.
- b. No commercial fisheries shall occur within areas 2T and 2U prior to September 16.
- c. No commercial Chinook fisheries shall occur in areas 2M, 2N, 2P and 2R until after September 7.

Commissioner McIsaac made a motion seconded by Commissioner Kehoe to amend the original motion to allow the staff the flexibility to determine the bag limits for Chinook and Coho in the recreational fishery. This amendment passed.

The main motion then passed as amended.

Further, guidance was provided towards the goal of completing the comprehensive review and analysis of possible alternatives to status quo to allow for a Commission decision in early 2020 as to any changes in Policy C-3622.

24. Grays Harbor Salmon Management Policy C-3621 Review – Briefing and Public

Comment

Chad Herring, South Coast Fishery Policy Analyst and Mike Scharpf, District Biologist provided the Commission an annual review on Grays Harbor salmon management as stipulated in Policy C-3621, providing guidance for Grays Harbor salmon fisheries.

The following people provided comments:

Tim Hamilton

Bob Lake

Joe Durham

Andy Mitby

Francis Estalilla

25. Commercial Fishing Guide Logbook Requirements – Briefing and Public Hearing

This item was postponed until June.

26. Miscellaneous and Meeting Debrief

The Commissioners and staff discussed the follow up items from the meeting.

- Skagit elk

Chair Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

These minutes plus the audio recordings constitute the full minutes.

Tami Lininger, Executive Assistant