

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Lewiston Regional Office
November 14-15, 2022**

November 14

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioners Dave Bobbitt, Don Ebert, Tim Murphy, Greg Cameron, Jordan Cheirrett, Derick Attebury and Ron Davies participated on a Field Trip Clearwater River and CCI SPEER Tour.

Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order and reviewed the rules of conduct for the hearing and reported that all public comments would be reviewed by the commission at the Thursday business meeting.

The following individuals provided in person testimony: Jodi Zacha, Boyd Gruell, Charles Pottanger, Bob Hassold, Bill Samuels, Jeremi Syron, Mike Young, Tim Long, Claudia Dalby, Keith Carlson, Justin Webb, Tom Donohue, Jim Hagedorn, Donald Sickels, Dan Blanco, Paul Snider, Dan Smith and Larry Hatter. Written comment received from Steve Pogue (Appendix 55, Exhibit 32).

November 15

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order with Commissioners Bobbitt, Ebert, Cameron, Cheirrett, Attebury and Davies present.

MISCELLANEOUS

Review of Public Comment

Director Schriever and Commissioners discussed and reviewed the public comments. Comments included:

- Forest Grouse populations and seasons.
- Anadromous fish hatcheries and the restoration of salmon and steelhead is dependent upon the hatchery programs.
- Request to initiate potential rule change for allowing outfitted turkey hunts on the National Forest.
- Zone 11 A Refunds and whitetail management (this item is on the agenda and will address these concerns).
- Gamebird Foundation comments thanking Regions 1 and 2 for all the help and assistance that they have given to the Foundation.

- Two comments regarding wolf proposals, these comments will be addressed during the March 2023 Big Game season setting process.
- Concern with the water quality at Clearwater Hatchery.
- Turkeys causing property damage both in the urban and rural areas. Would like Fish and Game's help with this problem.

Consent Calendar

Minutes May 18-19, June 14, and July 27-28

Financial Report

Consent calendar items were adopted without objection.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for Commission Adoption

Rita Dixon, State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, presented (Appendix 55, Exhibit 33).

Staff have completed a comprehensive review and revision of the 2015 Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), including an up-to-date public review process. We presented an earlier draft of the newly revised SWAP to the commission during its July 2022 meeting prior to release of the draft for a 30-day public comment period, held in August 2022.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Wildlife management plans, including species management plans and the State Wildlife Action Plan, guide conservation and management of wildlife and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The SWAP will function as the action plan for at-risk species management in Idaho.

IDFG staff held a 30-day public comment period on the initial draft Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan revision during August 2022. The Department announced the availability of the plan via news release and through targeted stakeholder emails. In addition to offering an opportunity to review and comment on the plan, we also provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to arrange to meet with staff. Staff have reviewed the responses and made appropriate revisions to the plan. A summary of comments and associated revisions to the plan were presented.

As a condition for receiving funding through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, Congress required that all US states, territories, and the District of Columbia commit to reviewing and, if necessary, revising their State Wildlife Action Plans at least every 10 years or less.

Staff seeks commission approval of the 2022 Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan and permission to submit final draft plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Regional Review Team review.

22-61 Commissioner Cameron moved and Commissioner Davies seconded a motion to approve the 2022 Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan and authorize the Department to submit the final draft plan to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Regional Review Team review. Motion carries.

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Reauthorizing Tag Discount Orders

Jon Rachael, Chief, Wildlife presented.

Reduced Price and Second Nonresident Bear and Mountain Lion Tags

The Commission has discounted nonresident black bear, mountain lion, and gray wolf tags in certain units for years to encourage additional harvest of these species where predation is a factor limiting elk populations or is causing livestock depredations or other conflicts. Many sportsmen, livestock operators, and landowners have requested the Commission take action to reduce the impacts of predation throughout the state. Reducing the price of these tags has resulted in increased nonresident participation and harvest of these species in the desired units.

Current Discount Order 20-65 was enacted by the Commission on October 8, 2020 and is set to expire December 31, 2022.

Based on a finding of biological and public need to encourage continued participation in the hunting of mountain lion and black bear in certain units, and in the hunting and trapping of wolves statewide, Department staff are recommending continuing the discount of non-resident tag fees as specified below.

Idaho Code §36-415 authorizes the Commission to discount tags for specific species, units, areas, zones or gender to encourage licensed sales or to encourage hunting, fishing or trapping.

Public comment opportunity has been provided for this agenda item at past meetings when the Commission has previously addressed discounted these tags. Additional opportunity to comment will be provided on the evening prior to the Commission meeting.

Staff recommends the discount of nonresident tag fees for mountain lion and black bear to \$41.75 and the discount of non-resident tag fees for gray wolf to \$31.75, each inclusive of vendor issuance fee, for the following species and units:

- Discounted nonresident tag fees for mountain lion (either sex) and black bear (either sex) will apply only for units 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, and those portions of units 21 and 28 within the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.
- Discounted nonresident tag fees for gray wolf (either sex) will apply statewide.

22-62 Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Davies seconded a motion that the Commission discount nonresident tag fees for mountain lion and black bear to \$41.75 in specified units as recommended by staff, and for gray wolf to \$31.75 for use statewide. Motion carries.

Falconry: Sage-grouse Tag Use for End of 2022 and 2023 Seasons / Discount Order

Legislation enacted in 2021 added sage grouse to the list of species requiring game tags under Idaho Code 36-409. This legislation was a revised version of Commission-sponsored legislation, with the goal of better regulation of sage-grouse harvest and distribution of hunting activity to align with sage grouse populations across the state.

At its July 2022 meeting, the Commission set sage grouse tag limits by zones based on spring 2022 biological data, with a requirement that hunters purchase tags specific to the zone(s) they choose to hunt. The Commission intends to set tag limits by zone for 2023 hunts after it reviews population data based on spring 2023 biological data.

The Commission previously adopted falconry seasons for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, which included seasons for falconry hunting of sage grouse from August 15, 2022-March 15- 2023 and August 15, 2023-March 15, 2024.

Under Idaho Code Section 36-403(a), all game tags are valid only during the time that the corresponding annual license for the tag is valid. As such, 2022 sage grouse tags expire on December 31, 2022, and 2023 sage-grouse tags expire December 31, 2023. The requirement for game tags for sage grouse became effective July 1, 2021, applicable to seasons in the second half of calendar year 2021 and subsequent years. The Commission adopted a tag discount order (Order No. 21-67) applicable to 2021-2022 falconry season for sage grouse, with discounted tags issued to falconers in the first quarter of calendar year 2022 expiring on March 15, 2022.

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt a discount order for sage grouse game tags effective for the winter portion of the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 seasons to falconers who had not yet filled their 2022 or 2023 sage-grouse tags, respectively. The discounted tags would be valid for the 2023 portion of the 2022 – 2023 falconry season: January 1 – March 15, 2023 and for the 2024 portion of the 2023 – 2024 falconry season: January 1– March 15, 2024.

22-63 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion that the Commission adopt the discount order for sage grouse tags for falconry as presented. Motion carries.

Discount Resident Senior Combo Licenses for Lifetime Certificate Holders & Super Hunt Applications

Michael Pearson, Chief, Administration presented.

Resident Senior Combo Licenses--The Department began offering Lifetime Certificates for Hunting, Fishing, and Combination beginning in 1985 with a corresponding price structure for time of purchase and type of privilege. Since at least 1976, the Department has only one type of license for resident seniors – a combination license.

As the population of those with a Lifetime Certificate have aged, the Department has experienced more resident certificate holders with a single privilege that have reached age 65, and desire to “upgrade” and add the opposite privilege.

Current practice has been to sell those resident seniors a combo for \$11.75, which is the same price for a resident senior without a Lifetime Certificate. By issuing this item at full price, Lifetime Certificate Holders are not receiving any recognition of the substantial investment they have made in purchase of their hunting or fishing certificate.

In recognition, the Commission approved a discount for these holders so the price of the Senior Resident Combination License to \$6 in November of 2019. This discount order expires December 31, 2022.

This discount does not apply to nonresident Lifetime Certificate holders, as there are individual privileges available for sale for them to upgrade. This discount would also not apply to resident adult Lifetime Certificate holders under the age of 65.

