

NB: Unofficial translation

Legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish

Government Decree on Wildlife and Game Administration (171/2011)

Chapter 1 – Finnish Wildlife Agency

Section 1 – *Presence of a quorum, term of office and appointment of the Board*

- (1) The term of office of the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency is three years. The term of office starts on 1 January.
- (2) The Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency has a quorum when at least half of the members are present at the Board meeting.
- (3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall appoint a new Board no later than two months before the start of its term of office.
- (4) If a Board member or a member's personal alternate member resigns or is permanently prevented from managing his or her task, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may appoint a new member or personal alternate member in his or her place for the remaining term of office.

Section 2 – *Tasks of the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency*

- (1) The task of the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency is:
 - 1) to direct and develop the activity of the Finnish Wildlife Agency;
 - 2) to decide on the application for the appropriation allocated in the State budget for the activity of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and game management associations;
 - 3) to adopt the strategy of the Finnish Wildlife Agency;
 - 4) to approve the long-term operating and financial plan and the budget and operating plan for the following year of operation and submit these to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for adoption;
 - 5) to approve the rules of procedure of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and the rules of procedure of the game management associations and submit these to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for adoption;
 - 6) to designate the substitutes for the Director-General of the Finnish Wildlife Agency;
 - 7) to decide on making a proposal to the Government on the appointment and, where necessary, dismissal of the Director-General of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and, relating to the appointment, give a statement on the candidates;
 - 8) to give a proposal to the Government on the appointment of the Director for Public Administration Tasks;
 - 9) to decide on the receipt of donations allocated to the Finnish Wildlife Agency; and
 - 10) to discuss and decide on other matters of long-term consequences or important matters of principle.
- (2) The Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency adopts the final accounts of the Finnish Wildlife Agency, including the annual report, outturn account, balance sheet and notes to the balance sheet as well as an account of the use of the appropriation allocated in the State budget. The Board shall submit the final accounts with attachments to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry by 15 March following the financial year.

- (3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall issue a reasoned statement on the final accounts of the Finnish Wildlife Agency by the following 15 June. The provisions of section 66i on the statement of the ministry on the final accounts of the State Budget Decree (1243/1992) apply to the preparation of the reasoned statement.

Section 3 – *Presence of a quorum, term of office and appointment of the National Wildlife Council*

- (1) The term of office of the National Wildlife Council is three years. The term of office starts on 1 August.
- (2) The National Wildlife Council has a quorum when at least half of the members are present at the Wildlife Council meeting.
- (3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall appoint a new National Wildlife Council no later than two months before the start of its term of office.
- (4) If a member of the National Wildlife Council or a member's personal alternate member resigns or is permanently prevented from managing his or her task, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may appoint a new member or personal alternate member in his or her place for the remaining term of office.

Section 4 – *Tasks of the National Wildlife Council*

- (1) The task of the National Wildlife Council is:
 - 1) to participate in the strategic planning and preparation concerning the Finnish Wildlife Agency and national planning of game husbandry;
 - 2) to participate in the preparation and updating work on the management plans concerning game animal species, game animal populations and habitats of species as well as see to the national hearing of stakeholders relating to the work on the management plans;
 - 3) to make proposals on the national development of game husbandry;
 - 4) to process initiatives of the Regional Wildlife Councils and decide on further measures;
 - 5) to make a proposal to the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Council on the principles for the division of the funds of the game management associations and Finnish Wildlife Agency.

Section 5 – *Presence of a quorum, term of office and appointment of Regional Wildlife Council*

- (1) The term of office of a Regional Wildlife Council is three years. The term of office starts on 1 August.
- (2) A Regional Wildlife Council has a quorum when at least half of the members are present at the Wildlife Council meeting.
- (3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall appoint a new Regional Wildlife Council no later than two months before the start of its term of office.
- (4) If a member of a Regional Wildlife Council or a member's personal alternate member resigns or is permanently prevented from managing his or her task, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may appoint a new member or personal alternate member in his or her place for the remaining term of office.

Section 6 – *Tasks of a Regional Wildlife Council*

- 1) The task of a Regional Wildlife Council is:
 - 1) to participate in the strategic planning and preparation concerning the Finnish Wildlife Agency on the regional level;
 - 2) to participate in the regional preparation and updating work on the management plans concerning game animal species, game animal populations and habitats of species as well as see to the regional hearing of stakeholders relating to the work on the management plans;

- 3) to participate in the planning of game husbandry on the regional level and see to the regional hearing of stakeholders relating to this;
- 4) to process the initiatives of the regional meeting and decide on further measures; and
- 5) to follow game husbandry in the area of operation and make proposals concerning this.

