

## PSRFE Oversight Committee Minutes, September 20, 2018

**Present:** OC - Dave Knutzen (DK), Don Freeman (DF), Troy McKelvey (TM), Mark Riedesel (MR), Gregg Williams (GW), Art Tachell (AT), Mike Gilchrist (MG), Norm Reinhardt (NR), Dave Puki (DP); **DEPT** - David Stormer (DS), Mark Baltzell (MB), Jim Jenkins (JJ), Steve Stout (SS), Ed Eleazer (EE), Colleen Desselle, Brandy Campbell (BC)

**Absent:** Michael Rian

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**DK: Introduction** – Occurred.

**RL:** Review Agenda – Occurred.

**DK:** Approve previous meeting's minutes – Motion to approve. Seconded. No opposition. Approved.

In-season Hatchery Escapement Report – (recorder arrived late, so no recording of the earlier discussion occurred). Many entities are involved. Would like to see how we are doing historically. SS talked about what is currently happening, things are looking pretty good, but they are being cautious on the Samish. If a good rain occurs, we may get some fish. JJ - received a call today we are not surplusling fall Chinook at Minter in response to Glenwood Springs. Tumwater has an abundance. MB - we had some awesome coho fishing this year. Opened 10 in June. Guessing they were resident. Seeing very high tag rates. Sekiu had almost a 20% tag-rate and Muckleshoot had 40% tag return. Puget Sound hatchery runs came in earlier than wild, also not fishing many areas. Mark rates are at 30% in Sekiu. In-season management with Tulalip tomorrow on the Snohomish run-size. DP - is anything going to interfere with the coho derby this weekend? MB - We may have additional opportunity depending on run size. We, and tribes, are being cautious for that area. We will be overfish status in Snohomish, Skagit, and Stillaguamish for next year. We are trying to offer opportunities without taking a big whack at the fish. DP - the Duwamish was full of fish before they put the nets in. I do appreciate that you are allowing the derby and trying to keep it homogenous. MB - in looking at North of Falcon, we were looking at forecasts and looking at pulling back some of the coho opportunity that we have lost over the years. MR?: Do you know where we can find when the tribal fisheries are scheduled. MB - Yes, on our website. NR - Are there are intertribal issues on the White River spring Chinook? MB? - Yes. JJ - Many discussions are occurring. We have trapped and released every year and we are still doing that. Probably no changes this year. There are some contentious points. NR - South Sound has some promise, not only the fall Chinook, but springers and early summers. Believe there will be more opportunities in the future. I am optimistic.

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### **BN 17-19 Budget Development – MB**

Budgets: MB – there are about 4 or 5 budget documents, and we do not need to go over them with a fine-toothed comb for everyone, but if I want you to know that Brandy Campbell has joined us. This is kind of a learning experience for her. She is actually the budget point person

for the Hatcheries Division, so she does not have all the answers but she may have a couple answers. So, Brandy, welcome.

(Blue graphs -Fish License Revenue page). It appears that things are not great. Does not look like we are increasing license sales, which may enter into the budget details later on. This does not go into much as much detail as we would like due some changes within our Licensing Division. Hopefully, we can get some more detail within the next month or two. DP – I have two comments: 1) not having any kind of a sockeye fishery; and 2) the fact that there were so many in-season management decisions that had to be made regarding Puget Sound, the drop-off in revenue, I think you did pretty good considering. MR(?) – On the total fishing table here, am I correct in assuming that is just a summation of all the various types of fishing licenses sold? MB – Yes. MR - This is a mix of apples and oranges for all licenses; would like to see this broken down into types of licenses. Perhaps look at the annual licenses sold, but parcel out what make sense. Another interesting thing may be to look at population growth, from say 2012 to 2019, and how many people we have in this state and use that as a percentage base. MB – We have had a big jump for JBLM population in the last decade. DS – I did some checking on that and it looks like it may be a 20-30% population jump, but it appears there could be an equivalent decline in angler participation. MB – that data point could potentially help in outreach or funding for outreach and potentially engaging that next generational outcrop or funding toward attracting people into fisheries. DK – studies have shown that the per capita of hunters and fishers in the 1970s is extremely different than it is today across the whole nation. NR - if you have not seen Nate Pamplin’s webinar on the fee increase, it could be worth your while – about an hour and a half. The germane part for me was some enlightening information as far as demographic go in the first 45 minutes (to take part in the webinar, the public should visit <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8360838542216730371>) — also available at [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov) — and follow the instructions there to register. Registration via the website is available now through Monday.).

