

Guide Logbook Advisory Committee

Meeting #6: May 12, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Zoom

Introduction: Raquel Crosier welcomed the group and introduced new faces and reviewed agenda.

Participants:

The following participants were present either in person or on the phone:

Robert Kratzer - Anglers Guide Service, Caleb Hitzfeld - CH Flyfishing, Randy Lato - All Ways Fishing, Marc Bush - Twisted Waters Guide, Cameron Black - Gone Catchin, Doug Saint-Dennis – 365 Charters, Greg Kain – Kain’s Flyfishing Adventures

WDFW employees: Kelly Cunningham—Fish Program Director, Craig Burley – Fish Program Deputy Director, Kyle Adicks – Intergovernmental Salmon Manager, Raquel Crosier – Fish Program Project Manager, Leah Snyder - Administrative Assistant

Legislative Update

- The Department came in with a \$26 million General Fund ask and that was fully funded, and most was ongoing.
 - Approved in Capital Budget
 - Soos Creek hatchery remodel
 - Pier 86
 - Wiley Slough
 - Bills Passed the Legislature
 - SWA bill
- Reporting Activity
 - 42 guides have submitted their license

COVID-19

- Operational challenges with an agency of about 2,000
 - Trying a coordinated approach to reopening fisheries to avoid a situation where we open fishing and a local jurisdiction shuts us down.
 - When reopening, we first checked the pamphlet, then determined areas that would be able to support an opening.
- Essential vs. non-essential work
 - At the beginning we could only have hatchery workers working. Last week we started
- Hunting/fishing closure
 - Plan for getting guides to work
 - At the end of phase one, possibly phase two and charters possibly phase two. It is all about the amount of people on your boat. Originally, it was going to be two people from the same household allowed per boat. The

whale watchers are putting a lot of pressure on the governor's office. WDFW pointed out similarities between whale watchers and guides in regard to being allowed to reopen.

- Refunds
 - Raquel will check to see if some guides are receiving refunds

Update on NOF

- **March 31st is Lynwood public meeting**
- COVID Disrupted everything this spring. A lot of tribes didn't travel to California, and when we arrived home, we realized that we wouldn't be having any in person meetings this season.
 - The necessity of going 100% technology based this season for public meetings enabled more people to be involved in the process, than is usually able to attend in person.
- Please find NOF rule-making timeline below:
 - May 6 – File CR-102 – comment period opens
 - June 8 – Deadline for submission of written public comment
 - June 9 – Public hearing on proposed rules (via webinar)
 - June 22 – Anticipated final briefing/ rule adoption
- The proposed rule changes can be found on our website at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-input>
 - Comments like the daily limit for the Sol Duc that came up at our meeting can be submitted on the same site.

Guide Regulation Review

- Random Drug Testing
 - OR does and would need an RCW change
- Proof of Insurance & name state as insurer
 - OR does and would need an RCW change
- Insurance Liability
 - OR- \$500k & AK -\$300k and would need an RCW change
- Guides keeping fish
 - WAC change and nothing found in OR or AK
 - Group pointed out that this would not include “party fishing”, which they are in favor of.
- Code of Conduct
- Admittance Board to review licenses
 - RCW change, WAC change, OR has this
- Increase enforcement coverage, tools & coordination
- Anonymous Reporting System
- Annual Chinook Retention Limit
 - Concerned about a select group of anglers harvesting 100s of fish a season.
 - Hopefully when we have more data, we will be able to look into CRCs and annual harvest numbers.

- The current catch card data doesn't support that conclusion, but that is only statewide data.

Logbook Implementation

- Updates on reporting tools and compliance
 - Paper
 - >100 received
 - 50% incomplete
 - 25% returned for signature
 - Lots of QA/QC
 - Improving instruction pages in new logbooks
 - Mobile
 - >2000 received
 - 80 individual users
 - Web tools
 - Video tutorials on website
 - Step by step instructions for website
 - Guide webpage
 - Raquel is sending to GAC for comment/feedback
 - Curious to know what guides thing should be on the page
 - Enforcement App
 - In the hands of all officers
 - Training video has been distributed to help demonstrate use
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- Discussion of data analysis process
 - Key Questions
 - Industry role: How many angler trips were logged using a fishing guide? Compared to total?
 - Where are guides fishing: How many guide trips were logged by catch code? By county? Which areas had the highest use?
 - When are guides fishing: What was the seasonality of use by catch code? Which areas had the highest use by month?
 - Encounters: Which species are the most frequently encountered by guides? What were the retention rates for guided trips?

Wrap-Up

Next meeting will be virtual on August 4th from 3-5 pm on Zoom.

Thank you to GAC members for being so understanding and helping WDFW during this turbulent time.

Raquel will follow up meeting with an email with documents for GAC members to review before next meeting.

