



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Commission Tour
Thursday, April 21, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.
Oregon Hatchery Research Center
2418 East Fall Creek Road
Alsea, OR 97324

Meeting:
Friday, April 22, 2016 – 8:00 a.m.
“The Barn” Bandon’s Conference & Community Center
1200 11th Street SW
Bandon, Oregon 97411

Cape Perpetua Visitor Center
2400 Highway 101 N
Yachats, OR 97498

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2 *Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the*
3 *Commission.*
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5 Notice of these meetings was made by press release via statewide media circulation.
6 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:
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|--------------------------------|---|
| Michael Finley, Chair | Curt Melcher, Director |
| Bob Webber, Vice Chair | Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director |
| Holly Akenson, Commissioner | Steve Sanders, Assistant Attorney General |
| Greg Wolley, Commissioner | Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General |
| Bruce Buckmaster, Commissioner | Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant |
| Jason Atkinson, Commissioner | |

8 MEETING

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10 On Friday, April 22, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., Chair Michael Finley called the Oregon Fish and
11 Wildlife Commission (Commission) meeting to order. The Chair excused Commissioner
12 Anderson’s absence.
13

14 DIRECTOR’S REPORT

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16 Field Reports – in written form only; *this report is available in the meeting materials and*
17 *at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp*
18

19 Expenditure Report

20 *Staff: Camron Smith, Budget Manager*

21 Revenue is currently lagging behind a straight-line projection for the biennium, 26.99%
22 vs. 33.3%, there are a couple of reasons for this. First is the seasonal nature of our
23 license sales revenue. While January is typically a good performer, the ending months
24 of the year are rather slow. We will see a significant increase in May due to the
25 controlled hunt deadline.
26

27 On March 29th the Department hosted the first of two External Budget Advisory
28 Committee (EBAC) meetings.
29

30 January and February totaled over \$1 million in ad-valorem revenue for the
31 Department.
32

1 Recreational license sales are coming in as expected, with revenue roughly 18% higher
2 as a result of the license fee adjustment.

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4 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*
5 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

6
7 *17-19 Projected Budget and Policy Option Package Overview*
8 *Staff: Cameron Smith, Budget Manager*

9
10 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

11
12 *Commissioner Akenson asked that the Commission see the proposals earlier to allow*
13 *adequate time to review the materials.*

14
15 *Chair Finley, Commissioners Akenson and Atkinson requested the Department*
16 *schedule a phone conference to discuss POPs in further detail prior to the request for*
17 *approval at the June 10, 2016 Commission Meeting.*

18
19 *Briefing on Cougar Biology/Ecology and Cougar Plan Overview*

20 *Staff: Derek Broman, Carnivore and Furbearer Coordinator*
21 *DeWaine Jackson, Wildlife Research Project Leader*

22 *The Commission will be given a briefing on cougar biology/ecology and an*
23 *Overview of the Cougar Plan.*

24
25 *Derek Broman provided a presentation to the Commission briefing them on*
26 *Oregon cougar management history, cougar biology and ecology, 2006 Oregon*
27 *cougar management plan objectives, and adaptive management process.*

28
29 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
30 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

31
32 *Cougar Plan Review Invited Guest Panel*

33 *Invited Guests Panel Number 1*
34

Jim Akenson; Oregon Hunters Association	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
Reed Anderson; Oregon Sheep Growers Association	Historically would have a cougar issue one or two times a year, now there are a dozen a year. Sheep farms are reduced partially because of predation issues. Neighbor needed to take six lions in one year, a lot of the smaller sheep farmers are gone. This is not only a financial issue but also becomes an emotional issue. A lot of the predation is not being reported to the Department. A cat can grab a lamb and jump the fence without leaving any evidence that it was there. Cats

	are taking expensive breeding stock, significant impact on these ranchers.
Stan Steel; Oregon Outdoor Council	<p>The 2006 Cougar Plan is good. It has provided an increase of an incredible animal, along with the increase came conflict. Measure 18 in 1994, disease, and other impacts; if we don't balance all of the impacts something is going to have give; loss of hunter opportunity, dollars that come to Oregon for conservation and loss of black-tailed deer.</p> <p>As hunters what we would like to ask for is specific hot spot zone management, another term for target areas.</p> <p>Referred to Nevada Project 18 – this was an intensive nine year cougar and coyote control management process that resulted in increased Mule deer herd population, and license sale.</p> <p>Ask for the Department to look at all the facets. Predator management is complex. This plan needs to be updated and revised. Goal five (5) needs to be an important goal. Ask the Commission to help us out on this with a good revision of the Oregon Cougar Plan.</p>
Jenny Dresler; Oregon Farm Bureau	<p>Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp</p>

