

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
February 2, 2012
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Director Moore, Deputy Director Unsworth, Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer, Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; and Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Mike Keckler, Communications Chief and Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief.

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

LEGISLATION

Deputy Director Kiefer provided a legislative update on the following items (Appendix 45, Exhibit 22).

Rules

The House Resources and Conservation Sub Committee made a recommendation to the full committee to accept all of the Fish and Game rule dockets. The Senate Committee has rejected the rule regarding the LAP Program to create the landowner incentive tags and we will wait for further action.

Fish and Game Sponsored Bill Analysis/Discussion

Status of IDFG request to House Resources and Conservation Committee for our "Routing Slips" (RS= the pre bill legislative proposal) to be printed as bills.

- RS20756, allow children to possess a firearm for hunting
- RS20763, allow designation of control hunt tag to minor child or grandchild
- RS20787, add wolf tag to Sportsman's Pak
- RS20815, integrate 3 day fishing license into nonresident hunting license

Previously Reviewed Bill Analysis/Discussion

Senate Bill 1239 – The purpose of this legislation is to create a new section under Chapter 11, Title 36 that would require trappers to check traps within every thirty-six (36) hours and remove any catch. The rule also exempts trappers acting under the authority of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plan Health Inspection Service, and Wildlife Services.

This new statutory provision would apply to trapping for furbearing animals; we interpret this reference to be the classified furbearing animals defined in IDAPA 13.01.06.104. With this interpretation, the 36 hour trap check would not apply to wolves, which are big game animals.

The Idaho Trappers Association and trappers in general have stated to the Department that a trap check less than 72 hours (3 days) would be a financial hardship to trappers, because their cost in gasoline and time would increase and the trapping activity and success per check would decrease.

12-10 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion **to monitor Senate Bill 1239**. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Senate Bill 1256 – Creates additional special wildlife auction tags, prescribes disposition and restrictions of use of the proceeds, and also prescribes new restrictions for use of the proceeds for the current bighorn sheep tag. This bill is significantly different from legislation reviewed last year in Senate Bill 1256, the Commission retains the authority to prescribe the manner in which the tags shall be used and validated.

Ms. Kiefer noted that at the February 1, 2012 ISCAC meeting, it was suggested the Commission not take a position on the bill yet to give sportsmen a continued opportunity to weigh in with their Commissioners about some opinions regarding this bill. It is important for folks to speak with their legislators regarding this legislation.

12-11 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion **to monitor Senate Bill 1256**. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Information Only

House Bill 404 – State property camping restrictions.

Fish and Game properties are exempt from this. This bill arises because of unanticipated uses of Capitol Mall grounds.

New Bill Analysis/Discussion

Policy Consideration

Senate Joint Resolution No. 103 and 104 – Constitutional Right to Hunt, Fish, Trap.

Both of these bills propose new language for the constitution that intends to establish the right to hunt, fish, trap as a valued part of the heritage of the State of Idaho forever preserved for the people.

SJR 103 says the exercise of the right shall not be prohibited but shall be subject to the laws, rules and proclamations of the state.

SJR 104 says the exercise of the right shall forever be preserved through the laws, rules and proclamations of the state.

SJR 103 poses fewer issues than SJR 104. However, SJR 104 appears to have the legislative momentum at this point.

12-12 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Power seconded a motion **to monitor SJR 103 and 104 until the next legislative conference call.** All Commissioners voted in favor.

Information Only

Senate Concurrent Resolution 111 -- Minimum lake level for Cocolalla Lake.

The Department has not been consulted about this bill but if it is adopted it will provide a benefit for fish and wildlife at Cocolalla Lake.

Ms. Kiefer reported that the Senate Resource and Environment Committee approved for print hearing Senator Brackett's proposal to allow sale of LAP tags and Senator Siddoway's proposal to allow sale of LAP Tags. The RS's will now be assigned a bill number and will be on the agenda for next week's legislative call.

Representative Patrick to expand "qualified organization" definition for disabled veteran programs.

Other Discussion

There will be a Winter Feeding Hearing at the Senate Resources and Environment Committee on February 3rd.

Adjournment 9:20 a.m.