DP – I know people, who sell boats, and I went out and talked to a few - boat sales are booming; also, the boat service shops are booked tightly. If you check the stats on where those boaters are going, you have a population to hit the boaters re fisheries. NR - the economy is up and people are arming themselves with cutting-edge electronic suites to get to the fish. This is going to cause more lack of opportunities. How to educate people on how to embrace and get on a fishery when it occurs, as it will close quickly? This is an opportunity to educate the younger and new fishers when and where to go. I stopped and talked with a couple about the fishing, and that is what we talked about – they wanted to know when and where to go. Encourage fishers to go to the fishery when and where you have them, instead of the negative and wanting fisheries year-round. GW? – I think that creates an almost derby-like fishery because they will think that it is their only opportunity. NR – many states are doing these opportunistic fisheries, and it sells licenses. AT - that would exclude a lot of potential recreational fishers who cannot afford a

larger boat to fish in a derby-style situation. NR: You look at the availability of recreational opportunity in Puget Sound. It is not there. As far as doing saltwater fishing, you talk to any guide. There are guides that are out there; they travel anywhere that fishery is open. AT – there are a lot of guides who can't. DK – Whereas I don't disagree with you, you are describing what happens when you get to scarcity fisheries. We have scarcity and a lot of people jump on scarcity. Whether you are talking about fishing, global climate change, snow skiing, if it good, you have to call in sick and go skiing. The problem here is that most people have to work and they need to be able to plan ahead fishery here in Washington. I use Sitka, AK as an example (bad one because of their situation last year), but you can call and say I want to go fishing on such and such a date. They say okay, how many are in your party. Anywhere in Washington, you give them a date and they say, okay, I have you on the calendar. I can't tell you what boat launch we are going to be, but we are going to be some place if we are lucky. This is where the world is at – we have scarcity and the people with money can chase that. We need more expanded meaningful opportunity with predictable seasons. If you want opportunity, you have to be ready to go when it occurs. Dave P- with more production, things are evolving more into terminal fisheries or we are not going to be out in the Straits because we make too much noise, or we take too many fish.

Budget, Agency – There is a bit of a bump to fish health. In goal document, it looks like we are sitting pretty in comparison to last time, \$25K in hatchery, which is essentially money for the HSRG work that has not yet been paid. For the most part, we can carryover overruns/underruns which left us with a decent positive variance after the first fiscal year. That obviously gets carried over into the second year. DK – assuming that these hatcheries that went in the red in the previous biennium, were buying year-end things and whatever but overall for the whole biennium they are going to hold true to that budget. MB – that is my understanding as well. BC – that is my understanding as well. MB – we cannot exceed that 2.6 spending authority. NR – if we continue to spend as shown, we are going to exceed our spending authority. If you look at Icy Creek, we have a 20% increase in expenditure and want to know how we are going to make that up. JJ – the PSRFE budgets that are allotted to the hatcheries, we cannot exceed the dollar amount. We can roll over from FY to FY, so we can roll this debt over to the next FY. At the end of the year, we have to zero out. Within the Hatcheries Division, it will balance. DK – the budget was originally set up to be a biennial budget, and at the end of the biennium, it better be black, not red. MB – my overall take is that it seems that we have some room in goal development. If there are other things that we want to look at as far as spending. If there is something identified for us to consider as far as tagging programs or other things we want to wrap our head around to fulfill our goals and mission here. I think there is some room to play with because of the extra bump we got through the supplemental budget. BC – what about the shortfalls that we are already seeing? We can move money around to zero-out, but if there is an actual ongoing need where we continually see negatives instead of fixing it at the end, can we just increase the budgeted amount? JJ – our history has never been that we come back to the

