

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

MAY 26, 2010

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| MEETING CALLED BY | Clint Muns  |
| TYPE OF MEETING   | Advisory Group  |
| FACILITATOR       | Clint Muns  |
| NOTE TAKER        | Colleen Desselle  |
| ATTENDEES         | Jon Lee, Jim Jenkins, Dave Knutzen, Greg Bargmann, Colleen Desselle, Clint Muns, Harriet Richardson, Erin Laska, Rich Eltrich, Steve Thiesfeld, Jim Scott, Phil Anderson, and Polly Fischer |

Agenda Topics

|   |   |
|---|---|
| DISCUSSION  | <b>Audit Update on Puget Sound Delayed-Release Chinook Salmon</b> |
| <p>The Puget Sound Enhancement was third in a series of performance audits. Revenue expenditure (financial) component which started in 2007 and expired in June of 2008 is to be released soon. Apology for this to have taken so long, but there were many factors causing the delay: staff changes, priorities, etc. Will have the final audit soon. This is a brief overview.</p> <p>The Department is not meeting the minimum requirements for delayed release. Goal has not been updated and is inefficient. Low survival rates are causing this. In the 1970s the Department needed to release only 66 for 1 catchable fish, now it is 904 for 1. Need to increase the fish productivity and WDFW is to the brief legislature regularly. The Department did not ask the Legislature for an increase because parts of the package were good and did not want to risk change those parts. The Legislature stated that this was not a good reason.</p> <p>We have recommendations of what the Department can use to fix. We recognize problems, but will do the best we can. The Department does not have the funding for many aspects. Audit 0 has been explained to constituents, but it is not what they want to hear as they keep coming back and asking the same questions. JLARC review July 21, 2010.</p> <p>When performance audits began in 2005, we did not have experienced performance auditors, but have many on staff now. We are moving in direction of better communications with those of whom we are auditing.</p> <p>Fewer hatchery fish are surviving; the need is to focus on quality, not quantity.</p> <p>Guidance for the Department; two products: timeline on how to complete and by when. Proposed legislation to OFM by mid-September, the number of steps; develop checklist; meet and discuss. Identify individual to make outreach.</p> |   |
| CONCLUSIONS   |   |
| <p>During this audit period the fish were running low; WDFW has had a gain in fish since then. The fish were there in the 1990s, but the catch was low. This is why we are using mark-selective fisheries. A lot of the changes needed to bring in quality have occurred, but the data is not yet available. While total complete catch is not available, there are areas where they can be compared. Some of the fish are for recovery for building ESA listed stocks. There is concern that the separation from the financial section will cause a disconnection in the performance audit.</p> <p>Couple of thoughts: Governor's Office wants Legislative concepts next month. Have a list compiled. If it is in agency request legislation, need to have it on the list. We have been asked to limit the amount we turn in. Commission must approve this prior to going to OFM. Also give thought as backup for sponsor in House and Senate in case the Governor does not approve; Brian Blake and, likely, Senator Ranker. The Department needs a small group to talk with them on concept.</p> <p>The meeting with Carl, Tony, and Frank should probably include from CCA and committee members. There is no intent to exclude anyone. We will also need to keep in mind the PSRFEOC meeting schedule as we need to brief the commission prior to holding public meetings. It is important to recognize the original intent; to put more fish in the fish box. ESA and hatchery reform have put light on this concept. Goal versus mandate from Legislation. Somewhat contrary if intent is used to produce fish and some funding is being spent on other things and not on the production. Port sampling and fish health are all components, but that is not where we should be spending our funds. The mind set has changed to</p>                                 |   |

getting the harvest, not the production. We need to have a balance; minimum of percent to be used for production of salmon or marine fish and the remainder to be used to support other means of attaining the goal. We need to figure how to most effectively use these funds. Currently it is pretty broad. His hope is that in the last year or two, we have come to the OC re: proposals. Suggest think essential and address audit finding to incorporate and try to keep it simple.

Our intent was to jump-start the production. We need DFW to prepare the language to get JLARC to allow us to follow our path. Believe we need to find new language and present to JLARC. Regarding the WAC 220, we need to draft a response in 020, some in 040, and in 050 we need to modify language dealing with marine fish. We need to talk about additional research piece. Change 105-100 to make it more contemporary. Update and modify 110 and the access piece is to be modified by the OC. Strikeout and underline version to go review with OC and the Director. Need to ensure that it conforms to hatchery reform. The OC wanted to talk with Phil and Jim prior to making changes to the Legislative package as input is needed to what was felt should be completed. Need to avoid hard numbers; what is being spent is based in the past. We should be prepared when going to the Legislature, and we need a promotional piece to get over the \$768 to produce a fish – create a pamphlet about what OC is about and the enhancements.

| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE                           |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Compile Legislative concepts for next month which must include agency legislation</li> <li>* Obtain House/Senate sponsorship</li> <li>* Obtain Commission approval.</li> <li>* Meet with Carl, Tony, Frank and others.</li> </ul> Re-draft portions of WAC 220<br>* Create pamphlet on the PSRFE OC. | PSRFE OC           | Completed prior to September 2010. |

**DISCUSSION**

**Lingcod Update**

Several graphs were presented. One indicated population status including stock enhancements and benefits re: hatchery fish survival/contribution and the costs; population status – two versions; with one being more complete having deleted moratorium years (data unknown) and adding 2003-2007; catch area populations (caution) – general trend in catch area 13 is pretty consistent with other areas. Above average – long-term mean depends on time frame that one is looking at. It is not known what the undefined biomass is.

