Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program Advisory Committee 17 January 2020 meeting

Advisors on call:

Advisors in attendance:Jeff FriedmanJoe ScordinoIvan ReiffCindy HansenLovel Pratt

Michael Jasny Additional attendees:

Shane Aggergaard Julie Watson
Rein Attemann Jessica Stocking
Nora Nickum Brendan Brokes
Taylor Shedd Todd Hass

The meeting began at 10:00 am with welcoming remarks by Brendan B., WDFW Region 4 Director. Julie Watson (WDFW, killer whale policy lead) provided a brief history to describe events leading to the convening of this group, the group's position in the CWWLP process, and the general timeline of the process. Attendees introduced themselves around the room and over the phone, including perceived role in the group.

Julie presented headlines generated by the group in an anonymous survey prior to the meeting. The headlines were written as though the program has been a success in 2030, and themes included thriving southern resident orca population and setting an example through the advisory group process. Then members wrote new headlines, based on feedback thus far in the meeting. Members were then instructed to generate 2030 headlines as though the process had failed, and problems in the process that led to the imagined failure. Julie then presented a summary of the positive 2022 headlines (same survey as above), and the group discussed what near-term success might look like for the process.

After lunch, the group focused on developing its charter. Julie presented a summary of the survey responses regarding the charter and ground rules. Members responded to the proposed principles, suggesting edits. Members participated in an activity to address the plan for communicating about the process once leaving the meeting and listed Dos and Don'ts for achieving their values around communication. Julie reiterated that the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) would provide the final word on what constitutes Best Available Science, and this group may have the opportunity to request particular information in advance of the WSAS May report.

In the final minutes of the meeting, the group discussed the next meeting. Members discussed a list of possible goals and activities and suggested a few additions: a presentation on what has been happening with the process in Canada, a discussion of the group's scope, and a presentation by WDFW law enforcement. The meeting adjourned at 4pm.