



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

*Commission minutes are considered draft until approved by the
Commission at its next meeting.*

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

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

MEETING

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Administrative Rules

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

1. 635-042-0031

Early Fall Commercial Fisheries Authorized for the Mainstem Columbia River.

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

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

2. 635-004-0375

Maximum allowable Retention of Incidentally Caught Sardines is Reduced.

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

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

3. 635-014-0090

Big Creek (Clatsop County) Angling Regulations Modified.

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

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

4. 635-004-0375

Commercial Sardine Fishery Retention Regulations Modified.

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

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

5. 635-041-0075

Columbia River Treaty Indian Commercial Gill Net Salmon Season Set.

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

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

6. 635-042-0160, 635-042-0170, 635-042-0180

2014 Fall Commercial Seasons Set for Columbia River Select Area Fisheries

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

7. 635-042-0031

Early Fall Commercial Fisheries Authorized for the Mainstem Columbia River

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

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

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

INTERIM DIRECTOR

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

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

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

Public Testimony: There was no public testimony.

ADJOURN

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