committee and say, “well it costs more to do this and ask for more.” I come back to my chain of command and ask where do we go from here? I would not unilaterally do that. It would have to be a discussion that we would have to have to even approach that request. DK – Yes, it has happened back in the past, but this program is not the sugar daddy for the same production every single year, but the idea was, are there ways to increase opportunity – basically we get in, set a program, get it established, and get out. That is the way it was supposed to be designed. It has never happened that way. NR – this committee took great stride over the last 10 years in identifying efficiencies, managing those efficiencies, so that we could take those funds we manage and use it to address the law that we were created under, and that is to improve and enhance recreational fisheries. When we talk about goal development and “we have a surplus,” it is not that we have a surplus, but we have managed our funds rather well since the good old days. We are trying to 1) ensure the citizens are getting the bang for the buck; and 2) if we can identify efficiencies, where can we apply them, again, to enhance the opportunity for the citizens of this state as the statute states. MB – so what I am looking at is the goal development page and what is essentially known is that we have \$142K sitting there, but I think we only have about \$46K allotted for FY2, and we still have that \$53K carryover from FY1 also. The only thing I am thinking about too is we have been seeing this declining trend in license sales too, and what is that going to mean if we continue that over several biennia, are we going to be shrinking this PSRFE pad? Then we have the flip side, if you kick it down the road a bit and it all stays in there, granted you are going to decrease the spending authority because you did not spend up to your spending authority, so it is the catch 22 situation you find yourself in. DP – we also need to be thinking about that new segment of the population - how to get outreach to them to make available the opportunities that are there. Get them on the water; or get them educated and get them successfully recreating and catching fish, crab, or whatever it is that they are going to do to kind of expand and hedge against that decline that you are talking about. NR – I thought we had a few things in the pipeline from the first biennium and that we were very conservative in our funding the last biennium based on our concern about license sales. We kind of pulled back on funding things we were talking about last year. I think one of them was expansion of the Squaxin Island Project. MB – Yeah. We did three years of barging study and this was the last year that we tagged and barged those fish, and I don’t think there is any plan to do that going forward. I don’t think the Squaxins are interested in doing that, at least until they can get those tags back. DP – what was the cost? MB – about \$5K. DP – I would be working on trying to continue that. You are going to get brood back this year. DK – the initial study did not go quite the way I wanted it to go. The first year we did not test the barge, itself. So we released up north. That is all we did. That data should a significant down – the fish just disappeared. Year 2 will be the year we get these tags back. This year we will actually study the barge. That brought fish into the barge, left them in there at the nets pens for X amount of time, kicked them loose at the net pens so that to tease out what is barge compared to the location release. Here is the data I rounded up: fish released at the net pens – 3.9%; Narrows – 50K (rounding numbers up) released with 300 recovered; at PNPTC 50K released with 120 recovery; South Sound Net Pens 25K,

with 1000 recoveries. JJ - Next year they will be released from the barge with a ride just around Squaxin Island (a couple laps) and then released at the net pens to see and we will see if the longer ride was the issue. TM - Did not see predators, any dead fish – all those fish came out of that barge and... JJ – yeah, everybody said it went great. We are just trying to eliminate barge variables. DK – it could be the barge, released on lingcod hole, were they dazed or confused? Did Herschel find them? JJ – this really messes with production at Skookumchuck. They have to play with their program that is currently working and to battle with that, it just needs to work. NR – if it is not working, we need to eliminate why or decide whether to continue. Three years does not really make a robust scientific examination of the process, but if it interferes with their successful fishery, I can understand their not wanting to go forward. DK – A couple of months ago we thought we were in a budget crisis. We actually pared some things down, under-funded some things, decided we were not going to do this remember I was on the white board? Then we had another meeting thinking, “Oh boy, are we really going to get there?” Then we come to this meeting thinking we were going to have to be in a slashing mode, and now we learn that there is actually some money here. I am trying to find out in the notes what we eliminated or underfund. I know there were coho at Skagit, Hupp Springs mark... to mark fish, we did take care of UW as far as their study is concerned. I don't know that we are fully prepared to figure out where to spend the money. MC - There are a lot of people coming up with proposals including Fish and Wildlife Commissioners about where we should increase production. DK – I did ask Andy Appleby where our report is. There is a draft, I have not seen. HSRG members are reviewing it. I will follow up in the morning to see if we can get that report.

NR – (orca Chinook production) we are in the middle of egg-take right now. If we are looking at potentially 30M more Chinook and 20M on the coast and Columbia River over a variety of Chinook programs – springers is one of them. I would think that hatchery managers are scrambling now to make sure they have enough eggs on hand because this calls for 3-5 years short-term. If we have any idea tonight that we are going to expand any program where it is going to require eggs, we need to let them know sooner rather than later so they can put that in their pipeline. TM – Is there any place we can take more eggs and incubate them? Most of them are going to be reared in net pens because there is no pond space for them. SS – there is some space out there. We are still working on these, but Chinook production for the Skagit is 600K, we have permission to go 200K more 0s from the tribes with verbal agreement and everything is there starting on the future brood change forms and 400K more yearling Chinook. They want them all tagged – still working on what they want as far as the tag issue on that. Tribes agreed to 250K coho that we did last year with your help. Agreed to allow that to go on further, not just this year, but next year and on. Doing chum at Marblemount. Also getting 200K fall Chinook. We had a small program and it might take a while to build up to 200K, but will work on that next year on the fall program. This year start on the chum program. Samish increase production 1M more Chinook and Kendall 500K more Chinook. Discontinue the Lummi Bay project with the Samish fall Chinook. Now going to get north fork Nooksack spring Chinook, which just makes

