

NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Fish and Wildlife Commission to meet May 8-9

OLYMPIA – Several Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) management initiatives will be discussed during a Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting May 8-9 in Olympia.

The commission, which sets policy for WDFW, will convene both days at 8:30 a.m. in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. S.E.

On the first day of the public meeting, the commission is scheduled to receive a briefing on the development of a policy regarding WDFW's ongoing effort to re-tool hatchery operations. Hatchery reform efforts are designed to help conserve naturally spawning salmon and steelhead populations while supporting sustainable fisheries.

The commission also will conduct a public hearing on proposed updates to state ballast water regulations, and will receive an update on the boundary description for the Johnson/Debay Slough Game Reserve.

In addition, the commission is scheduled to consider a proposed agreement with Whatcom County for improving and maintaining a trail along the Nooksack River. The commission also will consider the purchase of nearly 15 acres of property in Yakima County that would be added to the Oak Creek Wildlife Area.

On the second day, the commission is scheduled to discuss the search process for a permanent director of WDFW.

A meeting agenda is posted on the commission's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/meetings.html>.