Benefits – yearlings in July. Would be nice to have sub-yearlings in July, but they are too small to tag. It tells us about the ability of fish to survive and where they are going. Egg collection was done south of Seattle and released. It is not known whether there are viable egg masses where the fish are being released and whether this is contribution; yearlings may be 20"; some may be 22-24".

Creel Survey on May 1. WDFW looked at lingcod (watched for fin clips and gut contents) and scanned for tags. Costs of Stock Enhancements: genetic impacts may harm wild lingcod and rockfish; diet study and field surveys. Monitoring genetics (hatchery and field). It may be worth it if time for a study to take a good viable mass and put into the box to take to West Seattle to see if they hatch. Costs to potential harm: dive studies; field studies: 12 stomachs: 5 empty; 1 with an invertebrate; 4 with fish bones; 1 with fish; and 1 with fish and invertebrates. Fish are unknown. Diet study: Lab prey preference trials. We receive some funding from SCORE; NOAA pays salaries.

**CONCLUSIONS**

West Seattle is not a viable site.

| ACTION ITEMS  | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Finish mobile tracking<br>do creel surveys<br>Collect eggs in 2011<br>Scuba surveys at 4 sites<br>Release 3000 in 2012<br>Scuba surveys at 2 control and 2 release sites. | Jon Lee and others |          |

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  | <b>PSRFE OC Budget Update</b> |                        |
| Fund balance through mid-April, 2010. J20 – expected rev to date. Variance is \$102,000 which is 15% over what we expected. This afternoon ran again, and the variance has changed to 5% over, which is still good. We may see some changes with licenses. Caution: there are no pink salmon this year, and there has been a lot of opposition on the Columbia River. There is a possibility that some of the expenditures have not been billed yet. We have \$77,000 to positive at the current time; does not take into account 5% extra coming in.   |  |                               |                        |
| Coordinator's budget: the Legislature states we should have full-time coordinator for the OC. Should have this. Program should consider doing this. RCW requires a coordinator, states that DFW shall identify a coordinator...While not opposed to the idea, need to carefully consider other ways to use that funding. How much time do we want an FTE to commit to the OC? Perhaps having a coordinator who can push the envelope. Currently allocates four months of Steve's time (includes a little fat). Would a full-time coordinator be able to streamline (integrate) some of the programs? The coordinator could analyze hatcheries and review the history. |  |                               |                        |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |  |                               |                        |
| It is important to not exceed the agreed upon amount for surplus. The ALEA amount identified for funding for RP for next year was denied.   |  |                               |                        |
| Need more discussion on this with the coordinator.  |  |                               |                        |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>     | <b>DEADLINE</b>        |
| Review coordinator position and determine whether should be full-time.  |  | Jim Scott/Steve Thiesfeld     | Next PSRFE OC meeting. |

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  | <b>North of Falcon post-mortem</b> |                 |
| We went in with reasonable expectations and came out well. There is a belief that the recreational committees need to think before reacting. Need progressive change.   |  |                                    |                 |
| Mid Hood Canal Chinook – had inability of tribal co-managers to see eye-to-eye. We were able to circumvent the problem of Sekiu coho. The ocean select fishery was a large win. Production funded by us for #7. Skokomish with selective fishery have as many days and larger limit than last year. |  |                                    |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |  |                                    |                 |
| Came out well.  |  |                                    |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>          | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| N/A   |  |                                    |                 |

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  | <b>Meeting schedule</b>   |                 |
| Need to meet in late June or early July regarding the Legislative draft for performance audit. Need at least two hours. |  |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |  |                           |                 |
| Meet June 23 at 5:00 in Olympia.  |  |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| Obtain meeting room.  |  | Colleen                   | ASAP            |

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  | <b>Full meeting and 3<sup>rd</sup> Legislative draft</b> |                 |
| Have a full meeting and discuss the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Legislative draft |  |  |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |  |  |                 |
| Meet August 3 (time and location TBA)                                 |  |  |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>                                | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
| Discuss 3 <sup>rd</sup> Legislative draft                             |  | OC   |                 |

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| <b>DISCUSSION</b>   |  | <b>Public meetings</b>    |                 |
| Need to hold public meetings during the last two weeks of July; probably should have one each in the south Sound, mid Sound, and the Peninsula areas (Tacoma, Mill Creek, and Port Townsend?) |  |                           |                 |
| <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>  |  |                           |                 |
| <b>ACTION ITEMS</b>   |  | <b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b> | <b>DEADLINE</b> |
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| DISCUSSION   | <b>Advisory Group Handbook</b>                                     |          |  |
|              | Stronger language about advisory boards communicating.             |          |  |
| CONCLUSIONS  |  |          |  |
|              | Need to make sure we are providing public notice for our meetings. |          |  |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE   | DEADLINE |  |
|              |  |          |  |

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|---------------------|-----------|--|--|
| OBSERVERS           | N/A       |  |  |
| RESOURCE PERSONS    |           |  |  |
| SPECIAL NOTES       |           |  |  |
| Time of Adjournment | 8:42 p.m. |  |  |

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Washington State Auditor's Office PowerPoint presentation
- Performance Audit
- PSRFEF Legislation Changes Process Timeline (needs editing)
- PSRFEF Legislation Changes – concept paper
- Budget as of 04/15/10
- Budget as of 05/17/10
- Expenditures through 043010
- Chapter 77.105 RCW
- 2010 North of Falcon Recap