total sense. Lummi Tribe is increasing their production, putting out another 500K out of the hatchery, plus another 500K they are going to plant above their hatchery on the south fork to start developing a wild return off those fish. We are going to increase chum production and Kendall Cove by 200K. The 500K that was going to the Lummi Bay from Samish will now be going to the Bellingham Technical College and the Samish will increase by another 1M. NR - I am going to just interject, and I am going to read from table 1 potential increases– region – Puget Sound: Hupp 100K; Kendall Creek 1M; Marblemount 100K; Minter 400K; Minter F 400K; Wallace two 500K allotments; Samish 1M; Whatcom Creek 500K; Soos Creek 2M. Going to the coast you have Aberdeen at 100K, Bingham Creek 500K, Forks Creek 100M, Humptulips 1.25M, Naselle 2.5 M, Sol Duc 1M, Sol Duc spring 150K, and then Columbia River: Beaver Creek 1M, Ringold 350K, and Ringold Falls 1M. That is on this document that came out August 8. The numbers you gave came out pretty closely to these. If you want an idea what’s out there, what they are talking about, it capacity. If we want to increase production we need to speak up soon. DK - We need the hatchery reform report from Appleby. This orca train is going down the track, and the numbers they are talking about are way above what we can do. The only fisheries we are going to have is Puget Sound, (because it is the only fisheries we currently have in Puget Sound), is mark-selective fisheries. The one thing that I think this group perhaps should look at, instead of production train, because that train is going to go with or without us, so looking at some mark-selective czar person who beats the Department over the head and keeps saying, “give me a fishery.” That’s what this group is about, right, getting fisheries? How do we create opportunity? How do we make it happen? Perhaps these fisheries cost more money in sampling. I guarantee that the orca people and the tribes are not going to like all of a sudden having a fishery without it being sampled up the kazoo. Perhaps we can enhance and expand out fisheries if we had somebody that really dives into the models and kicks every last can to get an extra day here and there. MB – I think Hood Canal is going to kill us. MG – Maybe we can even pull back on production and put more into sampling for fisheries we don’t currently have on the books. We don’t know when the train will pass the station. MR -...if we are talking about increasing fishing we need to include angler opportunity in A7. Sampling – encourage that data collection to say we have this many people and this many fish that are not going to be harvested, and get information that we don’t normally get. NR – Do not want to create another Tony Floor. Delayed release coho created opportunity. A targeted release to increase opportunity. To jump on the whale bandwagon, they are going to produce maybe all these Chinook and I have an opinion on how effective that would be. If we can supplement specific programs already in place to increase opportunity, even if it is coho, I know of at least four guys out of Seattle who are making bucks, booking their boat every day chasing resident coho. I know a couple guys from Kitsap County, going out there in June, having a blast. Not just making more fish to make more fish, but with the mandates and the guidance making it where the angler can get to them. DK – I would counter you by saying, “Live by the motto, die by the motto.” If there is opportunity in there, how often has the tribe shut our fisheries down because they say you don’t have enough data to prove X, Y, and Z? If there are areas in the no go zone where we can

