A meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference, attended by Commissioners Dave Bobbit, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Lane Clezie, Derick Attebury and Ron Davies.

IDFG staff present: Deputy Directors Jim Fredericks and Scott Reinecker; Owen Moroney, Deputy Attorney General; Lance Hebdon, Jon Rachael, Rick Ward, Frank Edelmann, Mary Boyer, Adam Park, Valerie Taro and Michael Pearson. IDFG staff participating via phone: Greg Wooten, Chip Corsi, Josh Royse, Dan Garren, Jim White and Tom Curet.

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. MST.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Consent Calendar**

Minutes November 15-16, 2021  
Consent calendar items were adopted without objection.

**LEGISLATION**

Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director provided the updates on legislation.

**Update about Commissioner Confirmation**

Commissioner Dave Bobbitt’s confirmation was Wednesday, February 2, 2022 in the Senate Resources & Environment Committee. The vote to confirm the appointment of Commissioner Bobbitt will be at the next committee meeting.

**Update on Fish and Game Legislative Presentations (JFAC, Bills, other) and Budget**

The Department JFAC Budget hearing was presented on Tuesday, February 2, 2022. The presentation went well.

**New Bill Analysis for Discussion/Update on Pending Legislation / Action for Policy Position**

Deputy Director Fredericks provided an analysis on HB520 Fish and Game allocated tags.
IOGA has asked that the Commission allocate tags in the fall preceding a hunting season. In September of 2021, the Commission allocated tags for the 2022 hunting season using outfitter use data from 2019 and 2020. This is because the 2021 season was still underway. The IOGLB, designates tags to individual outfitters based on Commission allocation. They had intended to use the same years of use data, and designate tags in the fall of 2021. A successful legal challenge, based on the wording of 36-2120, which said that designation for a season must be based on the last two years, required IOGLB to wait until use data for 2021 was compiled, thereby delaying designation until February, and creating a situation where allocation and designation were not using the same years to assess use.

IDFG has worked with the IOGLB and the IOGA to draft modification 36-2120 to allow IOGLB to base designation on the 2 calendar years preceding the date of allocation. This would ensure allocation and designation are using the same years of use data, and that allocation and designation could occur in the fall/winter preceding a hunting season.

22-12 Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Clezie seconded a motion to support House Bill 520 and provide testimony. Motion carries.

Deputy Director Fredericks continued with an analysis and background information for HB 507 to allow lighted nocks and mechanical broadheads in Idaho for archery hunting.

Current Law/Background:
- From 2006-2009, the Commission conducted a thorough review of archery and muzzleloader equipment rules and adopted some adjustments to regulations to address interests expressed by a broad spectrum of hunters, and to respond to changes in technology that had occurred during the previous decade.
- The most recent modifications to rule made for archery equipment include increasing compound bow maximum allowable "let off" to 85% and reducing minimum arrow weight.
- In July 2014, staff presented a workshop to the Commission on the history of method-of-take restrictions, and in May 2015 the Commission asked staff to draft a guidance statement that reflects past Commission philosophy when evaluating method-of-take requests (related to technology).
- The statement drafted was "Restrict the use of technological advances in fish and wildlife recreation when they compromise fair chase and management objectives."
- The Commission expressed their intent to use this guidance statement in future discussions to formalize their current philosophy prior to evaluating future modification requests.
- The Commission and the Department received a petition in 2020 for rulemaking to allow use of lighted nocks on arrows during any controlled or general game season archery hunt. This petition did not include mechanical broadheads.
- With this petition, the Department received 277 emails from individuals and organizations. Of those comments, 85% of residents and 95% of NR supported conducting negotiated rule-making to allow the use of lighted nocks, citing better recovery of game and arrows, better shot-placement information, and a belief that it did not create an unfair advantage. Those opposed stated that lighted nocks are not necessary and cited technology creep, an increase in unethical shots and a concern that technological advances would ultimately lead to reduced opportunity.
• In recognition of the previously adopted guidance statement, by unanimous vote, the Commission denied the petitioners' request for rulemaking to allow use of lighted nocks during controlled or general game season archery only hunts.

• Mechanical broadheads are not an issue that has directly come before the Commission, though mechanical broadheads were the subject of a demonstration and discussion at a Commission Technology Workshop at Black Creek Shooting Range in 2018.

• Considerations regarding mechanical broadheads relate to 1) reliability (do they expand on impact as intended) and 2) the potential that they extend a hunter's effective range. Because mechanical broadheads are designed to fly more consistently than fixed blade broadheads (i.e., similar to field tips), the distance at which a hunter can accurately hit a target increases. Intuitively, we can expect this to result in hunters taking shots at greater ranges, ultimately increasing success rates.

22-13 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion that the Commission not support House Bill 507 because of the potential for unintended consequences given the intricacies of technology allowances and restrictions as they relate to archery and other big game hunting opportunity, but in taking this position, and having heard from archers both in favor of and opposed to this equipment, direct the Department to undertake negotiated rulemaking, in the absence of passage of legislation, regarding lighted nocks and mechanical broadheads. Motion carries.

Adjournment

Greg Cameron  
Chairman

Ed Schriever  
Secretary