

PSRFEF Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2020, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 422 436 2557

Password: 0A1Owf

Committee members present:

Gregg Williams (GW), Mark Riedesel (MR), Mike Gilchrist (MG), Dave Puki (DP), Don Freeman (DF), Norm Reinhardt (NR), Dave Knutzen (DK), Wayne Harmond (WH), Art Tachell (AT), Dan Witzcak (DW)

WDFW staff present:

Mark Baltzell (MB), David Stormer (DS), Leah Snyder (LS), Raquel Crosier (RC), Kirt Hughes (KH), Steve Stout (SS), Jim Jenkins (JJ), Ron Warren (RW)

Introduction:

Review Agenda – Motion to approve-NR, Seconded- DF

Review Minutes – Meeting Minutes – DP motion to approve, DF seconded

Program Update:

Staffing changes:

MB: Salmon team- Aaron Dufault and Kirt Hughes left the salmon program, and Mark stepped into Kirt's Statewide Salmon Manager position. David Stormer will also be leaving us, as he has taken a new position on the East Coast- Raquel Crosier will be stepping in to help the group until David's position is filled. Steve Stout will also be retiring after 43 years- congratulations, we will miss you!

Biologist 2 hire:

Hailey Rosenthal has accepted the position. Hailey comes originally from Colorado and graduated from University of Colorado, Boulder with a degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. She has been with DFW for a few years, most recently as a member of our hatchery tagging crew as a bio 2.

Sportsmen's Show debrief:

DS: Overall it was a successful show. We struggled getting shifts covered, but we managed to get it worked out. Big thanks to Dave Puki for filling in empty shifts! There was a high number of young kids excited to learn about fishing. We distributed about 300 descending devices this year- hopefully that means people are already aware and geared up with proper equipment. We printed out several hundred salmon and rockfish ID charts. Our themes this year was pushing the Fish WA mobile app- we had the iPad and our phones out to coach fisherman through. We distributed many of VTRs and de-hookers. David will follow up with Raquel on how many

surveys were completed and figure out the winner of the raffle. WH: Booth image needs to be worked on for next year- logo, marketing, videos, handouts.

North of Falcon Summary:

MB: A lot of challenges this year due to COVID. There were also management objective challenges for Chinook as well as low forecasted returns for Coho: Mid HC Chinook and Stillaguamish stock were the big ones. The marked portion of Stillaguamish stock was what we had to reduce fisheries for as part of 2017 management objectives with the Chinook plan where we were impacting a lot of 2- & 3-year-old fish. MR: What is the future of this committee as a “recreational enhancement group” if we have less and less recreational opportunity year after year? MB: There were some years in the 90s when there wasn’t much recreational fishing opportunity in Puget Sound, but we managed to get through those times. NR: Thinks the committee and department may need to be prepared to give recommendations to reprioritize the goals of the committee.

Budget Status Report:

DS: FY 2020- through April of this year- overall, we are at about 35% of the biennial budget with two months to go in this fiscal year. We have spent about \$22,000 out of Goal Development: \$4,000 of that was on rockfish/salmon ID charts, \$2,000 on Fish WA stickers and de-hooker materials, \$600 on wireless microphone and digital presentation pointer for NOF and will use for public fishing events, \$7,000 for South Sound net pen study from 2019 that wasn’t paid in the last biennium. We have allocated \$25,000 for South Sound net pen study and \$12,500 for FY 21.

License revenue update:

Overall, sales in number has declined by about 13% over the last five years. But revenue has been consistent over the same time period- this follows along with the introduction of the Fish WA license. Saltwater license numbers are down 20% over the same year average. We are down about 33% overall compared to FY 2019.

Agency update on fish marking during a pandemic:

GW: With agency staff working from home during the pandemic, were staff able to keep up on marking targets? JJ: Yes, for the most part the goal has been accomplished. We haven’t CWT the yearlings at Hoodspout yet, but Chinook portion of everywhere else has been done. Our marking crews pulled double trailers and double shifts, 7 days a week. It was a very impressive accomplishment for our staff. SS: LLTK fish are not marked. The owner of the facility would not allow the trailer to be on property. The \$30,000 was already paid to LLTK. Management will look into a bubble fishery in the future. GW: Committee will send a letter to LLTK about their disappointment in not getting any Chinook marked and group will discuss future funding in

September. DP: Makes a motion to send LLTK a disappointment letter. MR: Seconded. No opposition.

Biologist 2 work plan:

Hailey will start in early to mid-August and be with the group for 5 months.

Preliminary work plan:

- Use CWT recoveries from RMIS database to calculate survival and fishery contribution rates of PSRFE-funded salmon hatchery program releases.
- Conduct a retrospective analysis of PSRFEF funded hatchery programs to better understand their capabilities, limitations and ways to increase the contribution rate.
- Assist in the completion of a report that evaluates the new and experimental hatchery rearing and release strategies that improve survival and contribution to Puget Sound fisheries.
- Assist in promoting awareness and participation in Puget Sound recreational fishing through outreach and education efforts.
- High Priority: Contribute to the evaluation of the current program goals and objectives of the PSRFEF and update/revise where needed.
- Develop new tools to promote the PSRFEF goals and objectives and increase awareness of Puget Sound fishing opportunities and increase awareness of Puget Sound fishing opportunities through a social media platform.
- Assist licensing division in compiling Puget Sound specific saltwater and combination fishing license sales revenue and quantities over the last 10 years to reveal trends in participation.
- Assist in the revision of a survey to identify angler awareness of the PSRFEF supported programs and satisfaction levels in Puget Sound fisheries.

Current projects update:

South Sound Net Pen Study: They had planned to be moving the operation closer to SAMI at Point Defiance Boat House, but the pandemic closed the park. This resulted in the net pens being at the Narrows Marina at the very last minute. The number of fish produced was tripled this year, from nearly 35,000 last year, to over 100,000 fish this year- 50,000 from the tribes and 50,000 from Minter Creek. Both groups are adipose fin clipped and distinct CWT. The net pen fish were 30-40% larger than freshwater reared fish at the same time of release. They plan on doing a night release of the fish to further increase survival rates.

Subcommittee revamp discussion:

GW: In the past, our Oversight Committee has had several subcommittees, generally composed of 3-5 individuals. Those subcommittees were the Legislative, Hatchery Evaluation, Goal Development (Research), and Alternate Funding. Some were busier than others. We've not been using the subcommittees very much for the past year or more, which raises the question of do we

need these, are they useful, etc. I believe our work can be helped with some modification of the current subcommittees.

1. Legislative – Track issues before the state legislature which are of interest to the OC, the department, and our constituent groups. Members provide testimony to the legislative committees and meet with DFW legislative liaison as desired.
2. Outreach – This subcommittee would work on marketing and outreach projects, including the annual Sportsmen’s Show, and promotion of PRFEF. Activities would include developing signage, banner, handouts and the annual survey for trade shows, scheduling our booth reservation, creation of a PSRFE logo, help create videos and be available to speak to fishing groups.
3. Research – The subcommittee would serve two functions. First, members would review research proposals that are presented to the OC. They would also be free to develop proposals that are presented to the OC to consider during the budget development meetings.
4. OC Goals & Objectives – Work with David to update the goals and objectives in the upcoming months. The subcommittee’s product would be brought to the OC for refinement and approval when ready.

Wrap-Up

- Other items
- Date & meeting type of next meeting