

WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION

SUMMARY

Mission:

Protect the public by ensuring that gambling is legal and honest.

Foster full cooperation between the Tribe and the State based upon equality and a shared concern for the welfare of all the citizens of the State and the Tribe as a result of gaming.

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington State, 29 have Compacts for Class III gaming and 22 of the Tribes operate 28 casinos until December 2015. The Nooksack Tribe closed their Class III Nooksack River Casino on December 17th.

This report highlights some of the activities and changes that the Gambling Commission has implemented to better enhance the co-regulatory relationship between the State and the Tribal Gaming Agencies and to support our agency's mission to protect the public by ensuring gambling is legal and honest.

HIGHLIGHTS

Since September 2015, we have mutually agreed to a Class III Gaming Compact amendment with the Skokomish Tribe which is consistent with several other tribes' gaming compacts.

During the year, our commissioners met with Tribes to learn more about the Tribe and the Tribe's gaming operation. They plan to continue these visits into the future.

We jointly agreed to 26 clarifications to Compact Appendices through Appendix A and Appendix X2 revisions, and concurred with 108 internal control and games rule submissions.

In September, we conducted a week-long New Agent Training class for 46 students in partnership with the Suquamish Tribal Gaming Agency. Our agency and the National Indian Gambling Commission provided instructors for the classes relating to the history and regulation of Class III gaming in Washington State.

During the year, we made more processes available electronically through deployment of My Account. My Account allows for an online account unique to each Tribe. The data base used to store the tribal gaming agency regulatory information was updated and moved to My Account. This move improved efficiency by providing one place for the Tribal Gaming Agencies to access the Tribal Gaming Regulatory information along with Licensing and Certification information. Overall, the My Account online features make it easier for the Tribes and us to conduct business with one another.

In 2015, our agency offered an alternative method of electronic payment of fees that allow larger entities, such as Tribes, to have more control of the information released with the payment. The security afforded with this method of payment makes this option more attractive when conducting business online. We also implemented the capability for Tribal licensing staff to be able to print out employee certifications at any time. This saves staff

time and effort to get the certifications they need when they need them. Several of our Tribal partners use My Account, and we have received very positive feedback from them.

In consultation with our Tribal regulatory partners we organized, led, and provided updates and training for one inter-agency Licensing meeting for 34 attendees representing 13 Tribes. We also had a National Indian Gaming Commission representative attend the meeting and contribute information when it was applicable.

STAFF CONTACT

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