Chapter 2 – Game management associations

Section 7 – *Tasks of the regional meeting*

- (1) The task of the regional meeting is:
 - 1) to discuss the proposal prepared by the regional office of the Finnish Wildlife Agency which proposes an appropriation for the following year to the game management associations of the region from funds collected as game management fees, as well as submit the proposal to the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency;
 - 2) to decide on the grounds by which the regional office of the Finnish Wildlife Agency prepares the proposal referred to in paragraph 1 to be put before the following regional meeting;
 - 3) to decide on the candidates for members and alternate members of the National Wildlife Council and Regional Wildlife Council;
 - 4) where necessary, to make a proposal on a representative for a member of the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and his or her alternate member;
 - 5) to follow game husbandry in the area of operation and make proposals concerning this; and
 - 6) to discuss and, where necessary, decide on other matters to be included in the agenda of the meeting.

Section 8 – *Matters discussed at the meeting of a game management association*

- (1) The task of the meeting of a game management association is:
 - 1) to adopt the final accounts of the game management association;
 - 2) to decide on granting discharge to the Board and other accountable parties and other measures which arise from the annual report, final accounts and statement of the operational auditor or financial auditors;
 - 3) to adopt the budget and operating plan of the game management association for the current year;
 - 4) to decide on the fees of the Board members;
 - 5) to decide on the number of Board members;
 - 6) where necessary, to elect the chair of the Board for the three-year term of office and his or her alternate member;
 - 7) to elect Board members to substitute for those whose turn it is to resign and their personal alternate members;
 - 8) to elect the operational auditor;
 - 9) to elect the representative of the game management association and his or her alternate representative to the regional meeting and, where necessary, candidates for members and alternate members of the Regional Wildlife Council and National Wildlife Council; and
 - 10) to discuss and, where necessary, decide on other matters of principle or matters with long-term consequences included in the agenda which are the competence of a game management association.

Section 9 – *Term of office and turn to resign of a Board member of a game management association and presence of a quorum*

- (1) The term of office of the chair of the Board of the game management association and Board members referred to in section 17(2) of the Wildlife and Game Administration Act (158/2011) is three years.
- (2) The term of office of the other Board members is three years so that a third or the share closest to this of these members resign each year. The term of office starts at the closing of the election meeting and ends at the closing of the corresponding meeting of the game management association held at the end of the term of office. The Board members elected in the first time whose turn it is to resign are drawn by lot.
- (3) If a Board member or a member's personal alternate member resigns or is permanently prevented from managing his or her task, a new member or personal alternate member may be elected in his or her place for the remaining term of office.
- (4) The Board has a quorum when besides the chair or vice-chair at least half of the members are present at the meeting.

Section 10 – *Tasks of the Board of a game management association*

- (1) The task of the Board of a game management association is:
 - 1) to direct and supervise the activity of the game management association;
 - 2) to see to the organisation of the voluntary activity of hunters relating to the field of operations of the game management association and follow the realisation of the actions;
 - 3) to prepare matters to be discussed at the meeting of the game management association;
 - 4) to convene the meetings of the game management association;
 - 5) to appoint and dismiss the Coordinator of Activities and decide on his or her substitutes;
 - 6) to decide on the wages and salaries or fees of the staff of the game management association;
 - 7) to propose the hunting wardens, examiners of the shooting tests and hunter's examination to be appointed to the Finnish Wildlife Agency and representatives to the field inspections of damages caused by game animals;
 - 8) to process statements of significance and with long-term consequences requested from the game management association; and
 - 9) where necessary, to make proposals on changes to the closed seasons for game animals to the Finnish Wildlife Agency or give a statement on the matter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Section 11 – *Tasks of the Coordinator of Activities of a game management association*

- (1) The task of the Coordinator of Activities of a game management association is:
 - 1) to direct the activity of the game management association under the Board;
 - 2) to prepare and present matters to be discussed at the Board meeting;
 - 3) to see that the matters which are the competence of the game management association are dealt with;
 - 4) to implement the decisions made by the Board; and
 - 5) to discuss and, where necessary, decide on matters which are the competence of the game management association which are not the competence of the meeting of the game management association or the Board.

Chapter 3 – **Miscellaneous provisions**

Section 12 – *Granting of funds accumulated as game management fees and account of their use*

- (1) The appropriation allocated to the activity of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and game management associations is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry upon application by the Finnish Wildlife Agency. The application must be accompanied by the

budget and operating plan of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and, in the case of game management associations, a proposal of the Finnish Wildlife Agency on the amount of funds to be granted to the associations.

- (2) The appropriation is paid by the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on a quarterly basis in advance.
- (3) The game management associations must deliver accounts on the use of the appropriation allocated in the State budget to the Finnish Wildlife Agency, which compiles the accounts and forwards them to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry by 31 May following the year of payment. Provisions on the account concerning the appropriation allocated to the Finnish Wildlife Agency in the State budget are laid down in section 2(2).

Section 13 – *Entry into force*

- (1) This Decree enters into force on 1 March 2011.
- (2) Measures necessary for the implementation of this Decree may be undertaken before the Decree's entry into force.
- (3) The first term of office of the Board of the Finnish Wildlife Agency is from 1 June 2011 until 31 December 2014.
- (4) The first term of office of the National Wildlife Council and Regional Wildlife Councils is from 1 May 2011 until 31 July 2014.