

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Panhandle Regional Office
May 15-16, 2024
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**

May 15

MISCELLANEOUS

Public Meeting

Chairman Don Ebert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. PDT and reviewed the rule of conduct for the hearing and reported that all public comments would be reviewed by the Commission at the Wednesday business meeting. Commissioner Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, and Ron Davies were present.

The following individuals provided in person testimony: Rick Alsagfor, Wilken Gibson, Mike Mitale, Mark Morris, Robert Roman, William Miles, Erik Illam, Cody Bartels, Vaun Bartels, Gary Finney, Justin Webb, Mark Bove`, Chad Landrum, Ethan Durocher, Calvin Nolan, Ethan Hardt, and Tom Bosenko.

May 16

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Ebert called the meeting to order at 8:00 am PDT and welcomed Chairman Mendive of the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

Review of Public Comment

Director Fredericks provided a summary of the public comments. There were 30 members of the public in attendance with 17 people providing testimony.

- Three people provided testimony expressing support to increase the length limits from 20" to 24" on Chinook Salmon on Coeur d'Alene Lake to protect the 2 year old fish.
- Seven people provided testimony regarding spearfishing for gamefish in lakes with undesirable gamefish. This would require a rule change.
- One person provided testimony in support of liberalizing lake trout limits on Priest Lake and managing the lake as a more diverse fishery.
- Three people testified in support of F4WM funding and was disappointed in the wolf trapping ruling.
- Two people provided testimony against walleye reduction and asked for winter access on the North side of Lake Pend Oreille.
- There was also testimony provided on Coeur d' Alene Trap and Skeet Club with concerns on the deadline of fund appropriation.

Consent Calendar

Minutes January 24-25, 2024, February 1, 2024, and February 8, 2024
Financial Report

24-35 Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion to accept the consent calendar as presented. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

FY25 Shooting Range Grant Funding Recommendations

Sara VanAcker, Statewide Shooting Range Manager presented the FY25 Shooting Range Grant Funding recommendations (Appendix 57, Exhibit 32).

24-36 Commissioner Davies moved the Commission approve the Director's Range Grant Funding recommendations in Table 1 and the Director retains discretion for assigning the grant funding source. Commissioner Murphy seconded. Motion Carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Commission Direction for the Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Wildlife Bureau Chief presented (Appendix 57, Exhibit 33).

24-37 Commissioner Murphy moved the Commission adopt staff recommendation for the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board to expend up to \$300,000 in management units/zones for the protection of ungulates and to address chronic livestock depredation. Commissioner Bobbitt seconded. Motion carries.

Commission Direction for Animal Damage Control Board Funds

Tricia Hebdon, Assistant Wildlife Bureau Chief presented (Appendix 57, Exhibit 34).

24-38 Commissioner Cheirrett moved the Commission adopt staff recommendations to direct \$50,000 for general predatory wildlife control consistent with the Animal Damage Control Board MOU; \$25,000 for Department-authorized depredation control of black bears and mountain lions; and \$25,000 for Department-directed activities implementing Idaho's American White Pelican Management Plan. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carries.

LANDS

Helmick Conservation Easement

Casey Pozzanghera, Lands Mitigation Program Coordinator presented the Helmick Ranch Conservation Easement (Appendix 57, Exhibit 35).

24-39 Commissioner Bobbitt made a motion that the Commission purchase the 3,476-acre Helmick Ranch Conservation easement. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Season Modifications, Spring Season Chinook Salmon

Lance Hebdon, Fisheries Bureau Chief presented season modifications for the Spring Season Chinook Salmon (Appendix 57, Exhibit 36).

24-40 Commissioner Davies moved the Commission approve the proposed modifications to the Clearwater spring Chinook Salmon fishing seasons and limits as proposed in the staff recommendations. Commissioner Cameron seconded . Motion carries.

The approved season modifications will take effect May 20, 2024.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Update

Ellary Tucker Williams, Legislative & Community Engagement Coordinator presented Legislative and Program updates (Appendix 57, Exhibit 37).

Rulemaking and Budget Update

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director presented rulemaking updates (Appendix 57, Exhibit 38).