Superhunt Applications -- Many western state fish and wildlife agencies offer special big game auction and lottery programs to generate revenue for license funded conservation programs. Idaho's program is the Special Control Hunt Program ("Super Hunt") established by Commission rule (IDAPA 13.01.08.261) which offers forty (40) big game tags through a random lottery draw process. Lottery applications in Idaho are sold for individual species (Super Hunt tags-10 deer, 10 elk, 10 pronghorn, 2 moose tags) and for combined species (Super Hunt Combo- there are 2 tag packages that bundle 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 pronghorn, and 1 moose tag per package). These tags are good for any open controlled or general hunt for each species. By rule, income from the Super Hunt application fees is used for the sportsman access program. The majority of "first" applications each year are from Idaho resident hunters but many resident and nonresident applicants purchase additional applications for each draw.

In July 2015, the Commission approved a Discount Order that provided a consistent fee of \$6.00 per each Super Hunt application and \$20.00 per each Super Hunt Combo application that incorporated the vendor fee. This approach has demonstrated benefits for both revenue and customer simplicity.

To maintain the current discount that was renewed since then, the Commission must adopt a new Discount Order. Otherwise, the Department will reprogram fees to revert to standard control hunt application fees described below.

For example, without discount order:

Super Hunt elk = \$6.25 resident/\$14.75 nonresident (including vendor fees)

Super Hunt Moose = \$16.75 resident/\$41.75 nonresident (including vendor fees)

Super Hunt Combo = \$35.50 resident/\$86.00 nonresident (including vendor fees)

Adopt the proposed discount via a Commission Order for a five-year period starting August 11, 2022 through December 31, 2027.

22-64 Commissioner Bobbitt moved and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion to adopt the discount orders as drafted. Motion carries.

Administrative Rules: Adoption of Pending Rules and Legislative Update

Amber Worthington, Deputy Director presented.

The Commission previously approved four Zero-Based Regulation (ZBR) chapters of IDAPA rules this year to move to proposed and are now reviewing those chapters to adopt as pending:

- **13.01.02**, Rules Governing Mandatory Education and Mentored Hunting
- **13.01.10**, Rules Governing Wildlife Importation, Possession, Release, Sale, or Salvage
- **13.01.14**, Rules Governing Falconry
- **13.01.18**, Rules Governing Feeding of Pronghorn, Elk, and Deer

In addition to ZBR rulemaking, the Commission adopted two proposed rules originating from petitioned rulemaking that will also need to be reviewed to adopt as pending:

- **13.01.04**, Rules Governing Licensing (rule change to support outfitter tag allocation in general deer and elk hunts limited for non-residents only)
- **13.01.04**, Rules Governing Licensing (rule change for exception from method of take restriction for big game hunting to allow attached electronic device for a sighted assistant to help a blind hunter line up on a target)

Staff held one additional public meeting around chapter 13.01.10, Rules Governing Wildlife Importation, Possession, Release, Sale, or Salvage and acquired additional feedback from the USFWS for chapter 13.01.14, Rules Governing Falconry. The revised rule language for the Commission's consideration for the four ZBR chapters and the two individual rules are up for adoption for pending status.

Public involvement for rulemaking occurs through Commission meetings, negotiated rulemaking and the publication of temporary/proposed rules in the Administrative Bulletin. Consistent with Executive Order 2020-01 for ZBR, at least two public meetings were held (including the opportunity for one negotiated rulemaking meeting) to take input on the "zero-based" Fish and Game chapters 2, 10, 14 and 18, in the Idaho Administrative Code (IDAPA 13), which were opened for review and modification in year two of the five-year ZBR effort. Rulemaking meetings were also held for the two proposed rules brought to the Department through the petition process.

Public involvement for changes to the outfitter tag allocation included negotiated rulemaking and other public comment opportunities.

Public involvement for changes to the falconry chapter included negotiated rulemaking and comment opportunities by the USFWS.

While no person(s) initially showed interest in negotiated rulemaking for the wildlife importation chapter, the Department later met with interested parties on a couple of occasions and held a public meeting after the proposed rule was published.

No one identified interest in other ZBR negotiated rulemaking meetings for chapters 13.01.02 or 13.01.18.

