

Prince William Sound / Copper River
Salmon Harvest Task Force Meeting
Friday, April 20th, 2018
2:00 pm
The Cordova Center – Cordova AK

Attendance:

CDFU Seine Division	Present
CDFU Gillnet Division	Present
PWS Set Net Association	Present - Telephonically
PWS/CR ADF&G Advisory Council	Present
Trident Seafoods	Present
Ocean Beauty Seafoods	Present
Peter Pan Seafoods	Present
Icicle Seafoods	Present
Copper River Seafoods	Present
Valdez Fisheries Development Association	Present
PWS Aquaculture Center	Present
ADF&G Management (Chair)	Present - Acting Regional Supervisor Aaron Potter
ADF&G Seine Biologist	Present
ADF&G Gillnet Biologist	Present
ADEC (Honorary Member)	Absent
ASMI (Honorary Member)	Absent

Call to order at 2 pm

Roll Call

Approve Oct 5, 2017 meeting minutes

No discussion. T. Carpenter motioned / C. Boulton second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Approve April 20' 2018 Meeting Agenda

No modifications made J. Renner motioned / second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Reports

Stormy Haught ADFG Area Research Biologist

Provided information on Research methods used by ADFG.

- Valid forecast methodology but most forecasts have large error/ are not very accurate.
- Managers in PWS understand this and manage adaptively.
- Discussed possible ways to improve preseason forecasts.
- Gave update on Miles Lake and pilot ARIS system for 2018.
- Thanked industry supporters for the project.

Questions/Discussion from members included:

- CRMA has also funded the lower river sonar with PWSSC. How is that going? Is it useful?
- Was the fry survey done by NOAA or ADFG?
- If forecasts are so incorrect, why are we talking about managing with forecasts and not in season information?

Jeremy Botz ADFG Gillnet Manager

Provided information on season forecast for the gillnet fisheries.

Copper River District

- Begin with 2 (12 hour) openers per week.
- Chinook salmon inside closures with inside waters of Softuk included.
- Midseason shift to sockeye salmon management only.
- Mid Aug anticipated to move into coho management with one period per week.
- All may change as the season progresses.

Coghill and Eshamy

- Open end of May/beginning of June
- Outlined various possible management approaches

Questions/Discussion from members included:

- Why no date for first opener announced yet?
 - Jeremy- don't typically announce until first week of May.
- What will the inside closure areas look like this year?
 - Jeremy- Softuk end of district is anticipated to be closed, but not expansion into western end of district.
- Would like to see more consistent openers in Coghill once PWSAC knows their needs.
- Asked for Granite Bay clarification – SHA strategy.
 - Jeremy- Granite Bay Subdistrict should be open on a regular basis to keep up with enhanced chum salmon run entry while minimizing wild stock harvest. Potential new strategy using short openers to keep fish quality up.
- How does deep gear affect the fishery? To change it may be a board process.
 - Jeremy- deep gear restriction was put in place for wild sockeye salmon conservation, decreasing gear harvest efficiency.

Charles Russell ADFG Seine Manager

Noted BOF changes that will affect the seine fleet

- PWS purse seine lead mesh size extended to 220 fathoms.
- AFK THA and SHA

Gave update on expected strategies for upcoming season. Adjustments will be made as the season progresses.

Questions/Discussion from members included:

- Ping Pong openers weren't ideal.
- Timing of announcements was frustrating.

Casey Campbell PWSAC Manager

- Overview of Hatchery
- Upcoming capital projects

Questions/Discussion from members included:

- Did you have any whale predation issues this year?
- Strategy for release. If no whales they will do a mass release. If whales are present, then we'll trickle the release.
- How is PWSAC planning to deal with the current media efforts to attack the hatcheries?

Mike Wells VFDA Manager

- Discussed 2018 forecasts and noted printed material was sent to CDFU
- Provided information on releases
- Overview of 2018 season expectations
- Update on major projects

Questions/Discussion from members included:

- What is your cost recover strategy going to be this year?
- At what percentage with you kick off common property?

Old Business

Subsistence seat solicitation

Discussion: James noted the committee received no letters of interest.

Motion to remove Subsistence seat.

J. Honkola motioned / [REDACTED] second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Committee report on processor seats.

Discussion: James noted committee proposed having the current 5 voting seats and every year, 2 new processors would be rotated in. Silver Bay Seafoods and NPPI submitted letters of interest.

Motion to adopt the committee's proposal for rotating in 2 new processors.

M. Wells motioned / [REDACTED] second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion for these 2 processors to be Silver Bay Seafoods and NPPI due to their letters of interest.

M. Wells motioned / [REDACTED] second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

CRMA Marketing Association.

J. Bailey asked for CRMA to be reconsidered as a voting member. Their membership is comprised of the permit holder's in this area.

Motion to reconsider CRMA as a voting member.

