

# **Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Recreational Anglers Board**

August 10, 2016, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board Conference Room

1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280 Yakima, WA 98902

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Introductions – Roll Call**

#### **Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Recreational Anglers Board (CRSSRAB)**

Stan Bartle – Region 5  
Dan Davies – Region 2  
Tom Fritsch – Region 5  
Del Groat – Region 1  
Lawrence Hill – Region 2  
Curtis King – Region 3 (phone)  
Steve Martin – Region 1 (Chair)  
Jerry Rhoads – Region 3 (phone)  
Ed Wickersham – Region 5 (Vice-Chair)  
Bob Whitehall – Region 2

#### **Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Staff:**

Chief Anderson – Enforcement  
John Easterbrooks – Region 3 Fish Program Manager  
Jeff Korth – Region 2 Fish Program Manager  
Cindy LeFleur – Region 5 Fish Program Manager  
Lori Peterson – Budget Analyst, Olympia  
Ann Stephenson – Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Biologist/CRSSE Admin. Coordinator  
Mike Tonseth – Region 2 Upper Columbia ESA/HCP Biologist  
Tom Wadsworth – Region 5 District 10 Fish Biologist  
Captain Weaver – Region 3 Enforcement  
Sergeant Wickersham – Region 5 Enforcement

#### **Other attendees:**

Ian Courter – Mount Hood Environmental  
David Graybill – Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Member

#### **Agenda approved by the board**

### **2. Legislative Update**

David Graybill, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissioner

- Introduced the current draft WDFW Recreational Fishing License Fee Proposal for 2017-2019 biennium
- Possible fee for catch record cards
- Increase in Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE) fee is currently part of fee package
- Recommended that the Board send a message on the value of CRSSE to state representatives and senators for their districts along the Columbia River

### 3. Financial Report

Lori Peterson, WDFW Budget Office

- Reviewed the Updated Fund Balance through June 2016 (fm12\_june\_2016\_-\_16h\_balance\_updated 8aug16\_2).
- Data through June is not yet final until the fiscal year is closed out in September
- A snapshot in time
- For the fiscal year to date, the revenue is ahead of estimated and the expenditures are a bit behind; the remaining fund balance for the biennium is \$234,846
- Planned spending currently exceeds revenue, creating a structural deficit
- Spending authority may need to be increased to add additional projects if all on-going projects are renewed in the next proposal period. Assumes all funds will be spent, which has not been the case for this fund source, which has typically been ~14% underspent.
- Board requested going back to original spreadsheet produced by WDFW for past Board meetings with up to date financial information
- ❖ Ann will work with Fish Support and the Budget office to update financials after the fiscal year clears in September. Fish Budget Manager position in Olympia for this fund is currently vacant.
- Unspent funds from 2015 and 2016 proposal periods are currently around \$250K from projects not initiated or completed per regional fish program managers in Regions 2 and 3. Unspent funds from 2015 proposals roll back into the fish program portion of the fund.

### 4. Enforcement Update

Chief Anderson

- Ensured the board that CRSSE is a high priority and they plan to continue the work
- Hiring two new officers for CRSSE

Sgt. Wickersham, PowerPoint presentation

- CRSSE currently funds 3 full time officer positions, 6,700 hours each year;
- make ~18K contacts related to salmon and steelhead per year since 2014
- Would like to do another two year proposal period for enforcement in the next biennium
- Does the board have a dollar amount cap on on-time equipment purchases? Not currently.
- Offered to have Board members go out in the field with Officers
- Oregon's Columbia River endorsement covers sturgeon, CRSSE does not; OR/WA have reciprocity for Columbia River fishing regulations

### 5. Fish Program New Proposals

- The Board is willing to look at emergency type proposals at the summer meeting, but all others will be reviewed at the February meeting.
- Cindy LeFleur suggested a long-term vision for proposals; a three to five year strategy

#### a. Region 2

*Enhanced Upper Columbia River Tributary PIT Tag Monitoring – Methow River*

Jeff Korth

- Need to replace PIT tag array that has been in place since 2007 damaged by a flood
- Necessary to maintain steelhead and Chinook salmon fisheries in the Methow River
- ❖ Korth's staff will update the proposal to emphasize the critical nature of this array for the continuation of this fishery
- Board unanimously approved proposal on the condition of the revision; \$83,705
- An updated proposal will be resubmitted to the board

## Region 5

### *Cowlitz River Salmon/Steelhead Hooking Mortality Study*

Presentation by Ian Courter – Mount Hood Environmental

Contributors: Thomas Buehrens WDFW; Keith Underwood, Tacoma Power

- Primary project objectives:
  - Determine whether use of barbless hooks increases survival of salmon and steelhead caught and released in the Cowlitz River.
  - Quantify the capture efficiency of barbed and barbless hooks while angling for salmon and steelhead in the Cowlitz River.
  - Use data collected in this study in conjunction with creel and catch record card data to model the impacts of barbless regulations on rates of wild fish mortality and hatchery fish harvest in two fisheries—a hatchery fish intensive fishery (e.g. Cowlitz) and a naturally supported catch-and-release fishery (e.g. Wind or SF Toutle).
- Cost for one year \$180,581; designed as a three year study
- ESA permits required to handle wild fish
- Would provide valuable information, but not currently essential for continuing fisheries
- Board voted unanimously that the proposal could be reintroduced and reevaluated at the February meeting after it has gone through the review process by the department; proposals are usually reviewed by the department, sent to the regional board, then to the full board

## 6. CRSSRAB Process Manual

- Definition of Selective Fishing
  - Commissioner Graybill mentioned the definition should be consistent with the WACs; not the same as “selective gear”
  - Does it mean Mark-selective? Ex. Sockeye are not marked but there are fisheries for them; if definition is too narrow it may exclude projects
- Proposal process
  - August meeting is only for consideration of “emergency” proposals. How much lead time for review? WDFW proposals only? The process for reviewing and accepting proposals at the August meeting will be further discussed by the subcommittee and described in the process manual.
  - Board can call an emergency meeting at any time; needs to be included in manual
- ❖ Process Manual subcommittee will meet Sept. 22 at the Region 5 office in Vancouver, 9am to 12pm.
  - Jerry will work on Appendix for prioritization of proposals
  - Ed will working on Board membership and appointment timeline/rotation schedule

## 7. Other Business

- ❖ Final Yakima Hooking Mortality report will be available before the February meeting
- Data from the Wind River is tied into the report for the Region 5 Rotating Creel

## 8. Future Meeting

- Feb. 23, 2017

## 9. Adjourned~3:30pm

- ❖ Action Items to follow up on