



# Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Teleconference Meeting: Thursday,  
September 23, 2014 - at 3:00 pm  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Commission Room  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive S.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97302

1  
2 *Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the*  
3 *Commission at its next meeting.*  
4

5 Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media  
6 circulation. Those attending part or all of the meeting included:  
7

Bobby Levy, Chair  
Michael Finley, Vice-Chair  
Bob Webber, Commissioner  
Holly Akenson, Commissioner  
Gregory J. Wolley, Commissioner  
Laura Anderson, Commissioner

Curt Melcher, Deputy Director  
Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director  
Steve Sanders, Sr. Asst. Attorney General  
Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General  
Teri Kucera, Executive Assistant

## 8 MEETING

9 Chair Levy called the Commission's meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and said this meeting  
10 is solely for the purpose of appointing an interim director. The Commission will not  
11 discuss possibilities for a full time director until their October meeting when they as a  
12 Commission have been briefed. Teleconference participants: Richard Whitman,  
13 Governor's Natural Resources Office; Enrique Sama, Oregon Department of  
14 Administrative Services (DAS) Executive Recruiter; Steve Sanders and Erin Donald from  
15 Oregon Department of Justice; Deputy Directors Curt Melcher and Debbie Colbert, and  
16 the Commission.  
17

## 18 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### 19 Administrative Rules

20 Curt Melcher, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs, said as required in Oregon  
21 statute any time the Commission meets the Commission must ratify any temporary rules  
22 signed by the Director. There are seven temporary rules that all relate to fish:  
23

#### 24 1. 635-042-0031

#### 25 **Early Fall Commercial Fisheries Authorized for the Mainstem Columbia River.**

26 Adopted September 10, 2014: effective September 12, 2014 through September 30,  
27 2014.

28 This amended rule authorizes two additional fishing periods for the ongoing early Fall  
29 Commercial salmon fishery and three additional fishing periods for the ongoing  
30 commercial research seine net fishery. Allowed sales include Chinook, coho, pink and  
31 sockeye salmon and shad.  
32

#### 33 2. 635-004-0375

#### 34 **Maximum allowable Retention of Incidentally Caught Sardines is Reduced.**

1 Adopted September 10, 2014: effective September 15, 2014 through September 30,  
2 2014.

3 The rule being suspended reduces the maximum allowable retention of sardines landed  
4 when fishing for other species. Modifications were needed to conform Oregon's  
5 regulations to federal rule changes for the sardine fishery announced by the National  
6 Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on July 25, 2014. Maximum allowable retention of  
7 sardines is 20% per landing (by weight) beginning July 31, 2014 through September 14,  
8 2014. Modifications are no longer needed to avoid the closures of fisheries for Pacific  
9 mackerel, jack mackerel, and other species due to attainment of the maximum incidental  
10 set aside for sardines allowed for those fisheries under federal rule.

11  
12 **3. 635-014-0090**

13 **Big Creek (Clatsop County) Angling Regulations Modified.**

14 Adopted September 15, 2014: effective September 17, 2014 through December 31,  
15 2014.

16 This amended rule opens Big Creek (Clatsop County) to retention of steelhead and fall  
17 Chinook salmon approximately two weeks earlier than allowed under permanent rule.  
18 Existing Northwest Zone rules already allow the harvest of adipose fin-clipped coho  
19 salmon. An unusually large abundance of harvestable fish and the fact that Big Creek  
20 Hatchery has met its production goals for Tule Chinook Salmon and coho salmon  
21 prompted fisheries managers to open these fisheries earlier than scheduled.

22  
23 **4. 635-004-0375**

24 **Commercial Sardine Fishery Retention Regulations Modified.**

25 Adopted September 18, 2014: effective September 20, 2014 through December 31,  
26 2014.

27 This amended rule closes the second allocation period of the directed commercial  
28 sardine fishery for the 2014-2015 season effective September 20, 2014 through  
29 December 31, 2014. Modifications conform Oregon State Regulations to federal rule  
30 changes announced on September 28, 2014 by the National Marine Fisheries Service  
31 (NMFS). Modifications also reduce the maximum allowable retention of sardines (20%  
32 per landing, by weight) in commercial fisheries for Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, and  
33 other species.

34  
35 **5. 635-041-0075**

36 **Columbia River Treaty Indian Commercial Gill Net Salmon Season Set.**

37 Adopted September 18, 2014: effective September 23, 2014 through October 31, 2014.

38 This amended rule allows commercial sales of fish caught during the Treaty Indian  
39 commercial fall salmon gill net fishery in the Columbia River and its tributaries. The  
40 fishing period authorized for the Treaty Indian fall commercial gill net fishery is scheduled  
41 to begin September 23, 2015 and run through September 25, 2015. Modifications are  
42 consistent with action taken September 18, 2014 by the Columbia River Compact  
43 agencies of the states of Oregon and Washington in cooperation with the Columbia River  
44 Treaty Tribes.

45  
46 **6. 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180**

47 **2014 Fall Commercial Seasons Set for Columbia River Select Area Fisheries**

1 Adopted September 18, 2014: effective September 19, 2014 through October 31, 2014.  
2 This amended rule sets additional fishing periods for the ongoing 2014 fall commercial  
3 gill net salmon seasons in three Columbia River Select Areas including: Blind and  
4 Knappa soughs, Tongue Point, South Channel and Deep River.  
5

6 **7. 635-042-0031**

7 **Early Fall Commercial Fisheries Authorized for the Mainstem Columbia River**

8 Adopted September 18, 2014: effective September 19, 2014 through September 30,  
9 2014.

10 This amended rule authorizes three additional 12.5 hour fishing periods for the ongoing  
11 commercial research seine net fishery. The first new fishing period commences  
12 September 23, 2014. Allowed sales from the fishery include Chinook, coho, pink and  
13 sockeye salmon and shad.  
14

15 *Action: Commissioner Webber moved to adopt the temporary rules 1 through 7 as*  
16 *set out on the agenda. Vice Chair Finley seconded the motion and the motion*  
17 *passed unanimously by a vote of six after Chair Levy took an individual oral vote.*  
18

19 **INTERIM DIRECTOR**

20 Debbie Colbert, Deputy Director for Administration, said Director Roy Elicker announced  
21 his departure earlier this month to take a new position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
22 Service. He will formally retire from state service when he leaves his position at the  
23 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); effective October 1, 2014. His last day  
24 in the office was September 19, 2014. Deputy Director Colbert said standard practice for  
25 the Commission is to select an interim director to provide for the day-to-day operations of  
26 the agency until the Commission hires a new permanent director. The Commission will  
27 address the hiring process for a permanent director at its next meeting on October 10,  
28 2014 in Medford. She said Deputy Director Curt Melcher has offered to be the Interim  
29 Director. He has worked for ODFW for 27 years; the last seven have been in the  
30 Director's Office. He has worked in a variety of management and non-management  
31 positions. She said most recently as Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs and  
32 previously as the Fish Division Deputy Administrator for Columbia and Marine Programs.  
33

34 Chair Levy asked for a motion after hearing the Commission had no questions.  
35

36 *Action: Commissioner Akenson moved to appoint Curt Melcher as interim director*  
37 *for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife under terms and conditions*  
38 *consistent with DAS employment policies until the Commission completes the*  
39 *selection and appointment of a permanent director. Commissioner Webber*  
40 *seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a vote of six after*  
41 *Chair Levy took an individual oral vote of each Commissioner.*  
42

43 **Public Testimony:** There was no public testimony.  
44

45 **ADJOURN**

46 Chair Levy adjourned the Commission meeting at 3:13 p.m.