



Minutes

Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission
Web Conference
Friday, July 15, 2022
Olympia, Washington

Attendance

Commission:

Barbara Baker, Chair
Molly Linville, Vice Chair
Lorna Smith
Kim Thorburn
James R. Anderson
John Lehmkuhl
Melanie Rowland
Tim Ragen
Don McIsaac

Department Staff:

Kelly Susewind, Director
Joe Panesko, AGO
Kirt Hughes
Anis Aoude

Commission Staff:

Nikki Kloepfer

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

Commissioner McIsaac gave an update about the Columbia River sockeye, reporting that the current counts at Bonneville Dam are nearing completion and verifying the largest run since 1926.

Commissioner Anderson reported on his very positive experience with DFW Enforcement Officers during a routine San Juan patrol.

Commissioner Ragen gave his appreciation to the staff and agency for their prompt response to the changing need of the Southern Resident Killer Whale.

Commissioner Thorburn reported she was attending summer WAFWA in Oklahoma City and shared some of her birding observations. She also commented on Commissioner McIsaac's good news with sockeye as Idaho is also experiencing the same outcomes.

A. Deer Special Permit – Clerical Correction

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision to correct a clerical error by amending the special hunt for hunters with disabilities in GMU 485 to be "buck only" instead of "antlerless."

Commissioner Anderson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ragen to correct a clerical error by amending the special hunt for hunters with disabilities in GMU 485 to be "buck only" instead of "antlerless." All in favor. Motion passes.

B. Free Fishing Weekend Rulemaking – Decision

Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on a rule proposal to limit the waiver of licensure requirements on free fishing weekend, only to fish species that do not require a catch record card.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lehmkuhl, to approve the Free Fishing Weekend Rulemaking changes as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

C. Crewmember License Rulemaking – Decision

Kirt Hughes, Fish Management Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on a rule proposal to increase the number of unspecified commercial crewmember licenses allowed as to provide better flexibility with commercial license holders rotating crewmembers on larger vessels during the season.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McIsaac, to approve the Crewmember License Rulemaking changes as presented by staff. All in favor. Motion passes.

D. Spring Bear Policy – Decision

The Commission considered the sequence of the Spring bear policy approach and may vote on a motion that would supersede the [motion passed in January](#).

Chair Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Smith that the Commission supersede the action adopted on January 21, 2022 with a Commission intent to sequence review and potential revision of the Department policy on spring bear hunts prior to any rulemaking for annual seasons, and to convey to Wildlife Program/Game Division staff that the Commission does not want them to prepare an annual season proposed rule for a Commission decision in October 2022.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Commissioners Lehmkuhl, Ragen, Smith, Rowland and Baker voted in favor. Commissioners Thorburn, McIsaac, Anderson and Linville voted against. Motion passes with a 5/4 vote.

E. Cougar Rulemaking – Decision

Anis Aoude, Game Division Manager asked the Commission for a decision on the rule amendment to adjust the annual hunting season regulation to an option for a second tag in designated population management units for the future hunting season.

Commissioner Thorburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the recommended rule changes as presented by staff.

The Commission discussed the motion.

Lehmkuhl, Thorburn, McIsaac, Anderson, Linville voted for. Commissioners Ragen, Smith, Rowland and Baker voted against. Motion passes with a 5/4 vote.

F. Future Meeting Planning

The Commission discussed upcoming meeting agendas and reviewing an updated year-at-a glance.

Chair Baker noted that there will not be a Big Tent committee meeting in August. Agenda items will be carried over to the September committee meeting. She also requested that the Executive commit discuss Clarkston venue concerns.

Commissioner Lehmkuhl expressed interest in a timeline or a discussion on how future game

management policy will be discussed and addressed, particularly the spring bear hunting policy.

Commissioner McIsaac requested a 1pm start time for Fish committee at the August Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Linville adjourned the meeting at 10:37 am

Nichole Kloepfer, Executive Assistant

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