The staff recommendation for pending rule language is presented by chapter in the following pages. These include pending rules for:

- 13.01.02, Rules Governing Mandatory Education and Mentored Hunting
- 13.01.04, Rules Governing Licensing (individual rule sections)
- 13.01.10, Rules Governing Wildlife Importation, Possession, Release, Sale, or Salvage
- 13.01.14, Rules Governing Falconry
- 13.01.18, Rules Governing Feeding of Pronghorn, Elk, and Deer
- 13.01.04, Rules Governing Licensing (individual rule sections)

22-65 Commissioner Attebury moved and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion to adopt pending rules as presented, with authority for the Department to make non-substantive edits in the proofreading process that do not alter the sense, meaning or effect of the rules. Motion carries.

Ms. Worthington reported that the 2023 Legislative session begins on January 9th and that the Department does not have any agency sponsored legislation. Commission weekly legislative conference calls will be held on Thursday as in previous years. Time to be determined.

LANDS

Minidoka sportsmen's Property Donation

Casey Pozzanghera, Natural Resources Program Coordinator presented.

A 34-acre parcel 6 miles east of Rupert in Minidoka County has been offered for donation to the Department. The property was previously used as a Sportsmen's Club and has been closed to public access for over 20 years. The undeveloped and relatively undisturbed property provides year-round habitat for mule deer and pheasants, and seasonal nesting habitat for waterfowl. Mature shrubs and trees provide nesting and roosting habitats for a variety of songbirds. Magic Valley Regional staff would manage the property concurrent with eight nearby parcels of Bureau of Reclamation land.

Staff estimate maintenance costs would be \$1,400 annually and Fee in Lieu of Tax payments to Minidoka County to be \$600 annually.

This property was previously presented to the Commission during Executive Session in July 2022.

22-66 Commissioner Cameron moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion that the Commission accept donation of the 34-acre Minidoka County Sportsmen Club property. Motion carries.

REPORTS

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Hilarie Engle, Foundation Development Coordinator provided updates about the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation activities to the Commission.

Appoint IFWF Representative

22-67 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Cheirrett seconded a motion that Commissioner Cameron serves as the 2023 Commission Liaison to the Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Motion carries.

2022 Big Game Tag Rain Check/Refund Update

Michael Pearson provided an update on the Big Game Tag Raincheck/Refunds (Appendix 55, Exhibit 34). Mr Pearson reported that the Commission has provided the Director delegation of authority for rainchecks and refunds in the interest of efficiency and customer service due to the frequency and fact specific nature of these requests.

The delegation *excludes* rainchecks or refunds for antlered Moose, Bighorn Sheep, or Mountain Goat tags, including the affiliated license; any controlled hunt tags awarded via auction or lottery, including Superhunt; and any controlled hunt tags for big game hunts that have drawing odds less than 5% as calculated by the total number of tags divided by the total number of first choice applicants.

Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 36-408, the Commission has authority to prescribe the number and kind of wildlife that may be taken under authority of the several types of tags and permits provided for in Title 36, and the manner in which said tags and permits shall be used and validated. Consideration of requests for refunds, rain checks, and other customer service accommodations regarding license, tags and permits, is within the Commission's statutory discretionary authority.

The Commission delegation of authority to the Director was an action item for public comment to the Commission in January of 2015.

Review of 2021 Deer Tag Refunds in Unit 11A

Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director provided the report.

The Commission has provided the Director delegation of authority for rainchecks and refunds in the interest of efficiency and customer service due to the frequency and fact specific nature of these requests. The delegation *excludes* rainchecks or refunds for antlered Moose, Bighorn Sheep, or Mountain Goat tags, including the affiliated license; any controlled hunt tags awarded via auction or lottery, including Superhunt; and any controlled hunt tags for big game hunts that

have drawing odds less than 5% as calculated by the total number of tags divided by the total number of first choice applicants.

In November, 2021, in response to a significant loss of deer in Unit 11A due to the severe outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) during the summer and fall, the Director authorized a refund to Nonresidents who had purchased 11A deer tags. Although the Commission was notified at the November 16, 2021 meeting in Lewiston that 11A refunds were pending, the number of refunds was not available at the time because those nonresident hunters had until December 1, 2021 to return their tags to Fish and Game. The final number of refunds received were 211 and 99 of those approved for a refund.

At the March 2022 meeting the Commission considered a Spring Season setting mid cycle to make modifications to the seasons previously set in March 2021 for potential modifications to the 2022 hunting seasons in response to EHD in the Clearwater Region. Proposals being considered were posted on the Department's website in February to inform the public and provide an opportunity to provide input. In addition, Department staff held a virtual live event on March 8, 2022 and an in-person event in Grangeville on March 10.