support and help the Department to have that data to be able to go back, and the reason I say a position for it is because it has to somebody who able to be in the room who can say, "Wait a minute. We have this data," and really push the Department in that direction. You can't have an outsider do this stuff because it is just outside data. To use all this money for that, not necessarily. It doesn't take very many fish to have a fishery. Can you imagine if we raised Chinook salmon to be 22 inches long in a net pen, kicked them loose and all the orca lovers would say, "Oh that's great because that is orca feed," and then you can instantly have a fishery here and there and everywhere. MB – We can change management too, I mean, we can just open it just for weekends, but then there is the segment that works weekends. There are all sorts of things we can do to play the dates and open - stuff like that. One of the things I was thinking is that a lot of what we are talking about could be classified under research. We do have at least 8-9 years of data we collected dockside in Area 7 where we were collecting fin clips and then we had samplers with maps there asking fishers to show them where they were fishing and we would take the lat./long. they pointed to on the map - then we have a fin clip and an age and location where that was caught. (?) - The reason I bring this up is when we went into NoF, and we are talking about a mid-Hood Canal, and savings from here and there. I started asking questions like "how many fish were harvested in this bubble area, and what could we close off...reinstate that Rosario closure?" and get answers like "I don't really have that data," but it is going to look good. We can stress in these meetings about making and advising on science-based facts and data, now it is like they are going to go for this. I think we should be collecting that information. It's expensive, I get that, but if that means I can tell my club members that that earned us four more days on the water (or even one more day on the water). MB – Here is another idea. In the past the Department has had kind of like a highliner program for our voluntary... What if we developed a program that collects genetic and location data on where people are catching fish? Would want to collect biological data as well. NR – you better be able to live with the data you collect. MR – thinking more terminal, mixed-stock fisheries. This is an argument as to why Wash Away fishery was closed. MB – I am a data junky, but yeah, it could bite us. I think we can make better management decisions if we had more data and able answer the unknowns that we deal with all the time. I think it would be great if NOAA would reevaluate how we are doing ESA in the Puget Sound and take mid-Hood Canal off the table, and... DP – I thought NOAA was looking at those hatchery plans and... NR – are we talking about creating a position or more funding to put to more data collection? DK – I have heard so many times that there is not enough data. How to get someone in who has the wherewithal to get that data information? Maybe we already have those positions, and we need to find out if that information. MB – one overarching for past four or five years is not having a long-term Chinook plan in place. We have to come to an agreement year-after-year. One tribe can disagree and throw the whole thing off. We may not always agree, but we give in just to be able to have a fishery, and we have to work it out while it is in process. To have a 10-year plan in is scary, but having it in place could allow us to have our fisheries which are within our quotas. TM – If we can increase production for orcas, why can't we increase production for more fisheries? Dave K

– Why are the orcas not surviving? Chinook are not surviving. Why are the Chinook not surviving? Why are they smaller? What else can we do to increase production and size? The (hatchery reform) report is getting close. Andy can provide a draft but I will tell him we need the actual report soon.

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**Commissioner Motion** – Motion One. McIsaac, Commissioner. There is a lot going out now. It all depends on money, information, etc. Capital improvements, long-term advantages for DFW. David S – Kept numbers 1 & 3. Mark B – not sure that all the commissioners are onboard ingoing bold. We don't know what the Legislature is going to do. There are still a lot of unknowns. Dave P asked if there will be a lot of fertilized eggs stored. Ed E – a lot of the proposal is to bring back the production we used to have. Dave P – will they be marked? Ed - ...DP survival rate – what will it be? Ed – Increase hatchery production, pinniped restoration, and ... Jim – two things: everything negotiated. Not adding anything which was not already agreed to. Agreed consensus available. We are jammed up. No consensus in Puget Sound on how to handle the production. Bingham piece may move along as less tribal... Dave K – this is a big process. Ed – conversations with tribes has not been all about the orcas. We have been talking agreements we have. We're in step with the co-managers. NOAA is giving up one ESA listed species to save another ESA species. Do you want orcas or salmon? We need to truly fish selectively. Brought Commission policy. Copy is available. Letter signed by several citizens. Also one from LLTK. Letter from HSRG stating the by-laws, etc. If we want to produce fish there is a right way and a wrong way. Don F – 30 M. What number is feasible? Jim – what can we do immediately; what infrastructure do we have: water rights, build facility. We do not have \$30M to put to this. Norm – I believe in HSRG...what the Commission recently did with suspending #3. I don't believe that is what we should be doing. Department wholeheartedly – new in Willapa Bay promoting conservation. Asked if giving HSRG away? No. Looking at springers – they will not survive in Willapa Bay. They will not destroy fall fish. Before suspending, do your independent studies. Art – in Hood Canal, how do they come up with A11? Mark B – tagged fish. Use tag recoveries from early 2000s. I don't have that history. No supplementation fish. Will there be any impact? Troy – never been a wild run in mid Hood Canal stock. LLTK was an experiment that did not work. Norm – I am just as frustrated; have not been able to fish at Ayock for years. We need to go into our budget and create a proposal to have more science/data to increase our knowledge to get more fisheries. Whether to get test boats, etc. Dave K – we do not have the ability to make conclusions, but ask the Department if there is an area we can help with to increase... We gave HSRG \$25K to get ... We need that report.

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### **Wrap-Up**

Need to schedule meeting in mid- to late October. Will Doodle Poll for the last two weeks. Adjourn 7:58.