

Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program Advisory Committee
27 February 2020 meeting

Advisors in attendance:

Cindy Hansen
Rein Attemann
Ivan Reiff
Jeff Friedman
Shane Aggergaard
Joe Scordino
Nora Nickum
Michael Jasny
Lovell Pratt

Advisors on call:

Tom Murphy
Taylor Shedd

Additional attendees:

Julie Watson
Jessica Stocking

Public attendance:

none

Pre-meeting discussion centered on media policy, as sparked by Tuesday's KOMO contact of several members for news piece. Meeting formally began around 10:20, with brief reorientation to committee's purpose, as defined by legislation/RCW, this meeting's specific purpose (to develop a shared context), and timeline for future meetings. Member suggested shifting first day of workshops to include late afternoon/evening in order to better accommodate public participation. The committee discussed status of charter; members will digitally acknowledge acceptance prior to next meeting. Scope of committee re-emerged as concern, specifically lack of direction for addressing recreational vessel behavior and potential impacts.

Jeff Friedman presented on the history, activity and ethic of the Pacific Whale Watch Association (PWWA). Questions and discussion around presentation were lively, with much interest expressed in getting more information about PWWA protocols around communications. JF requested any feedback regarding information in the presentation that was particularly useful or new to members. There was general request for more detailed maps of sightings (e.g. by species/population, better geographic resolution).

Todd Hass (by phone) presented current state of scientific knowledge regarding vessels and SRKW. Discussion during and after presentation focused largely on the appropriate way to filter information so that it will be most useful to this committee's purpose and how to direct science panel toward that end. Several concerns were expressed about the relevance of research findings to commercial whale watching activities.

Taylor Shedd presented on the history and 2019 season of Soundwatch activity. There was much general interest in seeing Soundwatch data presented in various other ways.

Members participated in an activity (20/20 Wall) to visualize connections between past, present and future events of concern to the process. This activity lasted until the end of the meeting, 4:10pm. Next (call-in) meeting is scheduled for March 12, 8:30am – 12:30pm.