

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) derives approximately one third of its biennial budget from sport and commercial license and tag fees. The department has two sets of fees; one set of fees is established in statute by the Oregon legislature and one set is adopted in permanent rule by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission).

Senate Bill 247 (SB 247) was enacted by the 2015 Legislature to adjust the statutorily set fees by increasing, decreasing, or establishing new fees. SB 247 is structured to incrementally increase most recreational fees every two years throughout the 2016-2022 fee cycle (as opposed to increasing in a single large increment at the beginning of the fee cycle). The first fee adjustment took effect on January 1, 2016.

On October 9, 2015, the Commission approved adjustments to administratively set fees with the understanding that it would consider further adjustments to some of those fees at two-year increments under the same model as SB 247. Today staff is recommending that the Commission adopt Oregon Administrative Rules to adjust license and tag fees to be effective January 1, 2020.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In 2013, the department began a process to evaluate the potential for new license products and approaches, using an extensive survey of nearly 60,000 license buyers, internal staff surveys, and a series of eight focus groups capped by a full-day discussion with representatives from a wide variety of interests. The information from this effort was used by the department to develop several new license products, or new approaches to licensing processes for inclusion into discussions with the public and External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC).

The department started its public outreach process in January 2014 to discuss the potential of adjusting fees. Below is a summary of those outreach activities:

In March 2014, the department began meeting with its EBAC to develop its six-year budget strategies and refine the 2015-17 budget proposal. EBAC includes representatives from conservation groups, local government, sports groups, commercial fishing, and other interested parties. EBAC meetings were held on March 11, March 25, April 8, May 1, and June 10, 2014.

A subgroup of EBAC met separately to focus on the strategies to balance the Commercial Fish Fund (CFF) over the next six years. The subgroup met with department staff on March 26, and April 11, 2014.

Throughout May 2014, Town Hall meetings were hosted at eight locations across the state to gather public input on the budget proposal and fee adjustments. In total, about 300 members of the public attended these meetings and provided input.

In addition to public comments received during the Town Hall meetings, the department received more than 130 written comments. These written comments were received through June 5, 2014.

The Commission took public testimony at their August 1, 2014 hearing where they adopted a revised department recommended budget, new license products, and specific fee adjustments.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Joint Natural Resource Committee, co-chaired by Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield assigned a workgroup to review the department's proposed fee adjustments presented in Senate Bill 247. Representative Rayfield was appointed the chair of the work group and numerous stakeholder representatives were asked to participate. The group met several times to review the proposed fee adjustments. Modifications to some of the original fee proposals were made, consensus was achieved, and the fee bill was approved by the House and Senate.

ISSUE 1

FORMAL ADOPTION OF OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT SETS NEW LICENSE FEES THAT ARE NOT SET IN STATUTE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

ANALYSIS

A summary of the recommended fee adjustments is presented in Attachment 5 (2020 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposed Administrative Fee Schedule).

OPTIONS

- Option 1. Approve ODFW staff recommended fee adjustments.
- Option 2. Adopt modified fee adjustments.
- Option 3. No action. Do not adjust any administratively set fees.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend Chapter 635, Divisions 001, 007, 043, 044, 046, 047, 049, 050, 055, 075, 200 and 435 relating to increasing administratively set licenses and fees, as proposed by staff in Attachment 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Filing