

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 10, 2017

MEETING CALLED BY	Dave Knutzen
TYPE OF MEETING	Funding Oversight Committee
FACILITATOR	Ryan Lothrop
NOTE TAKER	Colleen Desselle
ATTENDEES	Members: Don Freeman, Mike Gilchrist, Dave Knutzen, Troy McKelvey, David Puki, Michael Rian, Mark Riedesel, Gregg Williams Staff: Mark Baltzell, Colleen Desselle, Edward Eleazer, Jim Jenkins, Ryan Lothrop, William Spring, Jason Smith
ABSENT	Norm Reinhardt and Art Tachell

Introductions; Review Agenda; and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

- Introductions occurred
- Agenda reviewed – no changes; and
- Motion made and seconded to accept minutes with minor edits. Approved.

Program Updates: Goals, Objectives, Tasks Overview; Sub-Committee Reports; Hatchery Programs; 2015-17 BN Budget; and 2017-19 BN Budget

- **Goals and Objectives:** Committee would like to see if presentation to the Commission can occur every other year and presented to the Legislature on the alternate years. Recommend present to Commission this year and see what we should do in the future. Also, recommend sending written report to Legislature and let them know to ask if there any questions. Copy the Commission on the Legislative report.
- **Sub-Committee Reports:**
 - **Legislative** - (D. Puki) – have not heard anything; willing to move on it once we do and we have time.
 - **Outreach** – attending Sportsmen Show. Capital budget issue is making things tough. If anyone needs help, support, scripts to hand out, David P. is available. Laying groundwork.
 - **Innovative** – (Mike G.) – Summary. Discussed projects (getting net pens) strategies to go forward. South Sound net pens has some availability; potential at Bainbridge. Get stray rates to see where the problems lie. Net pens in the San Juan de Fuca? Did discuss and what strategies to use. Who is supportive? One thing we brought up, but did not discuss is the possibility of raising catchable-size salmon, and release them. It does not take that many to spark a fishery. The Squaxin is open to potentially raising delayed rearing coho. Dave K. stated he would like to know if the Dept. feels that pulling net pens was a good thing or if they should have continued using them. Look at the culture and see if we can move forward. Will be meeting in a couple weeks to discuss. Add Mark Riedesel to committee.
 - **UW** is still playing out. Has hatchery released fish in 2014. Culture there is to remove hatchery, but would like to reinstate hatcheries as an aquatic ecosystem. Start program as a model for hatchery reform, HSRG, engineering to be involved; landscape design. They got green light to move forward. Get graduate students with professors involved. Will also include public participation. They do not want to become a fish culturist school. Would only be Chinook. Will discuss before next meeting. UW needs \$7,000-8,000. UW will send David K email outlining their program. Can PSRFE provide some funding? It would be exciting to have a new program.
 - **Hatchery Evaluation** – did not meet – no report.
- **Hatchery Programs:**
 - **Region 4** (E. Eleazer) – *Baker sockeye* – not as good as expected. Fair in the lake. Had to downgrade. *Chinook* on Nooksack – more Chinook on spawning ground than we have seen in decades. Skagit Chinook is one of the better returns than we have seen in a few years. Same on the Skykomish. Weather change killed 3,000 broodstock however the run was so strong we were able to get egg takes. We learned some lessons to look for these bugs in the future. As you saw today, the Chinook on the Green is awesome. These filled the Elliott Bay fishery and gave

us our first chance at targeting these fish: 1) Samish closed because not getting the broodstock needs, but people are getting limits; 2) Glenwood too full to restart program; and 3) Soos Creek. Will know more in a week or so. *Coho* – seeing some, but need more rain. Samish was getting pretty clean; sportsmen doing a good job of keeping it clean – more problems with the agricultural aspects (fishery, shellfish, corn fields with cow waste). Baker sockeye - we are still on board to transfer eggs to that facility. Egg take quantity depends on run size. The hope is to start a new fishery at Cushman (trucked in and out) above George Adams Hatchery with sockeye – three options: 1) saltwater; 2) possible river fishery on Skokomish; & 3) Cushman Lake fishery. More positive than negative. Main rub is Skokomish Tribe closed a recreational fishery, and I get that rub, but I also know there is public access above Hwy 101 and good habitat at Lake Cushman. Trap is at base of Lake Kokanee Dam. Developing technical white paper to be on web in a few months.