Chronic Wasting Disease Monitoring Update

Presented by Rick Ward, State Wildlife Manager, (Appendix 55, Exhibit 35). IDFG has been monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer and elk since 1997 and has sampled approximately 22,000 animals over the last 25 years. CWD was first detected in the state in Unit 14 in late 2021 and the Commission designated Units 14 and 15 as a temporary CWD management zone at that time. That designation remains in effect.

At their March 2022 meeting, the Commission adopted modifications to the 2022 hunting seasons in Unit 14 and implemented a mandatory check requirement for all deer, elk, and moose harvested in Units 14 and 15 for the 2022 hunting season. In addition to the mandatory sampling of all harvested deer, elk, and moose from Units 14 and 15, the *2021 Strategy for Chronic Wasting Disease* prescribes surveillance that includes sampling animals from portions of the state annually and rotating focused sampling among other areas of the state.

Annual CWD-sampling areas for white-tailed deer include Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, and 13. Annual CWD-sampling areas for mule deer and elk include Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A, 51, 58, 59A, 59, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 69, 71, 72, and 76 (see map on page 2). The CWD sampling period begins July 1 each year and samples are collected over the 12-month sampling period, but most samples are collected from hunter-harvested animals in October and November.

Focused sampling areas rotate throughout southern Idaho on a three-year rotation. The 2022 focused sampling area includes Units 54, 55, 56, 57, 70, 73A, 73, 74, 75, 76, and 77, as well as some targeted sampling in 11, 11A, 13, 18, and 23 near the border of GMU 14.

Lifetime Licenses Overview and Analysis

At the July 2022 Commission Meeting, the Commission received feedback from a constituent regarding Nonresident Lifetime License holders. This constituent requested information on the frequency in which Nonresident Lifetime License holders were applying for and drawing Controlled Hunt tags, and how those numbers related to the overall nonresident percentage limits within Controlled Hunts.

Tara Reichert, License Operations Manager provided an overview of the Lifetime Certification program, and a description of how Lifetime License holders participate in Controlled Hunts, and further identify customer types that have a nexus with the nonresident limits specified in Rule (Appendix 55, Exhibit 36). This information was also compiled and shared with the Natural Resources Interim Committee in October, 2022.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Plan for Fisher, Lynx, Wolverine to Release for Public Input

Fisher, wolverine, and Canada lynx are charismatic carnivores that are important to diverse interest groups. The occurrence of all three species in Idaho represents the edge of their species' distribution. Due to a variety of biological constraints, these species are considered rare, and/or species of heightened conservation need in Idaho. An important component of successful conservation of these species is maintaining state management authority. Currently, fisher has been unsuccessfully petitioned multiple times for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), wolverine is currently a candidate species for listing, and the Canada lynx is listed as threatened. The adding or continued listing of these species under ESA could have wide ranging affects to managing wildlife and forests.

The last management plan that included fisher and Canada lynx was developed in 1990. The Department developed an extensive plan for wolverine that was designed to guide conservation and management activities through 2019. The current draft plan provides needed updates to fisher and Canada lynx conservation and provides an updated and prioritized version of the more recent wolverine plan. The priorities identified in this plan will guide annual work plan development and program prioritization related to fisher, wolverine, and Canada lynx.

With Commission approval, the current draft will be posted on the Department website to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment. After consideration of public input, a final plan will be prepared to present to the Commission for adoption at a future Commission meeting.

Staff seeks Commission concurrence to release the draft Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx Management Plan for public review and input.

Commission consensus is to release the draft Fisher, Wolverine, and Canada Lynx Management Plan for public review and input.

Update on Wolf Management Planning

Jon Rachael, Chief, Wildlife presented.

Background: Consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2009 delisting decision, the Department is committed to maintaining a viable, self-sustaining wolf population that is well-distributed in suitable habitat. IDFG is also committed to managing the population at a level that minimizes conflicts with both livestock and ungulate populations, while remaining connected with wolf populations in Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington, and Canada. The gray wolf is classified and managed as a big game animal. Over the last decade, the Fish and Game Commission has expanded wolf harvest seasons incrementally in response to continued depredations on livestock and impacts to other big game species. The Department continues to focus wolf management actions to deliberately address resolution of wolf conflicts with livestock and negative impacts on big game populations, while ensuring a self-sustaining wolf population.

Mr. Rachael, presented a statewide update on wolf management, including harvest trend and livestock depredation information, as well as wolf monitoring efforts (Appendix 55, Exhibit 37).

SEASON SETTING AND RULES

Moose, Mountain goat, Bighorn Sheep Season Setting Preview

Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist presented (Appendix 55, Exhibit 38).

Background: A biennial report on status of moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats and a list of issues and preliminary proposals being considered is presented in November preceding adoption of harvest regulations in January of each odd-numbered year. In January 2023 the Fish and Game Commission will set seasons for moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2023 and 2024 hunting seasons.

Public input is received year-round through contacts with interested sportsmen and others members of the public. Proposals and additional information will be developed and circulated statewide for public review during December-January. Public input will be summarized and considered to guide development of the Department's recommendations to the Commission in January.

REPORTS

A report about Contemporary Concerns Regarding Catch & Release Mortality in Idaho Fisheries

Joe Kozfkay, State Resident Fisheries Manager, reported that This agenda item is a non-action item providing background on catch-and-release fisheries and the science that informs Department recommendations to adopt or not adopt restrictive regulations. Idaho fish populations are affected primarily by two sources of mortality: natural and fishing related. Historically, the major source of fishing-related mortality was the result of direct harvest, that is

most anglers chose to harvest most caught fish of legal size. This tendency and inadequate regulation in certain waters led to the over-harvest and depletion of some fish populations. As a result, fishing regulations gradually became more restrictive during the 1970s-80s. Amongst the most restrictive of these regulations was elimination of harvest, while anglers were often still allowed to “fish-for-fun”. Later coined “catch-and-release”, this regulation strategy became very popular, especially on blue-ribbon trout waters throughout the United States. While often popular among avid anglers, catch-and-release fishing regulations in some instances have been controversial. As a result, catch-and-release regulations have generated a large body of associated research to help inform conflict management amongst stakeholder groups. Initial controversies focused on gear- or harvest-restricted areas, barbed versus barbless hooks, and use of bait. While these topics remain relevant, anglers have become more concerned with air exposure after capture (i.e., time out of water) and catch-and-release fishing during periods of elevated water temperatures (i.e., “hoot owl” regulations) or other purportedly stressful periods. Department staff have been conducting research studies to better inform our fisheries management decisions regarding catch-and-release, air exposure, and “hoot owl” closures. This presentation (Appendix 55, Exhibit 39) summarized the results of those studies and our current understanding of these topics and on-going Department efforts to improve understanding of these fishing-related sources of mortality.

Steelhead and Salmon Update

John Cassinelli, Anadromous Fish Manager, provided an update on steelhead, Fall Chinook Salmon, and Coho Salmon returns and harvest within the previously approved season structure (Appendix 55, Exhibit 40).

MISCELLANEOUS

Set the 2023 Commission Calendar

The Commission discussed and agreed upon the following calendar dates for 2023.

- January 25-26, Boise
- March 15-16, Boise
- April 13, Conference Call
- May 10-11, Jerome
- July 26-27, CDA
- November 15-16, Lewiston

Appoint Commission Representative to Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)

22-68 Commissioner Cameron moved and Commissioner Attebury seconded a motion to appoint Don Ebert as the Commission representative to WAFWA. Motion carries.

REPORTS

Director's Report

Director Schriever provided a brief overview of items listed in Director's report in the commission agenda packet.

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner reports stand as written (Appendix 55, Exhibit 41).

MISCELLANEOUS

Planning for Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting in January 25-26 in Boise.

Executive Session

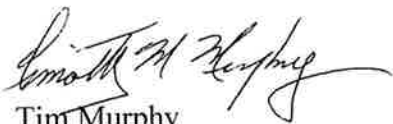
22-69 Commissioner Ebert moved and Commissioner Davies seconded a motion to hold and executive session pursuant to I.C. 74-206 (1)(b)(c)(f).

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

The Commission discussed personnel, potential property acquisition and litigations matters.

22-70 Commissioner Davies moved and Commissioner Cameron seconded a motion to come out of executive session with no action taken. Motion carries.

Adjournment



Tim Murphy
Chairman



Jim Fredericks
Secretary