

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission  
Special Meeting  
February 6, 2014  
Boise, Idaho**

Present in the Director's Office: Jim Unsworth, Deputy Director; Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Kathleen Trever, Deputy Attorney General; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Jeff Gould, Wildlife Chief; and Mike Keckler, Communications Chief.

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Barowsky with Commissioners Brad Corkill, Fred Trevey, Randy Budge, Will Naillon, and Kenny Anderson participating. Commissioner Mark Doerr was excused.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Consent Calendar**

- Minutes, November 13-14, 2014

**14-11** Commissioner Corkill moved and Commissioner Budge seconded a motion to approve the November 13-14, 2014 minutes listed in consent calendar. All Commissioners voted in favor.

**LEGISLATION**

**Fish and Game Sponsored Bill Analysis/Discussion**

Deputy Director Sharon Kiefer provided a status of Fish and Game sponsored bills and RSs (Appendix 47, Exhibit 15).

Senate Bill 1207 - Amend Wildlife Special Plate legislation terms from "elk wildlife special plate" and "cutthroat wildlife special plate" to "animal wildlife special plate" and "fish wildlife special plate" to allow broader spectrum of designs to retain customer interest. Senate Bill 1207 is being held in the Transportation Committee and is dead this session.

Senate Bill 1216 - FY14 Supplemental Appropriation. Has passed both houses.

Senate Bill 1219 - Exempt duplicate licenses and tags from set-aside requirements and revise amount of license set-aside for resident Disabled Combination –Fishing Licenses. Awaiting bill hearing in Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

Senate Bill 1220 - Expand wildlife species covered by a reimbursable penalty of \$50 to all protected wildlife that is not otherwise identified in Idaho Code 36-1404. Has passed the Senate. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation.

House Bill 398 - Amends existing law to provide for discounted license fees, to authorize a discount in fees to encourage hunting, fishing and trapping, to encourage purchase of licenses in consecutive years and to encourage the purchase of multiple tags and permits. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

House Bill 399 - Amends existing law to remove a prohibition relating to the hunting of big game by persons with a junior hunting license who are ten or eleven years of age and are accompanied in the field by an adult licensed to hunt in Idaho; to provide that a license may be issued to certain qualified persons who are nine years of age to allow the application for a controlled hunt big game tag; and to provide that persons with certain licenses shall be entitled to fish in the waters of the state for a period of three consecutive days in each license year. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

RS 22427 - Increase resident fees in Idaho Code 36-416 and make other changes: Increase fees for all resident licenses, tags, and permits by about 20% to affect 2015 fees. Awaiting bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation Committee.

House Bill 423 – Wolf Control Fund and Wolf Depredation Control Board, Awaiting a bill hearing in House Resources and Conservation. Print hearing for new RS on 2/5 that would revise HB 423.

### **New Bill Analysis/Discussion**

Senate Bill 1271 – Proclaim Idaho Giant Salamander as state amphibian. The bill has been printed.

Senate Bill 1276 – Amends existing law to revise the definition of “qualified organization” for the purpose of issuance of free permits and tags to military veterans with disabilities to include certain nonprofit organizations that are qualified under section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Commission supported.

Senate Bill 1278 - Revise provisions of nonresident disabled American Veteran hunting license and tags.

Current Law/Background: Nonresident disabled veterans who are hunting “in association” with a qualified organization and who meet disability criteria similar to resident disabled veterans, are eligible for reduced fee hunting license and reduced fee deer, elk, turkey, and bear tags. This structure creates substantial administrative burden on the department because the license system must be overridden administratively at HQ for each transaction to sell these reduced fee products. FG staff must review documentation from each qualified organization to evaluate whether “an association” is demonstrated and that the organization meets statutory criteria as a qualified organization. Further, staff is fielding constant requests from nonresident veterans to locate qualified organizations for them. Many nonresident disabled veterans are frustrated by the requirement to have an association with a qualified organization; conversely, there appears to be limited capacity of qualified organizations to participate in the program.

**14-12** Commissioner Naillon moved and Commissioner Corkill seconded a motion to support Senate Bill 1278. All Commissioners voted in favor.

House Bill 431 – Amends provisions for the testing for chronic wasting disease of certain domestic cervidae, provides for inventory and facility inspection of farms and ranches and revises fees. Sent to the House floor with a Do Pass by House Resources and Conservation.

Current Law/Background: This bill is somewhat similar to Senate Bill 1166aa, which passed the Senate but did not get a hearing in the House in 2013. Compared to S 1166aa, HO431 further relaxes Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing requirements for domestic cervidae (primarily elk). HO431 reduces CWD sample submission proportion down to 10% although 100% testing is still imposed for operators who maintain export status in accordance with the national CWD herd certification program. HO431 requires a facility inspection at least once every 5 years, compared with existing ISDA rule requiring annual inspections. A producer could request more frequent inspections. Inspections are primarily done to evaluate the integrity of the enclosure fence and to check for presence of any wild cervids within the facility. Domestic cervid producers are required to immediately notify ISDA upon detection of an escape by domestics, or presence of wild cervids within their facility. The bill also increases head fees to fund the domestic cervidae administration and inspection program. Currently, the domestic cervidae program does not generate enough revenue to fund necessary work by ISDA.

**14-13** Commissioner Trevey moved and Commissioner Naillon seconded a motion to monitor House Bill 431. All Commissioners voted in favor.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Discussion/Scoping items to develop for 2/13 meeting related to upcoming season setting and rule proposals.

Commissioner Brad Corkill suggested changing the 72 hour check time to 14 days for using wolf snares in remote areas where it is not practical to check every 3 days. Commissioner Corkill requested staff to provide a report back to the Commission at the 2/13/14 meeting.

Commissioner Trevey requested staff to provide an analysis of the possibility to relocate or translocate elk from areas where the elk are creating problems to areas where the elk population is in need of recovery or meeting objectives.

Jeff Gould reported that staff is working through preliminary proposals for the big game season setting. The scoping period is February 17- March 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners should have their proposal packages by March 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

  
Robert Barowsky  
Chairman

  
Virgil Moore  
Secretary