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Invited Guests Panel Number 2

Scott Beckstead; Humane Society of the United States	<p>Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp</p>
Renee Owens, Sally Mackler; Predator Defense Institute	<p>Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp</p>
Brent Shaw; Cascadia Wildlands	<p>Asking for six things from the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better method of estimation of cougar population. Until there is a better model we are requesting that the Commission us the two cougar per 100 square kilometer method;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased monitoring and demographic data collection; • Dedicated funding toward education and outreach; • Eliminate the Cougar target area approach; • Strategies regarding hunting should include consideration of cougar social structure and the way that they distribute across the landscape. An approach favoring localized management; • Request several changes to cougar hunting regulations such as removal of cougar tags from the sports pac, a set cougar season, and return to the policy of one tag per hunter; • Ask that the department relocate rather than euthanize; • Require and assist the public in non-lethal measures before lethal.
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2 *Scott Beckstead, Renne Owens, and provided the Commission with a*
3 *presentation providing their position in regard to the Cougar Management Plan.*
4 *The presentation included information on Measure 18 and beyond; unseen cost of*
5 *trophy hunting; current plan needs major revisions; eliminating target zone*
6 *approach; human safety; livestock loss; scientific criteria; ungulates; new plan*
7 *direction; conservation and education; and vision for cougar conservation.*
8

9 *This presentation is located in the Commission material and can be viewed at*
10 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
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12 Commissioner Akenson asked that Dr. Jackson provide the Commission with a white
13 paper that summarizes, with citations the successes and failures of the use of target
14 areas. Commissioner Akenson would like to hear more what he has learned, what has
15 been done, and why the target areas are being proposed in the way that they are?
16

17 Chair Finley ask the Department to come back to the Commission on why the 3000
18 number, adopted in 1994 is still being used as a management objective, what are the
19 criteria to determine a proper minimum? Come back to the Commission with information
20 if this is still a valid minimum or should it be raised.
21

22 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

23 Curt Melcher, Director, requested the Commission ratify the following temporary rules.
24 The 10 temporary rules were previously adopted by the Director under his emergency
25 action authority.
26

1 **1.) 635-018-0090**

2 **2016 Spring Chinook Seasons on the Lower Deschutes and Hood Rivers**

3 Adopted March 11, 2016: effective April 15, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

4 This amended rule allows the sport harvest of hatchery spring Chinook salmon in the
5 Lower Deschutes River from May 1 through July 31, 2016; and sport harvest of hatchery spring
6 Chinook salmon in the Hood River from April 15 through June 30, 2016. The Deschutes River
7 open area extends from the mouth at the I-84 Bridge upstream to Sherars Falls. The Hood River
8 open area extends from the mouth to the mainstem confluence with the East Fork; and the West
9 Fork from the confluence with the mainstem upstream to the angling deadline 200 feet
10 downstream of Punchbowl Falls. The daily bag limit for the Lower Deschutes River is one (1)
11 adult hatchery salmon and five (5) hatchery jack salmon per day. The daily bag limit for the
12 Hood River is two (2) adult hatchery salmon per day; and five (5) hatchery jack salmon per day.
13 All wild Chinook salmon must be released unharmed.

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15 **2.) 635-042-0145**

16 **Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Salmon and Shad Fishery Modified**

17 Adopted March 24, 2016: effective March 28, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

18 This amended rule reduces the size of the area previously authorized for commercial
19 salmon fishing in the Youngs Bay Select Area of the Columbia River during the period from
20 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2016. The new area boundaries are from the first
21 powerlines downstream of the Walluski River upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and
22 Klaskanine rivers (Walluski Area). Rule revisions are consistent with action taken March 24,
23 2016 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

24
25 **3.) 635-065-0001**

26 **Amend Rules to Correct 2016 Oregon Big Game Regulations Adopted by Reference**

27 Adopted: March 25, 2016. Effective Dates: March 25, 2016 through September 20, 2016.

28 This amendment is needed to correct two errors in the 2016 Oregon Big Game
29 Regulations which are adopted by reference.

30 1) The cost of a Uniformed Service Buck Deer Tag should be \$26.50 (not \$24.50 as
31 listed on page 6 of 2016 Oregon Big Game Regulations)

32 2) No person younger than 14 years of age shall hunt with a firearm or bow and arrow
33 unless person is accompanied by an adult, or is hunting on land owned by the parent or legal
34 guardian of the person (not 11 years of age as stated on page 8 of the 2016 Oregon Big Game
35 Regulations.)

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37 **4.) 635-011-0100, 635-014-0090, 635-016-0090, 635-017-0090, 635-021-0090, 635-039-0090**

38 **Sport Fishing Regulation Corrections and Changes Statewide for 2016**

39 Adopted March 18, 2016: effective April 1, 2016 through September 27, 2016.

40 These amended rules correct errors in the published version of the **2016 Oregon Sport**
41 **Fishing Regulations**. Corrections include season date adjustments, gear restriction
42 clarifications, location and deadline clarifications, and updates to statewide regulations and
43 definitions. Modifications allow the use of two fishing rods while fishing for salmon, steelhead,
44 trout, and warmwater species in areas of the Willamette River and its tributaries, including
45 flowing waters that are open to angling for hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, trout, or
46 warmwater gamefish.

1 **5.) 635-042-0022, 635-042-0160, 635-042-0180**

2 Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for March 29, 2016

3 Adopted March 28, 2016: effective March 28, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

4 These amended rules allow a non-Indian commercial spring Chinook fishery in the
5 mainstem Columbia River in an area from the mouth of the Columbia River upstream to Beacon
6 Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). The authorized fishing period begins Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at
7 12:00 noon and runs through 9:00 p.m. (9 hours). Retention and sales of non-adipose fin-
8 clipped Chinook salmon caught between 12:00 noon and 12:00 midnight March 29, 2016, from
9 the Deep River and Blind/Knappa sloughs select areas is prohibited. Rule modifications are
10 consistent with action taken March 28, 2016 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of
11 Fish and Wildlife in a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

12
13 **6.) 635-042-0145**

14 **Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Salmon and Shad Fishery Modified**

15 Adopted April 4, 2016: effective April 6, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

16 This amended rule authorizes four new 4-hour commercial fishing periods for salmon
17 and shad in the Youngs Bay Select Area of the Columbia River. The first new 4-hour fishing
18 period begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, 2016. The fishing area boundaries are from the
19 first powerlines downstream of the Walluski River upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and
20 Klaskanine rivers (Walluski Area). Rule revisions are consistent with action taken April 4, 2016
21 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at a meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

22
23 **635-042-0022**

24 **Columbia River Commercial Spring Chinook Drift Net Fishery Set for April 5, 2016**

25 Adopted April 4, 2016: effective April 5, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

26 This amended rule allows a non-Indian commercial spring Chinook fishery in the
27 mainstem Columbia River in an area from the mouth of the Columbia River upstream to Beacon
28 Rock (Zones 1 thru 5). The authorized fishing period begins Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at
29 10:00 a.m. and runs through 8:00 p.m. (10 hours). Rule modifications are consistent with action
30 taken April 5, 2016 by the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife in a
31 meeting of the Columbia River Compact.

32
33 **635-023-0134**

34 **Open Spring Chinook Sport Fishery on the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam**

35 Adopted April 4, 2016: effective April 5, 2016 through July 31, 2016.

36 This amended rule opens a spring Chinook fishery on the Snake River from Dug Bar
37 Boat Ramp upstream to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam beginning on April 23, 2016 to
38 coincide with the State of Idaho's regulations for this fishery.

39
40 **635-023-0125**

41 **Columbia River Spring Recreational Season for Salmon, Steelhead and Shad Closed**

42 Adopted April 7, 2016: effective April 8, 2016 through June 15, 2016.

43 This amended rule closes the season for recreational spring Chinook, steelhead and
44 shad on the Columbia River mainstem downstream of Bonneville Dam beginning at 11:59 pm
45 Friday, April 8, 2016. All other regulations as published in the **2016 Oregon Sport Fishing**
46 **Regulations** pamphlet remain in effect. Modifications are consistent with action taken by the
47 Departments of Fish and Wildlife for the States of Oregon and Washington on April 7, 2016.

1 *Action:*
2 Commissioner Webber moved to ratify the 10 temporary rules as listed on today's
3 agenda. Akenson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously;
4 Commissioner Anderson excused.

5
6 **PUBLIC FORUM**

7 *Note: This part of the agenda is for comments on topics not scheduled elsewhere on the*
8 *agenda. Please contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office of the*
9 *Director at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the public forum. If you*
10 *bring written summaries or other materials to the meeting please provide the*
11 *Commission Assistant with 20 copies prior to your testimony. The Commission is unable*
12 *to take action on items brought to their attention in this forum.*

13
14 **Conservation and Management Plan Implementation in Elk River**

<i>Mary Wahl</i>	Provided written testimony now found in Commission materials at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
<i>Ann Vileisis</i>	<i>Fall Chinook on the Elk River is at risk of extinction despite decades of efforts by landowners, the Department and others. It will take multiple efforts to turn around the non-viable future of the fall run of Chinook Leaving the gates open the whole time that spawners are returning so fewer hatchery adults stay in the river or go to the tributaries Engaging the Hatchery Research Center, searching for improved ways to attract the hatchery fish back into the hatchery and back into the river. Putting weirs across two of the important tributaries.</i>

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16
17 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**
18 The Commission to approve the draft, November 9, 2015 Commission minutes. Deferred to
19 June 10, 2016 Commission meeting in Salem.

20
21 *Action:* Deferred

22
23 **EXHIBIT B: CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF**
24 **OREGON; CEREMONIAL FISHERY AT WILLAMETTE FALLS**

25 The Commission adopted a rule that would allow ceremonial salmon and steelhead
26 harvest using traditional methods at Willamette Falls by the Confederated Tribes of the
27 Grand Ronde to support the Tribes annual "First Salmon Ceremony".

28
29 Steve Marx, West Region Manager
30 Jeff Boechler, North Willamette Watershed District Manage

1 Kelly Dirksen, Fish Wildlife Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand
2 Ronde

3
4 The Commission was briefed on the proposed amendments to OAR 635-041-
5 0610, authorization of ceremonial harvest of salmon and steelhead at the
6 Willamette Falls by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of
7 Oregon.

8
9 *This presentation is located in the Commission material and can be viewed at*
10 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

11
12 *Action:*

13 Commissioner Buckmaster moved to adopt OAR 635-041-0610 as shown in Attachment
14 3. The Commission by acclamation unanimously approved the motion.

15
16 **Exhibit C: 2016-17 GAME BIRD REGULATIONS**

17 The Commission adopted the game bird season regulations for 2016-2017.

18
19 Dave Budeau, Upland Game Bird Program Coordinator
20 Brandon Reishus, Migratory Game Program Coordinator

21
22 The Commission was provided a presentation on proposed season dates, bag
23 and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2016-2017 game bird
24 hunting seasons. The presentation also included recommendations on eligibility
25 of hunting preserves and recommended several minor changes on three Wildlife
26 Areas.

27
28 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
29 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

30
31 Public testimony

Jenny Dresler Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB)	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
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33 Commissioner Buckmaster directed staff to work with Jenny Dresler on the OFB
34 proposal, and report back to Commission.

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36 Commissioner Akenson moved to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 045, 051, 052,
37 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff to set regulations for 2016-2017 game bird
38 seasons, to amend OAR Chapter 635, Division 047 to modify rules for private hunting
39 preserves, and to amend OAR Chapter 635, division 008 to modify rules for public use
40 of Department managed wildlife areas. Commissioner Webber seconded the motion
41 and the motion was carried unanimously.

1 **Exhibit D: COQUILLE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA PLAN**

2 The Commission will be asked to approve rules for Coquille Valley Wildlife Area Plan.

3
4 Staff: Tim Walters, Umpqua Watershed District Manager
5 Stuart Love, Charleston District Wildlife Biologist
6

7 Provided a presentation to the Commission briefing them on proposed goals and
8 objectives of the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area Management Plan. Staff proposal
9 is for the Commission to formally adopt this wildlife area plan, with a plan review
10 in five years.

11
12 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*
13 http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
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public testimony

Jim Akenson, Oregon Hunters Association	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
Mary Wahl	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
Sharon Waterman Neighbor Land owner	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
Charlie Waterman	Concern that the new channels will attract beavers. Have requested to have beaver dams removed, a portion of one dam has been removed.
Jenny Dressler, Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB)	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp
Joseph Metzger, Audubon	Supports the plan, increase waterfowl in the area, this will give the public an opportunity for access in the area.
Kathleen Martin	Supports the plan, opportunity to create a legacy for Oregonians, will help move Oregon toward delisting of Coho.
Fred Messerly Chainman Beaver Slough Drainage District	This working landscape and partnership evolved to make this happen, and is what makes it work. Drainage objective is to create the infrastructure that will let landowners do what they would like to on their land and will provide winter habitat for Coho. This plan has been well vetted through all the permitting agencies. Key to success is the ability to

	manage water.
John Knutson	Supports the plan, grazing will still be allowed, the land will not be completely taken out of farm production. This is going to make a huge impact to Coho recovery.
Steve Denny Nature Conservancy	Provided written testimony <i>now located in the Commission material and can be viewed at</i> http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

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Action:

Commissioner Wolley moved to adopt the Goals and Objectives of the 2016 Coquille Valley Wildlife Area Management Plan and to amend OAR 635-008-0068 as proposed by staff. Commissioner Buckmaster seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Exhibit E: WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

The Commission will be asked to approve rule amendments to Division 001, Wildlife Violator Compact.

Staff: Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator

Provided the Commission with a presentation briefing them on proposed amendments to OAR 635-001-0210 which implements the compact to ensure certain types of suspensions in member states result in a suspension in Oregon.

This presentation is located in the Commission material and can be viewed at
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

No public testimony

Action:

Commissioner Akenson moved to adopt amendments to OAR 635-001-0210 as proposed by staff. Commissioner Wolley seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Exhibit F: 2016 OCEAN SALMON REGULATIONS FOR STATE WATERS

The Commission will be asked to adopt 2016 ocean salmon fishing seasons for Oregon state waters.

Staff: Chris Kern; Fish Division Deputy Administrator for Ocean Salmon and Columbia

Provided a presentation to the Commission on proposed 2016 ocean recreational and commercial salmon fisheries season dates and ocean sport and commercial Chinook regulations for terminal areas.

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This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

Public testimony

John Fraser	Real problem down there. There is no reason to have a hundred river boats on Chetco River. Only one or two are from Oregon the rest are from California. Five fish is not enough to make an income. Allow 600 fish at 10 fish a day for commercial, along with the sport fishers.
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Action:

Commissioner Webber moved to adopt the 2016 regulations for ocean sport and commercial salmon fisheries, and ocean terminal sport and commercial fisheries as proposed by staff and as reflected in draft OARs shown in revised attachment 3 with exception of allowing Chetco Sport Fishery Oct. 1-3, 8-9; two Chinook a day, only one wild and five wild for the season. Commissioner Wolley seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

Exhibit G: 2016 SPORT AND COMMERCIAL PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The Commission will be asked to adopt the 2016 regulations for recreational and commercial Pacific halibut fisheries.

Staff: Lynn Mattes, Project Leader - Groundfish and Pacific Halibut

Lynn provided a presentation to the Commission on annual catch limits and management measures for sport and commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries.

This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/16/04_April/index.asp

No public testimony

Action:

Commissioner Buckmaster moved to adopt the staff recommendations for the 2016 sport and commercial Pacific Halibut fisheries as shown in attachment 3. Commissioner Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.