

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
February 12, 2009  
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Deputy Director Moore; Deputy Director Unsworth; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Lance Hebdon, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Ed Schriever, Fisheries Chief; Bill Horton, State Fisheries Manager, and Bonnie Butler, Governor's Office.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Wright with Commissioners McDermott, Trevey, Barowsky, Budge, Wheeler and Power participating.

Chairman Wright called the meeting to order At 8:00 a.m.

**RULES**

Ed Schriever, Chief, Fisheries, briefed the Commission on the schedule for nonbiological rulemaking for fish rules. Mr. Schriever stated that the Governor's Office guidance on legislative authorization of non-biological rules has created a conundrum for the Department in setting biennial fishing rules. Non-biological rules are currently out of sync with the normal 2-year fish rules cycle. A problem arises because non-biological rules have to be approved by the Commission by their July meeting to meet the August deadline for legislative processes. The legislature doesn't ratify them until sometime in the spring of the following year. We currently produce, print, and distribute biennial rules at the beginning of each even calendar year, so we are forced into an 18-month lag between Commission action and the rules brochure hitting the streets.

The Fisheries staff has considered several processes to approach this issue and suggest the following action.

Extend existing 2008-2009 fishing rules for one additional year (2010) and address only non-biological rules this year. This will allow us to synchronize non-biological rules with biological rules in the 2011 – 2012 brochures. Because the rules are in affect until changed by the Commission, the 2008-2009 rules can be used for another year. This will require the Department to inform and educate the public. The only action that would be required by the Commission is to set the date for Free Fishing Day in 2010.

The fisheries managers are currently working on rules simplification, and changes to the fish rules format. It is a goal of the fish managers to present rules and format changes that the public will truly embrace as easier to use. The timeframe described above would allow for a comprehensive public process to present formats to user groups (focus

groups, fishing organizations, conservation officers, etc) to best define a cleaner format and simpler rules.

The Fisheries Bureau will postpone publishing new fishing rules until January 2011 following the timeframe outlined above per Commission direction.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Legislative Updates**

Sharon Kiefer, provided legislative updates to the Commission (Appendix 42, Exhibit 13).

### **RS 18578C1 Revised Revenue Proposal Update**

A print hearing is scheduled in the Senate Resources and Environment Committee on Friday, February 13.

### **New Bill Discussion**

HB 16 – Restrict Superhunt tag issuance to no more than 10% for nonresidents

Commissioner Barowsky moved to monitor, answer questions and testify on HB 16. The motion died due to lack of a second.

**09-16 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO OPPOSE HB 16. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.**

### **Update About Previously Discussed Bills**

SB 1008 – Disabled veterans hunt program, is in the third Senate reading 2/11 and will be moved to the House.

SB 1015 Directs IDFG to contact states to solicit interest in getting wolves. Passed Senate, waiting for a hearing in the House Resources and Conservation.

SB 1020 – Prohibits offenders convicted of unlawful wildlife possession from buying back their seized wildlife. No hearing yet.

SB 1022 – Increases the penalty to cover meat processing assessed to violators. No hearing yet.

SB 1035 – Authorizes collection of reasonable fees for services. Withdrawn by sponsor. A hearing was held last week and sponsor withdrew the bill. Sponsor is crafting a new bill and has asked the Department for help in crafting a new bill.

### **Additional Bill Discussion**

HCR 11 – Encourages State of Idaho and state agencies to partner with faith-based and community organizations. This bill is policy guidance from the legislature and the Department will track.

SB 1061 – Restriction of certain vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails and penalty. This bill falls under the recreational title for which the Department has enforcement authority. The Department will track.

Representative Trail presented two RS's to the House Resource and Conservation Committee on 2/11/09 and both would have had an effect on the Department. Both RS's were sent back to the sponsor with a no print.

A House Joint Memorial was introduced by Representative Lenore Barrett regarding wolves that was sent for print.

Representative Barrett also submitted another bill regarding wildlife habitat easements and was sent for print. Representative Barrett's bills will be discussed in next weeks legislative conference call.

#### **Update About other Legislative Action**

A wolf presentation (GPS data) will be given to the Senate Resources and Environment Committee on February 13.

The rules review process is complete.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Adjournment**

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

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Wayne Wright  
Chairman

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Cal Groen  
Secretary