

## **Fishing Guide Advisory Committee**

June 23, 2022, 3-5:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

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**Introduction:** Raquel led the new group in a brief overview of the meeting agenda. The core WDFW team was introduced by Raquel.

### **Participants:**

DFW Employees: Raquel Crosier, Chris Donley, Leah Snyder, Edward Eleazer, Charlene Hurst

Advisors: Jeff Brazda, Steve Joyce, Jan Patricio, Keith Robbins, Roy Morris, Blake Merwin, Bob Kratzer, Toby Wyatt, Ryan Bullock

Public Members: Jonathon Stumpf

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### **Hot Topics**

Roy led the group in a discussion on the importance of being thoughtful in our implementation of the logbook rule and considering the role it plays in increasing the partnership between the guide industry and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Raquel suggested the committee work on additional communication materials for the guide community to increase understanding of how logbook data will be used and emphasizing the partnership between the agency and industry in developing our approach.

Bob brought up the fact that guides are starting to get ticketed on being on-compliant with the logbook and how it is bringing the logbook to the forefront of everyone's minds. He mentioned that there have been violations issued to guides who have not had any verbal communication with enforcement. Raquel and Chris mentioned that they are working with enforcement to ensure a consistent protocol and approach moving forward for enforcement contacts, data entry of paper logbooks, warnings and violations.

Jan had the idea of reaching out to the guide community with a simple questionnaire to get a sense of what's working well and what isn't. He suggested that might be an opportunity to emphasize how data will be used, once compliance is increased. He suggested simple questions like: What do you like about the logbook? What do you dislike about it? How does it work for you? Do you have any suggestions where we can fix it to make it easier for you?

### **Guide Logbook Project**

The department is at a place, even though compliance isn't ideal, where the next step is to start examining the data and asking questions, a deeper analysis.

Questions the department has for the GAC: What should we be looking for in terms of both qualitative and quantitative metrics? What constitutes heavy use, where and at what rate should we be paying attention to kind of higher numbers? When does it start to affect experience, from your perspective, of the client?

One consideration raised was boat launch pressure and the amount of time spent at the launch when busy. Another consideration is to look at the biological side, to look at pressure on sensitive stocks, perhaps looking at the places where we've closed fisheries early because we had more effort than expected.

The next steps with logbook data is to pull from the top ten highest use fisheries using number of trips, guides and encounters- even getting granular about season timings. The other idea that we have been contemplating is comparing data from logbooks to creel surveys. The WDFW team mentioned that they've been discussing with the Region 6 team, setting up an index group to look at guides that are regular reporters and try to get a better sense of abundance and trip activity. Over time, that index of abundance would become exceedingly accurate and would give us a lot of good information.

During the past few meetings, we have discussed possible WAC revisions. Raquel talked through the same topic with Enforcement and came up with the following ideas for potential revisions to the rule:

- Require trip info to be entered at the start of fishing day
- Take out reference to vessel/boat launch to clarify that it is required by all guides
- Include web portal reporting deadline
- Take out customer WILD ID requirement
- Change paper log return timing

Committee members suggested that the only trip info that should be required at the beginning of the fishing day is trip, guide and location and WILD IDs should be allowed to be entered later in the day to allow for better lighting for scan feature. They pushed back on eliminating the WILD ID requirement in favor of getting demographic info without asking sensitive demographic questions. If WILD ID is removed, the group suggested zip code might be a good way to get at least location data without requiring a lot of additional fields be filled by the guide.

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### **Wrap-Up**

Raquel is going to set up a poll between this meeting and the next where folks can do an individual ranking and we will talk through those results and values at the next meeting. Our next meeting date is set for August 2 and the September date is looking like it will be the 21.

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