Mrs. Worthington also informed the Commission that the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association petition for a rule change that would eliminate the requirement for trapper's education or a trapper's license if the person was a client under direct supervision of and on a trapline excursion with a licensed outfitter or guide was denied by the Governor's Office.

FISCAL

FY 26 Budget Forecast

Jon Oswald, Administration Chief presented the FY 26 budget forecast (Appendix 57, Exhibit 39).

REPORTS

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Report

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator presented the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation report (Appendix 57, Exhibit 40).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

2025 – 2027 Fisheries Seasons and Rules Release for Public Comment

Joe Kozfkay, State Fisheries Manager presented the 2025-2027 Fisheries Seasons and Rules (Appendix 57, Exhibit 41).

The proposed changes to 2025-2027 Fishing Seasons and Limits will be released to the public for their input with no objections from the Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS

IDFG Public Opinion Survey Briefing

Ian Malapeai, Marketing Manager presented the IDFG Public Opinion Survey that was conducted in April 2023 (Appendix 57, Exhibit 42).

Governor's Wildlife Partnership Tags

Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager presented the Governor's Wildlife Partnership tags (Appendix 57, Exhibit 43).

Mr. Ward asked the Commission to allow the Department to survey the public regarding auction tags. The Commission had no objections and requested as part of the survey the Department educate the public on where the tags come from and where the money from these tag sales is used.

Deputy Game Warden Ellsworth A. Teed Cold Case Family Recognition

Carson Watkins, Panhandle Region Supervisor presented a historical tribute to one of the Department's employees lost in the line of duty (Appendix 57, Exhibit 44).

IDFG 125 Presentation

Craig White, Magic Valley Region Supervisor, Ellary Tucker Williams, Legislative & Community Engagement Coordinator, and Adam Park, Chief, Communications Bureau presented campaign events planned to celebrate the 125 Anniversary of Department (Appendix 57, Exhibit 45).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Motorized Hunting Rule Review

Greg Wooten, Chief, Enforcement Bureau presented information on the Motorized Hunting Rule (Appendix 57, Exhibit 46).

REPORTS

Panhandle Region Grizzly Bear Program Overview

Barb Moore, Regional Wildlife Biologist provided a program overview of the Panhandle Region Grizzly Bear (Appendix 57, Exhibit 47).

Engineering Program Update

Clint Worthington, Chief, Engineering Bureau and Matt Bryan, Staff Engineer, presented information and projects the Engineering Bureau is working on (Appendix 57, Exhibit 48).

Walleye Biology and Management

Andy Dux, Regional Fishery Manager presented information on walleye biology and management (Appendix 57, Exhibit 49).

MISCELLANEOUS

Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair

24-41 Commissioner Cheirrett nominated Commissioner Ron Davies to be the Chairman. Commissioner Murphy seconded the nomination. Motion Carries.

24-42 Commissioner Davies nominated Commissioner Dave Bobbit for the Vice Chair. Commissioner Cameron seconded the nomination. Motion carries.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Director Fredericks asked the Commission to review the Director's report.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 57, Exhibit 50).

MISCELLANEOUS**Planning for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be July 23-24, 2024, in Pocatello.

Executive Session I. C. 74-206 (1) (c) (f)

24-43 Commissioner Cheirrett moved, and Commissioner Bobbitt seconded a motion that the Commission enter executive session under Idaho Code 74-206 subsections (1) (b) (c) (f).

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Dave Bobbitt, Done Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, and Ron Davies.

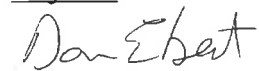
The Commission discussed potential property acquisition, litigation matters, and a personnel matter relating to the Director's performance review.

24-44 Commissioner Murphy moved, and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission come out of executive session with no action was taken. Motion carries.

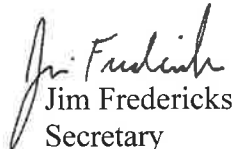
Open session**Litigation Position**

Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General presented.

24-45 Commissioner Cameron moved that the Commission support Idaho's efforts to file an amicus brief in the litigation in Federal court in Montana, which challenges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's February 2, 2024 finding that the listing of wolves in an area including Idaho is not warranted. Commissioner Cheirrett seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Adjourn


Don Ebert
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary