



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Minutes

Meeting:
Friday, January 12, 2024 – 8:00 AM
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Virtual Meeting
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

1 *Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the Commission.*

2
3 Notice of these meetings had been made by press release of statewide media circulation. Those
4 attending part or all the meeting included:

Mary Wahl, Chair -Virtual	Curt Melcher, Director
Becky Hatfield-Hyde, Vice Chair - Virtual	Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director of Administration
Bob Spelbrink, Commissioner -Virtual	Nick Myatt, East Region Manager-Virtual
Mark Labhart, Commissioner -Virtual	Chris Kern, West Region Manager
Kathayoon Khalil, Commissioner -Virtual	Bernadette Graham Hudson, Wildlife Division Administrator
Leslie King, Commissioner	Mike Harrington, Fish Division Administrator
	Sarah Reif, Habitat Division Administrator
	Michelle Tate, Executive Assistant
	Casey Thomas, Captain Oregon State Police
	Anika Marriott, Assistant Attorney General
	Erin Donald, Assistant Attorney General

6
7 **MEETING**

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9 On Friday, **January 12, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Chair Wahl called the Oregon Fish and Wildlife**
10 **Commission** (the Commission) meeting to order.

11
12 **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

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14 Field Reports – in written form only; *this report is available in the meeting materials and at*
15 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/Field%20Report%20January.p
16 [df](#)

17
18 **Expenditure Report**

19 Staff: Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Administration
20 Shannon reported that expenditures are on track with no significant projected budget overages or
21 shortfalls anticipated. At the close of November 30, 2023, ODFW’s unrestricted cash balance
22 finished at \$66.5 million and restricted cash came in at \$60.6 million, for a total of \$127.1 million
23 ending balance. The Governor’s Office provided additional deadlines for submitting agency 2025-
24 27 policy option packages, legislative concepts, and other budget adjustment information to policy
25 advisors and CFO. The agency will begin submitting agency request budget information on
26 January 22, 2024 and will meet regularly with policy advisors and CFO analysts following that
27 submission. Public engagement on agency request budget development will need to be modified

1 and, we will provide more information on the modified timelines during the February 2024
2 Financial Report.

3
4 *This report is available in the meeting materials and at*

5 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/Commission%20Financial%20](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20Jan%202024.pdf)
6 [Report%20Jan%202024.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/Commission%20Financial%20Report%20Jan%202024.pdf)

7
8 **ADAPTING TO CLIMATE AND OCEAN CHANGE REPORT**

9 How Ocean Hypoxia Affects Fish Behavior

10 Leif Rasmuson, Marine Fishery Reserve Project Leader

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12 *This presentation is located in the commission material and can be viewed at*

13 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/RasmusonCommissionAirV2_](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/RasmusonCommissionAirV2_Final.pdf)
14 [Final.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/24/01_Jan/RasmusonCommissionAirV2_Final.pdf)

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16 **Adopt Temporary Rules**

17 The Commission ratified the following temporary rules. The three (3) temporary rules were
18 previously adopted by the director under his emergency action authority.

19
20 **1. 635-005-0465**

21 **Commercial Dungeness Crab Season Partial Opening**

22 Adopted 12/21/2023: effective 12/27/2023 through 3/31/2024.

23 This amended rule sets the opening date for the Oregon 2023-2024 ocean commercial Dungeness
24 crab fishery from Cape Foulweather northward to Cape Falcon and continues to delay the season
25 from Cape Falcon northward to the OR/WA border until further test fishing is conducted.

26
27 **2. 635-023-0101**

28 **Modify Recreational Retention Seasons for Sturgeon in Bonneville and The Dalles Pools and**
29 **Adjacent Tributaries**

30 Adopted 1/2/2024: effective 1/2/2024 through 3/31/2024.

31 This amended rule modifies the recreational retention season for white sturgeon on the mainstem
32 Columbia River in the Bonneville (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam) and The Dalles
33 (The Dalles Dam upstream to the John Day Dam) pools and all adjacent tributaries. Retention will
34 be allowed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from January 1 through February 7 in the
35 Bonneville Pool and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays January 1 through January 29 in
36 The Dalles Pool.

37
38 **3. 635-023-0101**

39 **Close Retention of Sturgeon in Bonneville and The Dalles Pools and Adjacent Tributaries**

40 Adopted 1/3/2024: effective 1/4/2024 through 3/31/2024.

41 This amended rule closes the retention season for white sturgeon on the mainstem Columbia River
42 in the Bonneville Pool (Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam) and The Dalles Pool (The
43 Dalles Dam upstream to the John Day Dam) and all adjacent tributaries.

44
45 Action:

1 Commissioner Spelbrink moved to ratify the three (3) temporary rules set forth in the today's
2 agenda. Commissioner King seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously, six (6) in
3 favor.

4
5 **COMMISSION UPDATES**

6
7 **OTHER BUSSINESS**

8
9 **PUBLIC FORUM**

10 This part of the agenda was for comments on topics not scheduled on the agenda. The Commission
11 is not able to act directly on comments received during public forum at the meeting.

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13 Wolf Management Plan
14 John Rosapepe, Endangered Species Coalition

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16 Tribal Tags
17 John Raines
18 Cliff Bellew

19
20 Rehabilitating Washington migratory birds
21 Lynn Tompkins, Blue Mountain Wildlife

22
23 **Exhibit A: COMMISSION MINUTES**

24 Action:

25 Commissioner King moved to approve the December 15, 2023, meeting minutes with
26 continued authority to correct grammar and punctuation. Commissioner Spelbrink seconded the
27 motion, and the motion was carried six (6) in favor.

28
29 **EXHIBIT B: DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT**

30 The Commission considered options for recruiting for a new agency director.
31 Curt Melcher, Director

32
33 Public Testimony

Quin Read	Portland Audubon
Jacob Williams	
John Raines	
Dannielle Moser	
Bethany Cotton	
Adam Bronstein	

34 Approval
35

1
2 Action:
3 Commissioner Hatfield-Hyde moved to approve the draft Recruitment Plan for the Fish and
4 Wildlife Director position for additional public comment and final approval by the Commission at
5 a subsequent meeting. Commissioner Labhart seconded the motion, and the motion was carried six
6 (6) in favor.
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9 Chair Wahl adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT