

# 2019 Willapa Bay Advisory Group North of Falcon Meeting

March 4, 2019

Raymond Elks Lodge, Raymond, WA 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

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WDFW Staff: Chad Herring, Barbara McClellan, Damon Peterson, Lyle Jennings

Advisors: Greg McMillan, Andy Mitby, Lance Gray, Jack Hollingsworth, Norm Reinhardt, Bob Lake, Ross Barkhurst, Marlisa Dugan, Tim Hamilton, Steve Boerner, Francis Estalilla

Public: 8 Individuals

Chad:

- Opening statements and introductions
- Agency transparency
- Control zone in Willapa Bay is to protect non-local stocks such as Columbia River Tules
- Heard a lot at the forecast meeting last week and we wanted to touch on some of the topics that you guys said were important
- Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) handouts
  - Negotiated every 10 years – just renegotiated starting for 2019
  - SE Alaskan and Canadian reductions were achieved for the 2019-2028 PST but some WA stocks had to take some reductions in these negotiations as well
- CWT Recoveries by facility pie chart handouts for Chinook and Coho
  - Coho crashed everywhere in 2015.
  - Go online and watch the presentation from the statewide forecast meeting last week by Marisa Litz regarding ocean conditions. It's a very good presentation with insightful information regarding ocean conditions.
- Forecasting evaluation
- 2019 Planning -
  - Commission asked the agency to come back in April with an option analysis – 2019 season based on 14% or 20% harvest rates.
  - This meeting in April will be a decision-making meeting by the Commission.
  - Planning model output will be sent out as soon as it is completed using last year's seasons and this year's forecasts.
  - Once presentation for the April commission meeting is completed, will send it out.

Public Comments:

- Agency departments do not seem to communicate with each other. You need to better direct us quicker to who we need to talk to within the agency regarding other issues (i.e. Federal fisheries/ocean fisheries) if we have other concerns that you cannot answer.
- How much does the entire HSRG program cost to run?
- Your forecasts are always wrong.
- Please provide us a list of names and contact information within the agency and the silos the agency has in order to know who to contact for other issues.
- How do we get some of this money from PST to come to Willapa in order to meet our objectives?
- Harvest rates in Alaska and Canada are not specific to stock due to their abundance-based management.

- Would like to see the allocation out in the ocean up to Alaska so we can see what was left over for us in the terminal area.
- With the pie chart handouts seems like a waste of time. Tell us what you think these mean.
- We need to fix the coho situation in Willapa in order to make escapement.
- There are no smolt traps within Willapa so you don't know that the cause is solely from the ocean conditions.
- Chinook forecasts have generally been over-forecasted. Concentrate your effort for Chinook in this issue of over-forecasting.
- There is a credibility problem with the agency on Bear River Chum because the dykes were broken to provide habitat but we cannot see it.
- Do not set the harvest rate to 19.99% just under the 20% because if we habitually over-forecast then we will end up over.
- Need to include in the forecast comparison to include whether the commercial fishery actually fished.
- These forecasting comparisons prove that we need to continue to have in-season management.
- In-season management is a good tool and do not believe the agency uses it soon enough.
- Runsizes are cyclical.
- Should buffer runsize or harvest rates.
- The Forks Creek Chinook release is going to have a bigger impact with a lower release now.
- How are you going to deal with the early coho return for the commercial fishery relative to the 14%.
- What is upper management going to say to the Commission behind closed doors?
- What will we need for broodstock Chinook this year? 350K Forks Creek
- Are the issues with egg quality at Nemah also issues at Forks Creek and Naselle?
- Run the model based on what the policy currently says and present that to the Commission.
- We should have input prior to the April Commission meeting on the planning model. Another advisory meeting?
- Want to look at or manage the Control Zone to mitigate it.

#### Public Input:

##### Allan Hollingsworth

- There is enough Chinook this year in the forecast to allow the commercial fishery to get quite a few coho.
- The return on natural Chinook this year in Willapa River will be about equal to the hatchery Chinook so you should reduce the limit in that area for the recreational fishery to keep their natural Chinook impacts down.

##### Art Holman

- Control Zone is bull. If the ocean is open, we should be able to fish the control zone.