

Prince William Sound / Copper River
Salmon harvest Task Force Mtg.
Wednesday, Sept 19th, 2018
8:00 am
The Cordova Center – Cordova, AK

Attendance:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • CDFU Gillnet Division – James Honkola | Present |
| • CDFU Seine Division – Galen Meyer | Telephonically |
| • PWS Set Net Association – Forest Jenkins | Telephonically |
| • PWS/CR AC – John Renner | Present |
| • Trident Seafoods – Leo Vargas | Present |
| • Ocean Beauty Seafoods – Brian O’Leary | Present |
| • Copper River Seafoods – Tom Carpenter | Present |
| • PWSAC – Casey Campbell | Telephonically |
| • Peter Pan Seafoods – Colby Boulton | Present |
| • Icicle Seafoods – Bob Nathanson | Present |
| • Silver Bay Seafoods – Tommy Sheridan | Telephonically |
| • North Pacific Seafoods – Inlet fish Producers (NSPI) – Clayton Hevly | Present |
| • VFDA – Mike Wells | Telephonically |
| • Native Village of Eyak – John Whissel | Present |
| • Copper River/Prince William Sound marketing Association – Jeff Bailey | Present |

Honorary non-voting members

- ASMI Not present
- ADEC Not present

ADF&G

- Aaron Poetter – Chair
- Charlie Russell – Area Seine Manager
- Jeremy Botz – Area Gillnet Manager

Call to Order at 8 am

Roll Call

Approve April 20th, 2018 meeting minutes

J. Renner motioned / T. Carpenter second.

Call for edits. M. Wells noted there was action taken to add the Native Village of Eyak (NVE) as a subsistence member. Clarification: Board canceled subsistence seat due to no response but during public comment it was noted that NVE had submitted a letter of interest. Board motioned to add the subsistence seat and NVE would fill it.

Upon unanimous vote, motion carried to update April 20, 2018 minutes to include the addition of a subsistence seat filled by NVE.

Approve September 19th, 2018 Meeting Agenda

J. Renner motion /C. Boulton second.

C. Russell – Strike the priority stream list until Spring meeting so he can do more research, before commenting. No opposition.

J. Renner – Add discussion about Sunday openers. No opposition

Upon unanimous vote, the meeting agenda was approved with modifications.

Updates/Reports

T. Sheridan gave an overview of the Alaska Hatchery Research Project. He reminded the board and stake holders of the work session meeting being held in Anchorage in Oct. He encouraged participation and collaboration by stake holders.

Old Business

J. Renner motioned / L. Vargas second to establish a bylaw committee.

Discussion:

- Several members noted removing the “unanimous” consent and ADF&G not voting was good idea.
- Good show of support for the creation of this committee.
- Members interested in working on this are J. Whissel, T. Sheridan, J. Bailey and Aaron Poetter. C. Campbell was nominated as well. (He hadn’t joined in telephonically at this point in the meeting).
- Committee will attempt to meet 3 times before the Spring SHTF meeting.

Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Discuss BOF work session comments

- M. Wells reiterated the importance of the BOF work session meeting coming up on Oct. 15-16 in Anchorage.
- He talked briefly about the 2 proposed ACR’s and encouraged participation. He noted the deadline for comments is Oct. 3rd.
- Several board members noted they would be attending.

Discuss Chinook Management Recommendation

- J. Renner asked what the results were on the recapture program. J. Whissel noted NVE wouldn’t have all the information until the upriver harvest was complete.
- J. Renner would like to see the Commercial fleet given Chinook salmon opportunity when sockeye salmon returns are low. J. Botz discussed comparisons from the situation in 1980 vs. this season. J. Renner suggested allowing king gear and adjusting the escapement when sockeye returns are so low. A. Poetter responded that gear and allocation in the dept management plan are both BOF actions. ADF&G is very clear in their management plan and will not go below the lowest ranges listed in our regs. The management plans are intended to be equitable for the user groups.
- T. Carpenter noted the SHTF has no ability to change any of this. It’s a BOF issue.
- J. Bailey noted that commercial users contributed to purchasing some ARIS equipment and inquired as to how that went and what information they were able to get from it.
- J. Botz gave an update on the pilot project. Counting fell behind IN season do to being understaffed. It proved fish could be measured but potentially not in certain ranges.

- T. Sheridan noted that a presentation given by Shane Shepherd on the pilot program was available online via the PWSSC website.
- J. Bailey requested that the upriver manager attend the next SHTF meeting. In person or telephonically.

New Business

~~PWS Priority Stream list — C Russell~~ struck from agenda.

C. Russell talked about **marker signs and adjusting the SHTF markers.**

- He's been working with G. Meyer on obtaining the signs. They're in Cordova and will be put up before the 2019 season. Anyone interested in helping should contact him.
- He's willing to discussing possible adjustments to the SHTF markers. He will research as to the original intent of these markers. T. Carpenter suggested working with the CDFU Seine division. A recommendation will be brought back to the board at the 2019 Spring meeting.

Seine Issue Review

In season seine management communication with the fleet

- J. Renner requested the dept issue a daily update to assist seiners in their in-season planning. This could include, what is the possibility of an opener and cost recovery updates, not necessarily an announcement. G. Meyer reiterated a similar thought. T. Sheridan asked if ADF&G could meet over the winter to discuss this with concerned users. C. Russell noted he would work with G. Meyer and CDFU Seine division to address this.
- J. Renner complimented the dept on the timing of their announcements this season.
- M. Wells noted VFDA will make more of an effort to publish their information.
- C. Campbell noted PWSAC is also working on improving their communication. He is interested in addressing this over the winter.