G. Meyer motioned / J. Honkola Second.

M. Wells called a question. How does that fit within the bylaws? We need to verify we can make changes to our bylaws before voting.

Motion failed.

Motion to work on a bylaw change so members can revisit this issue.

G. Meyer motioned / no second.

C. Campbell asked that this be put on the agenda for the next meeting so the bylaws could be investigated.

No action taken at this point.

Coghill, Eshamy, Copper River district marker programs / Updates in funding.

Charlie provided an update of the marker program that he's been working on with Galen Meyer at CDFU. They hope to mark up to 100 streams this season. They will prioritize streams as needed.

New markers will replace the regulatory markers currently in PWS.

- Time frame shifted due to lead up time for making the signs.
- Place the order so they are being manufactured.
- Will work on replacing the signs in 2-3 trips.
- Enough signs for 200 streams to begin with.
- Funding from ADFG is NON-existent.
- Pilot project coming from CDFU seine.
- Charlie volunteering his time.
- DPS will also help place signs in high activity areas.

NEW Business

Chum brood management

Casey noted PWSAC has discussed this and created an internal memo that will be made available to anyone interested.

Update included:

- The new brood net needed additional permitting.

- PWSAC will be exploring new ways to provide more opportunity within SHA's without risking brood. Plans to actively manage with ADFG.

Discussion:

J. Botz goals to harvest chum salmon prior to them entering the SHA. Would deep gear play a part in that? Does J. Botz have EO Authority to do that? B. O'Leary inquired what the historical reference of deep gear was. Jeremy- deep gear restrictions were intended to conserve wild stocks when necessary.

New Discussion:

J. Bailey commented inconsistency of board members. The board delayed voting on his request to change CRMA seat from a nonvoting seat, to a voting seat until bylaws could be investigated. Changes to the bylaws were motioned and passed regarding the subsistence seat without looking into the specifics of bylaws.

No action taken at this time.

Public Comment

Native Village of Eyak representatives stated they DID submit a letter of interest and followed the protocol set up by the board. Very concerned to hear that no one submitted a letter of interest. Some fishermen voiced concerns of conserving Chinook Salmon at the cost of the Sockeye fishery in the Copper River District.

Questions/Discussions

- What are the goals of the Coghill run? Jeremy- 20,000 to 60,000 sockeye salmon.
- How does deep gear affect the species caught? Jeremy- intended to reduce harvest of wild stocks.
- What is the role of the SHTF board? Seems to have changed.
- "Due to low forecast of Chinook" language was in announcements even after return was higher than expected. Where was the abundance-based management then? A second fisherman reiterated this and ask that the ADFG truly adapt quickly in the presence of abundance.
- Concern that a large portion of the fleet are unable to fish in the THA's. Postage stamp fishery doesn't work.

Board Members discussion.

What is the role of the SHTF. Seems that it has changed since it's inception. Discussed working on the bylaws to better fit the role it has now. 2 members asked that the board revisit the subsistence seat due to new information brought up in the public comments.

T. Carpenter noted the SHTF is a Commercial board. We should set up a committee to look over bylaws and then revisit the proposals for the Subsistence seat and CRMA requests for a voting seat. G. Mayer prefers to understand the bylaws before adding more groups.

T. Carpenter motioned / _____ Second. 1 Nay (motioned passed?) (This was confusing to me???? And I have NO IDEA what they did???)

Motion to check into if EO authority can allow deep gear earlier to avoid dark chums, as in AFK Subdistrict.

J. Renner motioned / No second – motion failed. Side note Jeremy HAS EO authority to change to deep gear.

Motion that in the event of a strong Chinook salmon run that ADFG follow the Copper River Chinook Management Plan

J. Renner motioned / T. Carpenter second Upon unanimous vote, motion carried. (VFDA and PWSAC did not vote)

J. Bailey asked the board to reconsider changing CRMA's non-voting seat to a voting seat since the bylaws were looked at and it appears it's allowed.

Motion to reconsider CRMA's request for a voting seat.

M. Wells motioned / _____ second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion to create a committee at next meeting to clean up and clarify the bylaws and work on a mission statement.

Discussion: The timing is good now that there are two new processors seats that will rotate in, CRMA has a voting seat and a subsistence seat has been added. Have a committee meet during the winter to be ready for next Spring's meeting. It was also noted that ADFG will not vote on recommendations made by the SHTF to ADFG.

_____ Motioned / _____ second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion to determine next SHTF meeting date.

Discussion: Wanting to coordinate with the PWSAC meeting and not in conflict with the fall SERVS training. L. Vargas recommended Oct 10th, 2018. It was noted to make sure the following items get added to the Fall agenda.

- Includes BOF comments in the agenda
- Revisit creating a committee to work on the bylaws.

Motion to hold next SHTF meeting on Wed, Oct. 10th, 2018.

_____ motioned / _____ second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

T. Carpenter motioned / C. Campbell second. Meeting adjourned.