

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 30, 2012

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| MEETING CALLED BY | Clint Muns |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Advisory Group |
| FACILITATOR | Steve Thiesfeld |
| NOTE TAKER | Colleen Desselle |
| ATTENDEES | Kelly Cunningham, Roger Stevens, Colleen Desselle, Ryan Lothrop, Steve Thiesfeld, Dorothy Reinhardt, Dave Puki, Matt Parnel, Dave Knutzen, Norman Reinhardt, Don Freeman, Clint Muns, Mike Schmidt, and Pete Naylor. |

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Agenda Topics | (PDF) |
|---------------|-------|

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| DISCUSSION | Introductions |
| Introductions were made. | |

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| CONCLUSIONS | <p>Clint Muns indicated that during this meeting he would like to discuss some minor things. The lingcod project is no longer operational due to federal budget cuts. Tumwater mayor pro-tem wants to move forward on Tumwater project. Also there is a need to have state entities scale back on projects, i.e., 4B rockfish – the numbers are questionable, not sure what the target is and could be misleading. Arguments made in the past are still very much in tact today. Lake WA sockeye – Dave Knutzen stated that even more significant in the adult escapement goal should be the adult numbers versus the habitat availability. The Department hired biometricians and they suggested lower escapement numbers. This has been put to the North of Falcon (NOF) process, but feels that this should be done sooner. Steve noted that WDFW and the tribes discussed the goal last June, but once the run started to dwindle, the impetus was lost. Additional discussions will occur.</p> | |
|-------------|---|--|

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| Continue to push for discussion of the appropriate goal. | Steve Thiesfeld | |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| DISCUSSION | Review Previous Meeting Minutes |
| Motion was made to accept and Dave Puki seconded. | |

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| CONCLUSIONS | Accepted |
|-------------|----------|

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| N/A | | |

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| DISCUSSION | Goals and Objectives (PDF) |
|------------|----------------------------|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Started with an ambitious list. Met with Jim Scott and he wanted us to focus on paring down. Did this. Met with him again and he wanted more paring. Jim wants us to focus on the necessary and achievable. We whittled. Kept the major focus for Minter Creek. Spoke with Craig Burley regarding rockfish and are now in line with plans. Walk through step-by-step: 1) Puget Sound recreational salmon angler trips; and 2) Percent increase in Puget Sound salmon angler trips per biennium. This could take 3-5 years to see a change. We suggest a 5% increase based on this and to have an achievable goal.</p> | |
|--|--|

| | |
|-------------|--|
| CONCLUSIONS | |
|-------------|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Strategy 1 – we need a realistic goal on under-utilized fish. How do we measure increase in awareness? Hoping that creel sampling projects already in place can obtain information and then measure at intervals down the road with additional survey work. The difficulty is in how to make them aware. Develop brochures, revamp website, etc.</p> <p>Strategy 2 – Concern was expressed about the length of time for completion of new rearing strategies. Steve described that we would have put into action some of those release strategy changes and a way to evaluate them. He indicated that a report for the Legislature would not be available until 2022 (i.e., we make a decision to change the program, we have to re-do the budget, get that change made, release the fish probably a year after we have made that decision – those fish are not going to enter the fishery for two more years and will not be back at the hatchery for three, four, five years, it will take another year and a half to process the Coded-Wire tag data). In three years, identify what species of fish we want to push</p> | |
|--|--|

into (if any). We will have to tie into other work that is already in place and expand upon it. The strategy would be to remove the obstacles to build interest in participation, for example the Lake Washington sockeye fishery.

Strategy 3 – Increase participation and teach salmon anglers how to target the fish without incidental catch of rockfish. Establish rates of encounters. Figure out why they are catching them.

Strategy 4 – If we can get the license fees tied to some kind of a scale that adjusts, management is comfortable with increasing the contribution rate also. We need to be aware that increases in license fees are putting off anglers in purchasing fishing licenses; however, we need to increase revenue from license sales. Educate anglers on fishing opportunities for species other than salmon. Licenses will sell if: 1) we can provide opportunity to go; and 2) provide opportunity to catch something.

| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Improve marketing and reduce obstacles to increase angler participation. Finalize strategic objectives and provide incremental performance measures indicating whether we are reaching our goals. | Group | |

| DISCUSSION | Glenwood Spring Hatchery Chinook Program (PDF) | |
|---|--|----------|
| Mike Schmidt discussed the document. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| The take-home message was to take it with a grain of salt as the data is limited. We did increase our returns. We had fewer jacks return this year and we are keeping our eye on this. Contribution rate was verified by checking recovery rate for this year. Diversifying our revenues (i.e., kokanee, local derbies, pairing up money from tribal sources, and possibly cutting our coho program to allow more space). | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Need to verify data to ensure correct. Looking at developing a cost-recovery fishery, but it is difficult due to fact that we are on an island. Look at adult holding. Looking at local avenues (restaurants) to purchase our surplus. | Mike Schmidt | |

| DISCUSSION | Budget Status Update (PDFs) | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| We had a bit of a crisis last June/July. We started getting a disturbing report about the spring revenues. Looked at July revenues for this fiscal year. This sheet shows all of the programs we are spending PSRFE funds on. Highlighted are the two programs we added late in the current fiscal year. Most are staying with the allotments. Glenwood is a contracted program so there is no variability. Overall with the \$200,000 less in revenue for the biennium, we turned out in pretty good shape. Clint request regarding the Lake Washington sockeye: track record and explanation. Are we under budgeting or are they overspending? | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| We spent quite a bit of time looking at the overall budget situation and decided not to bring you all in for a meeting on where to cut the budget. Some of the money was Journal Vouchered back for last year. For FY 12 we had planned \$1.3 million on expenditures and came in at \$1.2 million. We made the decision on how to absorb over expenditures and not cut any programs. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Will see if the Lake Washington can cover the next monitoring and find out if we need to help with coordinator funds. | Steve Thiesfeld | Next meeting. |

| DISCUSSION | 2011-13 Biennium License Revenue (PDFs) |
|---|---|
| Last year we were -\$212,273 and this year it is up +\$10,937. There are two things in play here: one is the way that our methodology works we apply the participation rate – the number of anglers who fished in Puget Sound and Lake Washington a year after it occurs so we are applying to this year's revenue or license sales - to the participation rate from last year's pink fishery. We definitely saw an increase in actual sales in this current fiscal year. | |
| CONCLUSIONS | |
| Positive from a number of factors, one is we are well above what we were looking at last year when we came in below the revenue forecast. This could be that our trend is actually going to pick up, and that we | |

| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| had a good coho fishery this year means, which should increase the participation rate that will be applied to next year's odd year sales, likely giving us a pretty good revenue year next fiscal year. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| N/A | Ryan Lothrop | |
| DISCUSSION | 13-15N Budget Planning | |
| We are not at a point where we can provide accurate information. Part of that was until we agreed what our objectives were I did not know if we had a guideline for where recommendations for expenditures would come from. We are not going to have 2011 expanded Coded-Wire tag recovery until probably early December. In order for us to provide full accounting of 2006 brood year and threes and fours from the 2007 brood year, we are not going to have all that until early December. We cannot get you two more years of brood data for at least a month and one-half to two months. It is important for us to have those two additional years of broods in there in order to look at the programs closely. We tried to use 2000-2005, but what we would like to get is either 2000-2007 or figure out what subsets works. They need to get the catch estimates into RMIS, and those catch estimates just came out last week. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| What are we going to set for our spending for the biennium? Given what we saw for FY 12 and what we see for this year my recommendation is to plan as we did for last year. I do not see a reason to plan for a reduction right now. May be in our interest to have a back-up if the March and April numbers are not what we hoped. We should have a first project out and if better than what we thought we could have a first project in. Adding fish is easy even with constraints; hardest for us to do are the cuts. We clearly do not see ramping up production. Should look at production cuts before staff cuts as without staff cannot do production. We do not see an increase in revenue, so we should remain flat or anticipate possible cuts as our starting point. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| We need to be ready to make cuts as needed as soon as possible when the budget comes out – personnel are involved. | Group | Next meeting? |
| DISCUSSION | Membership Renewal | |
| It is time to renew the two-year membership. Clint Muns indicated that he has been chair for a number of years and he would like to bow down and let someone else take the reins. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| Reminder that if you want to reapply, we need your notification that you want to stay on. Consider taking over as chair to replace Clint. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Send Steve an email if you want to stay on the Committee. | | |
| DISCUSSION | Date/Location for Next Meeting | |
| January or late December. January is getting awfully close to North of Falcon. | | |
| CONCLUSIONS | | |
| Clint Muns prefers the 2 nd or 3 rd – preference is Wednesday. There may be a set back if members have not been appointed. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| January 2 in Olympia to start at 5:00 p.m. (dinner); meeting to start at 6:00. | Steve Thiesfeld | |
| OBSERVERS | Roger Stevens, Dorothy Reinhardt, Mike Schmidt | |
| RESOURCE PERSONS | Ryan Lothrop | |
| SPECIAL NOTES | | |