Gillnet harvest of Northwestern District wild stocks in Eshamy District

- General discussion of concerns this is causing between user groups.
- T. Sheridan expressed appreciation for the Dept. participation in a preseason seine meeting held in Homer this year.
- It was noted that user groups are thinking of working together to revisit the allocation plan.
- J. Botz noted Eshamy was managed per the Dept. management plan. In season goals were met. We don't have an assessment program on Eshamy anymore which means a more conservative management approach.
- J. Renner suggested using collaborative measures to get the Eshamy weir project manned again.

Gillnet Issue Review

PWSAC management of WNH chum salmon run

- J. Honkola expressed positive comments pertaining to the Dept allowing deep gear earlier. This action resulted in less value lost and overall an effective way of managing.
- J. Bailey and B. O'Leary also expressed positive comments to early use of deep gear. This allowed retention of higher quality product.

Common lines and clarification on district/subdistrict boundaries

- J. Bailey requested that lat/long numbers be added to the area statistical maps that are made available to users.
- Discussion: was there more illegal fishing this year than in past years? C. Russell and J. Botz felt there wasn't, but there seemed to be more gear conflicts due to crowded areas.

Discuss industry support of ADF&G Cross Training Program

- T. Sheridan provided an overview of how Silver Bay Seafoods has worked with the Dept to provide cross training opportunities during this time of state budget cuts. He encouraged further support and collaboration with the Dept.
- J. Botz highlighted several points of his experience. He noted it was a valuable experience.
- J. Renner inquired if the Dept was going to bring back the management assistant position. A. Poetter stated no specific movement toward that at this time.

Discuss and vote on recommendations

J. Renner motioned / J. Honkola second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Recommend the gillnet manager adjust the in-river escapement goal, as needed to the extent practical.

J. Renner motioned / J. Honkola second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Recommend the Dept and CDFU work together to reinstate the Eshamy weir project.

Discussion:

- J. Renner encouraged a collaborative approach to this.
- J. Botz approximated the total cost to reinstate would be 45K.
- T. Sheridan noted it was valuable to both seine/gillnet users.

J. Renner motioned / M. Wells second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Move the public comment to the beginning and ending of the task forces meetings.

Discussion:

- General view was that this would be helpful to the board in making their decisions. It was noted to include written comments in this as well.

J. Renner motioned / T. Carpenter second. Several members abstained from voting. 4 yes, 5 no. Motion failed.

Recommend no Sunday openers, when practical.

Discussion:

- Requested by the Russian fleet, as they felt under represented politically.

Recommendation modified and voted on to ADD "Gillnet".

Recommend no gillnet Sunday openers, when practical

Motion failed.

J. Renner motioned / J. Honkola second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Recommend funding an assistance management biologist and assistant research biologist position.

Discussion:

- A. Poetter noted this was outside the SHTF guidelines.

Motion withdrawn.

T. Sheridan motioned / J. Renner second. Vote taken, unanimous (PWSAC abstained)

Recommend PWS Seine manager position stay in Cordova.

Discussion:

- Members would like to see these positions stay in town.
- Appears positions are moved due to personal preference. Losing jobs is hard on the town.
- It was estimated six positions have left Cordova. Area E produces a lot of revenue with a smaller staff.
- Poetter agreed the dept is understaffed. This position is being relocating for one winter, for professional development. The Dept will support that and continuity will continue.

Public comment

- Would like to see SF have reporting requirements similar to the CF guidelines. BOF response has been it's an un due burden. Times have changed. Several members of the public expressed this concern.
- Agree public comment at the beginning of SHTF meeting would be a good change.
- Positive comments about the Dept's decision to use deep gear early.
- Negative comments regarding priority stream list.
- What are the results of the CR test fishery? Wouldn't better information be gotten by using the fleet in short openers vs. test fishery.
- Opposition to current SHTF markers. Would like to see those reevaluated.
- Frustration expressed with how Eshamy fishery was managed in the AGZ. Unsafe to fish in such a small area due to the number of participants.
- Concerns with Coghill weir washing out twice and would like to see the Dept. address that.
- Reminder about the 2 hatchery ACR's coming up at hatcher work meeting in Oct. Encouraged stake holder participation.
- Written comment discussing if there are any concerns of SF users over fishing the fall coho salmon in Ibek Creek. As far as Dept is aware there are no concerns and it is sustainable. Members discussed ADF&G mission statement and how important the salmon resources are to Cordova and its residents.

Determine next meeting date

T. Carpenter motioned / B O'Leary second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held in the evening on the day the RPT meeting in gets scheduled.

Discussion:

- Work in conjunction with other events so more people can attend. Other events included, SERVS training, PWSAC meeting and RPT meeting.

J. Bailey commented that in the future it would be helpful for the Marketing Association to be notified when the Dept does a Test fishery. It was confusing to have Copper River fish marketed when the commercial fishery was closed.

J. Honkola Comments - CDFU Gillnet Issues

- More timely reporting for sub users. Possibly, in the absence of CF openers, require sub users to report within 60 hours. J. Whissel supported consistent reporting for all user groups.
- Noted the change in Coho management this season. Discussed traditional openers.
- Would like to see a different management strategy with AZG. More area for the larger fleet. Possibly spread out the opportunity between the users.
- When there is limited Coghill weir data. Wouldn't the Dept find use in one short duration opener per week? Discussed other options for getting run entry information.
- The Dept open to other ideas regarding Main Bay area.
- Inquired if industry felt quality was affected by the clean up fishery. No major quality issues were reported by the industry members. Comments included positive results from how the fishery was managed this season.

It was discussed and requested that the upper river managers T. Taube and M. Sommerville be invited to attend the Spring SHTF meeting. A. Poetter noted an invitation would be given.

J. Renner motioned to adjourn / J. Bailey second.

Adjournment at 11:26 pm