

Guide Logbook Advisory Committee

Meeting #: May 3, 2022, 2:00-4:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Introduction: Raquel led the new group in a brief overview of the meeting agenda. The core WDFW team was introduced by Raquel. Committee members then spent a few minutes each introducing themselves and what they hope to accomplish. This year there are seven returning members and six new members to the committee.

Participants:

DFW Employees: Raquel Crosier, Chris Donley, Leah Snyder, James Losee, Amy Edwards

Advisors: Jeff Brazda, Doug Saint-Denis, Steve Joyce, Patric Gaffney, Jan Patricio, Keith Robbins, Roy Morris, Blake Merwin, Bob Kratzer, Caleb Hitzfeld

Coastal Steelhead

James Losee updated the group on the Coastal Steelhead Advisory Group's Coastal Steelhead proviso implementation, stressing the fact that it is not a recovery plan, and let folks know that they can follow along with the group via their page on the department's website and that meetings are open to the public. Part of the proviso plan is to improve monitoring and kind of accuracy around catch so we don't have fishery closures. DFW is hearing from the guide community about feeling like an underutilized resource, being that guides are handling more fish and spending more time on the water than most people and that they are wanting to be more engaged in coastal steelhead management. James is looking into several ways to get the guide community involved helping to drive in-season decisions.

The idea came up of a working group to better think through some ideas, having some members from the guide committee and the coastal steelhead group that have great interest and knowledge of the area. The department could certainly help support some sort of a brainstorm joint work group if it would be helpful.

Possible guide involved monitoring tools:

- Onboard observers: DFW employees on the water catching fish to compare those numbers with what we see in the creel by buying seats on guide boats or finding guides willing to volunteer a seat.
- Dropbox at launches where people could enter their catch in a piece of paper and set it in a box for collection.

Work Plan Review

In February, the group brainstormed what the new advisory group would like to accomplish in the next two years. Two high level goals the group discussed were implementing the logbook reporting rule and increasing compliance rate. Our first two-year term focused on what tools were needed and how to implement them. As a group we are now focusing on how to get

compliance up so we can make the data as useful and trustworthy as possible. There is also a need to continue increasing communication between the agency and the guide industry as well as considering changes to regulatory framework for the guide industry that supports a professional and legitimate industry and an improved experience for customers.

Another big project is thinking about potential law and rule revision, but it is necessary to do some further data analysis and identify the gaps in the laws and rules before we land on the ultimate set of recommendations around rule and law change.

Guide Logbooks

To help the industry understand (therefore helping compliance rates) where the logbook is headed, there was a suggestion to define and work on continuing to define, evolve, resolve the guidebook goals.

Enforcement has had a tougher than expected time enforcing the rule, due to lag time in the reporting. There are some improvements Sargent Rosenberger brought up that we can do from the WAC. Over the past year, enforcement has been more precise by going back and following up with guides to make sure logs are being submitted. By doing so there has been a couple of guides we've reached out to that have been able to have their technical issues addressed. The first quarter emphasis patrols were conducted in the coastal rivers and Cowlitz where 65 field interviews were recorded.

Before we put final touches on our report to the Commission at the end of the year, the group needs to think about whether to make some recommendations for WAC changes. One of the things that talked about is requiring the trip information to be entered at the start of the day, at least have them start the trip in their logbook with their guide info, their customer info and then they can be adding the harvest data as they go. That would allow our officers to be looking at something when they make their contacts on the water in the middle of the day.

Other revision ideas are:

- Taking out reference to vessel, boat launch to clarify that it is required by all guides
- Include web portal reporting deadline
- Take out customer WILD ID requirement and just putting in residency or ZIP

Wrap-Up

The idea was brought up in meeting to have more frequent smaller meetings between quarterly meetings. Raquel is going to develop a list of next steps and tasks that we're going to work on and will send it out with a doodle poll to find the best dates for everyone.
