

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
 SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

Minutes

MEETING CALLED BY	Clint Muns
TYPE OF MEETING	Advisory Group
FACILITATOR	Steve Thiesfeld
NOTE TAKER	Colleen Desselle
TIMEKEEPER	
ATTENDEES	Clint Muns, Steve Thiesfeld, Colleen Desselle, Andy Appleby, Dave Croonquist, Rich Eltrich, John Long, Jon Lee, Polly Fischer, Kevin Ryan, David Knutzen, Jim Jenkins, Mike Gilchrist, Pat Pattillo, and Michael Schmidt

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit</li> <li>* Marine Areas 5 &amp; 6; Oversight Committee Roles and Responsibilities</li> </ul>	
CONCLUSIONS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report available yet.</li> </ul>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
* Will discuss at a later time.		

DISCUSSION	Rockfish Plan	
	<p>Delayed until mid-September. Thirty-day comment period until mid-October. Holding four public meetings. Also rule proposals coming out next week with bottomfish, perhaps rockfish, and depth restrictions.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	Need review of co-managers.	
	<p>No scheduling of PSRFE meeting during this period. Need to know how to deal with threatened listings in ESA.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Keeping an eye on this process.	Greg Bargmann	

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Lingcod	
Provided data accumulated from the studies.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	Not collecting eggs in 2010 due to funding issues. Potential for NWIFC to Partner up. Potential for grant from Saltonstall-Kennedy.	
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Continue studies. Try to get funding for more studies.	Jon Lee	

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Harvest Management Plan – 2010 Revised	
We are looking at relatively small changes to overall plan. NMFS approved the last round, but there are changes. Need agreement between Dept and tribes on changes. Sending to NOAA next week. Need tribes to address Skokomish and Nisqually stocks. May have to reconsider approach. For Nisqually, proposing to have exploitation rate drop From 80% to 65% within two years, and then drop to 45% over the next few years. Nisqually tribe is considering a selective fishery. Skokomish discussions ongoing, but slow. For Lake Washington, proposing same exploitation rates, but allowing directed fishing in Lake Washington, ship canal, and Shilshole Bay if exceed a run-size trigger at the locks. Fishing would only be through agreement reached at North of Falcon. NOAA should have a public comment period in winter.		
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
Progress is steady, but slow		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Finish and submit to NOAA.	Pat Pattillo	N/A

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<p>We had funding trouble in June. The fund was so low we brought in \$200K gift from general fund to make it healthy for 07/09 biennium. Despite 10% surcharge on licenses – sales are off the charts, so hoping that the incoming funds noted are conservative. Need to have \$150K by end of year. Steve presented the group with the base package showing 07-09 biennium expenditures, 09-11 biennium projected revenue, and the projected shortfall of \$401,000. Steve offered the OC the option of discussing reductions from the base package, or viewing our draft recommendations from earlier in the day. The OC opted to begin with our draft recommendations. During general fund reductions, did not take reductions in Hood Canal and need to examine impact of any reductions on tribal fishery impacts. OC felt they wanted to be more conservative than our recommended budget and ensure that any spending plan resulted in a positive variance (in addition to the \$150,000 set aside to maintain positive variance through the biennium). The OC was supportive of reductions identified to bring activities that had overspent back to their 07-09 allocations. Those reductions were for Soos Creek sub-yearlings (-\$9,500), Lakewood yearlings (-\$5,000), Garrison Springs sub-yearlings (-\$500) and Lake Washington sockeye monitoring (-\$3,000). They were also supportive of the reduction in modeling (-\$121,000). After a fair bit of discussion about the appropriate level of coded-wire tagging that was necessary to meet management needs, they supported our proposed reductions in tagging (-\$105,750). After discussion of the egg take needs for Glenwood Springs and transferring of those activities to Minter Creek Hatchery, they were supportive of that reduction (-\$4,500). The OC raised a question about the level of support PSRFEF was providing to Fish Health, an activity that we had not identified for funding. They requested that the agency identify what proportion of the total statewide salmon production was being funded by the fund, and fund the Fish Health activities commensurate with that proportion. Staff pointed out the reality that fish raised to yearlings would require additional fish health support versus sub-yearling fish because of the length of time they were held, warmer water temperatures, increased chance of disease, etc. The OC acknowledged those points, but still felt there was a way for the agency to support Fish Health at a level proportionate to the production.</p> <p>The OC did not support our recommendation to eliminate the Hoodsport yearling program (-\$77,500). They felt the Hoodsport yearling program had one of the higher returns to sport fisheries, one of the higher smolt-to-adult survival rates, one of the lower cost per sport caught fish for yearlings, that the agency needed to provide a product to sell in order to sell licenses, and that yearling production was a key component of the enabling legislation. The OC proposed an alternative reduction of Rick's Pond sub-yearling program (-\$30,000) and the associated early rearing at George Adams (-\$31,500). This was a hard decision for them because they appreciated the work that Rick has done for them in the past. However, they noted that George Adams continues to release 4.2 million sub-yearling Chinook, and that Rick's Pond was not compliant with HSRG recommendations (excessive hatchery fish on spawning grounds, no collection facility, etc.).</p> <p>The OC also recommended a reduction in Soos Creek sub-yearling program to ensure a positive balance of \$15,000. There is still a lot of heartburn about this program amongst the OC. This was their number 1 priority reduction.</p> <p>Finally, the OC understood that reductions at Glenwood Springs were unlikely, but felt that performance there was an issue. After some discussion, Michael Schmidt volunteered to discuss a reduction of \$20,000 with his organization.</p>	

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>		
<p>In summary, the OC committee suggested the following changes to our recommendations in this priority order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce Soos Creek to a level that ensures a positive variance of \$15,000.</li> <li>2. Reduce Fish Health to a level that is proportional to the level of fish propagation funded by PSRFEF.</li> <li>3. Cut production at Rick's Pond and the associated early rearing at George Adams.</li> <li>4. Leave Hoodsport yearling program intact.</li> <li>5. Support potential voluntary reductions at Glenwood Springs.</li> </ol>		
<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>
Talk with Jo and get her and Phil's response – get back to group. If issues Clint will come in and talk with Phil.	Steve Thiesfeld	ASAP
Check to see if Glenwood Springs can get by with \$210K for biennium	Michael Schmidt	ASAP

<b>OBSERVERS</b>	N/A
<b>RESOURCE PERSONS</b>	
<b>SPECIAL NOTES</b>	<p>Bruce Arnold has not been able to attend the meetings due to work responsibilities and has submitted his resignation. No need to fill this immediately.</p> <p>Adjourned: 8:42 p.m. Next meeting December 2 in Olympia. Agenda – audit.</p>