- **Region 6** (J. Jenkins) – **Wells Project**: Nisqually well above average. Minter at 10,000. Couple egg takes to go with Chinook. *Coho* not started yet. Jumbo fall plant did not occur. Eggs still available to end of week and then the door will close. Probably not happening this year. One co-manager not onboard with project. Ron was supposed to discuss on a call this afternoon. **Jason Rothamel** left, and we filled the position with William “Willy” Spring at Garrison Springs. He comes from Voights Creek. **Ladder repair work at Deschutes** is about 30% complete. It appears that most South Sound Chinook were positive. Possibly due to flooding causing a lot more estuary in Nisqually. 2016 brood chum had tags. *Coho* are starting to show in South Sound. Only a handful so far. We are putting *coho* above the trapping facility but in lower end of river. Deschutes are not tagged. We did tag some 2016 brood Chinook. For a quick update at that facility, we have gotten over some major hurdles. Ecology was really setting a high bar to get over, and it appears that the engineers have dealt with it. Both ADs of the agencies have discussed and stated to make sure that if it is denied, that there is a good, legitimate reason. Let’s see if there is a way to legally make this happen. Have not met with DOT after doing the technical work, but believe we are good. That’s the good news, however, not in Legislative Capital budget so it is not funded. We have water rights, but we did not get fully permitted because of the funding. If you get permit and don’t use it, it will lapse and you have to start over again. Expensive game. Could be a reality if funded. **CWT Hatchery Evaluation Sheet**: Ryan created a table in large format playing with ideas. Let him know if you find it helpful as a tool. Used a formatting tool with created darker areas where the percentages are higher. Gregg asked if there is a goal of hatchery rate? Jim stated there is no specific goal as it is too dynamic; many different ways to measure. Stated goals if harvest, conservation, or something like that. For clarity the column is percent not total survival. Dave K asked if for the 2011 brood fish if 3-year old fish is last recovery data. Ryan stated that we work on last five years or the last two if we don’t go out that far. **Marblemount Coho**: Ed stated that NOAA is looking at the Skagit bundle. Is the package we want? No, it is not perfect. Chum & *coho* right now 250,000 according to this chart has 5% survival rate. We would like to ratchet up to 1M, but not overwhelm so perhaps just double this year. More hatchery fish put there the better chance of having fishery. Cost to increase is about \$31,000 – deadline to HGMP is January. Ryan stated one thing to consider is that not all fisheries are sampled the same. Marblemount has a decent contribution rate. Willy stated that in general, Marblemount is good. Waiting for an okay. Capacity is 100,000. WDFW will look into Elliott Bay Net pen capacity for *coho*. Next year you should see our first barging *coho* on this form. Mike G stated that if we suddenly get *coho* from pens it could really show numbers. Mark B stated that we put wire in delayed-release *coho* to help contribute numbers to the study. Dave K asked if Minter at 1.3 million is maxed. Dave P asked if there are any opportunities at Hupp Springs. There may be. Yearling *coho*. Right now from Minter 2016. Spring Chinook – eggs taken from 450 normal program. Need funding to wire/clip, but need agreement from Muckleshoot Tribe. Production – may cut spring program. If that occurs there will be room. Cannot take eggs and add to a program that is already in place. Have to also have capacity. Negotiating with co-manager. It is a conservation program. Can it be moved to another program under a conservation program? Jim stated that that is a good question and that he did not know the answer. Dave K suggested renaming that stock so that they are not called White River spring Chinook.
- **Budget – Ryan Lothrop**: We came out alright. Contract needed adjustment as they gave us \$25,000 too much and it was removed, but the survey will not occur until this fall so ~\$34,000 will be

added. Pretty much a wash. Forecast is \$2.5-2.6M. I am optimistic. Will ask if there is a way to get daily jumps in license sales from the Atlantic Salmon escape. From a coho perspective, next year we have a challenge with brood off of 2015 where nothing came back.

- **BN-15-17:** Wrap up. Roll-over of positive variance \$134,000 extra. HSRG did not happen, but will this year (next biennium).
- **BN 17-19:** Few expenditures (only three months). I have not made any changes except what was requested. Dave K comment that Garrison jumbos on, but may not occur. Ryan stated that the forecast is lower than last biennium – spending authority not changed except minor charges agreed-to by Legislature. We get 2% salary increase for each year including this year (July), next year (January), and the following year. I believe the spending authority will reflect that. Goal Development is \$29,000. Did not adjust allotments, but indirects are to date. Hatchery is adjusted automatically, but minor as long as close to the same as in the past. Dave K stated true funding available is goal development at \$29,000 (and there is some coming out of that already: Puyallup Sport Show \$2000 and the approximate cost for our coho barging program \$3500, and the \$25,000 HSRG evaluation – those have not hit our account yet but are in process or scheduled). Ryan stated that we do have money to move around. We have chance to balance that out closer to 40 each-ish. Dave K asked when we have to finalize. We have the Garrison jumbos, Hupp Springs. Jim J stated that if White River goes away they have more space. Dave K asked about the egg program; Ed stated 90% percent sure that what is identified will happen. If no go, we won't strip the eggs.
- **Possible programs to fund:** Coho at Marblemount; Hupp Springs Spring Chinook, if get moved out of conservation program or possible movement to another area– possible clip/tag for research. Our historic cost would be fin clip about \$50,000 (\$100,000 for WDFW – Jim J); Minter Chinook, and UW Hatchery Development.
- **Discussion:** Ed – we have co-manager approval on coho. Tribes are paying for the increased Chinook production. Hupp Springs – if have meeting within a month. Dave K - Let's punt for a month until the next meeting to make a decision for Hupp Springs. Group to talk about priorities. Jim J – Ed has done all the background work. His is on table now, all but NOAA on same page. I have no one on my page. D. Puki – can we make a funding start? Can we look at it as a potential further approval? Ryan – on the account, yes. Spending authority is different. What is left? We have at least \$50,000-75,000. I can share that as soon as I know [that to be true]. Would give Ed \$31,000 and leave about \$44,000 for Jim if we can get to \$75,000. Ed: No, there is no need for funding. It is just a want right now. Dave K: We are here to help the programs, not pay for it all. MR (?): This would just be a kick-start, not necessarily a full funding of the program. Dave P: What is the \$ amount needed to get a kick-start on getting your program running? Ed: If I got NOAA to approve, would ask co-managers and groups for funding help. There could be a nexus with SCL. Negotiate with Snohomish PUD. Right now we are trying to figure out what is the most important priorities within the Department. How are we going to continue doing what we are doing? Dave P: We want you to understand that we would like to help by possibly partially funding if not fully-funding. Dave K: Coho are good contributors without a doubt. They are the bread and butter of our program. Ed: yearling Chinook are high cost. Would have to look into it. Ryan: The thing that go us coho this year was the hatchery program. Any way to find a way to enhance the mark rate is what we need.

Wrap-Up: Other reports; Q&A; Date/Location for Next Meeting; Ryan will send Doodle Poll for some time in November; Presentation Requests? HSRG - \$25,000? Future: 1) Habitat Restoration; 2) Acoustic Tag Study – M. Schmidt, LLTK