

Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
March 19, 2009
Boise, Idaho

Present in the Director's Office: Director Groen, Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Kathleen Trevor, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Assistant Director - Policy; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Bonnie Butler, Governor's Office; Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief, Mike Keckler, Communications Chief; Lance Hebdon, Inter Governmental Policy Coordinator; Jim Lau, Chief of Administration and Deputy Director Jim Unsworth.

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, and Wheeler participating. Commissioner Power was excused.

LEGISLATION

New Bill Analysis

(Appendix 42, Exhibit 20)

SB 1142 – Amends existing law relating to open public meetings to amend provisions relating to notice requirements for meetings and agendas; to revise provisions relating to the written minutes of meetings; to revise provisions relating to executive sessions; and to revise provisions relating to violations.

Ms. Kiefer noted that staff will monitor and consult with legal on SB 1142.

HB 239 -- Amends existing law relating to fish and game to revise the definition of "senior resident"; and to revise senior resident combination license provisions.

09-27 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion TO OPPOSE HB 239 ON THE BASIS THAT THE DEPARTMENT LICENSES ARE ALREADY A BARGAIN AND THE 5 YEAR RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IS NOT UNREASONABLE. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Previously Analyzed Bills

SB 1141 – IDFG revenue proposal

Hearings held last week on Wednesday and Friday, Commissioners testified as well as other constituents. The Committee voted on Monday to send the bill to the senate amending order.

Commissioners will send a letter to their appropriate Senator asking for support of SB 1141 and attaching letters of support and nonsupport letters for their Region.

SB 1035 -- Adds to existing law relating to fish and game to authorize the Department of Fish and Game to impose and collect certain fees for services and to provide for the deposit of moneys collected. Replaced by SB 1149 and is sitting in committee.

SB 1020 -- Amends existing law relating to fish and game to prohibit certain persons from purchasing unlawfully taken wildlife or any portion thereof subject to sale by the Director of the Department of Fish and Game. Amended and passed by the Senate.

HB 194 -- Adds to and amends existing law relating to sport shooting activities to provide for a limitation of liability on certain sport shooting activities and to provide exceptions; and to provide an exception to governmental liability relating to certain sport shooting ranges.

SB 1125 -- Amends and adds to existing law relating to fish and game to revise provisions relating to the auction of bighorn sheep tags and the disposal of bighorn sheep tags by lottery. Memo to Commission regarding Big Horn Sheep Lottery Tag Summary 2006 to 2008 see exhibit 20.

New Bill Information

Ms. Kiefer stated that HB 213 and SCR Number 109 do not affect the Department Title 36 but have been in the media and is information only.

HB 213 -- Amends existing law relating to vessels to provide for additional fees for specified vessels, to provide for stickers, to provide for collection and deposit of fees in the Invasive Species Fund and to provide exceptions.

SCR Number 109 -- Stating findings of the Legislature resolving that a condition of extreme peril exists in and around the water bodies of the state of Idaho; proclaiming that a state of emergency exists within the state of Idaho; and asking that deficiency warrant funding authorized by the Idaho Invasive Species Act of 2008 be used by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities associated with quagga and zebra mussel prevention, development and implementation of incident response plans and interagency agreements.

Status Update for Bills of Concern

House and Senate bill table status see exhibit 20. Ms. Kiefer noted that staff is working on finalizing a link on the external website with legislative updates for the public.

JFAC Budget

Director Groen stated that the Department FY2010 budget is still open and the Department is discussing with JFAC. The Department is monitoring suggested personnel cuts.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

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

Wayne Wright
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary