

PSRFE Oversight Committee Minutes

November 4, 2019, Director's Conference Room

Committee members present: Daniel Witczak (DW), David Puki (DP), Don Freeman (DF), Wayne Harmond (WH), Gary Marston (GM), Troy McKelvey (TM), Mark Riedesel (MR), Gregg Williams (GW), Art Tachell (AT), Dave Knutzen (DK)

WDFW staff present: David Stormer (DS), Matt Davidson, Jim Jenkins (JJ), Mark Baltzell (MB), Gary Marston (GM)

Introduction

Review Agenda- TM motion to approve; DF seconded; No opposition.

Review Minutes- TM motion to approve; MR seconded; No opposition.

Program Update

- **PSRFEF supported Hatchery program evaluation (Gary Marston)**
 - Gary does the coded wire tag analysis for Puget Sound and coast within HEAT unit
 - Smolt to adult survival – how we gauge what program's fish survive better than others
 - Contribution to specific fisheries
 - Stray patterns
 - Setting up several hatchery pilot studies to support the initial production for SRKW- trying to expand the multiple release strategy approach throughout Puget Sound.
 - Many are modeled on the PSRFEF funded program at Garrison Springs with the early, normal and late release program
 - Replicated at Hoodspout (yearling component that PSRFEF funds), Minter Creek and Marblemount Hatchery (Spring Chinook)
 - Tulalip tribe has funding for Snohomish River
 - Long Live the Kings has funding for one up in the San Juan's
 - How many PSRFEF fish contribute to the Puget Sound's sport fishery?
 - Method used in the HSRG review: contribution per 100,000 fish released is how many fish you get back to the Puget Sound sport fishery. Which can then be sectioned off by overall fishery, summer component or winter component.
 - With HSRG review, Gary is looking at how PSRFEF programs are contributing to the Puget Sound sport fishery and in general.
 - Provided list of top ten performers in the Puget Sound:

- Hoodsport yearlings ranked #1 for all around Puget Sound sport and summer sport fishery
 - Wallace River summer yearlings ranked #1 for winter and Hoodsport yearlings were #2
 - Garrison's late release ranked #2 for both overall Puget Sound sport fishery and summer sport fishery and #8 for winter sport fishery.
- Also looking at all hatchery contribution from 1970 to present
 - How have our yearling programs survived versus our sub yearlings over time?
 - Misconception with yearling Chinook that they should have higher survival than sub-yearling Chinook because they are held in a hatchery longer and released at a larger size but that is not what we have seen over time; yearling Chinook do tend to contribute at a higher rate to our sport fisheries but have a similar survival overall to the sub yearlings.
 - Often when we have poor survival rate for sub yearlings, the yearlings will have opposite trend with higher survival and tends to stabilize the overall production of Chinook to Puget Sound by having this diversity of release strategies, having both yearlings and sub-yearlings.
- ??: Which two hatcheries provide the most catch for winter blackmouth? GM: #1. Wallace summer Chinook yearling program; #2. Hoodsport fall Chinook yearling program. Per 100,000 fish released, 77 get caught in the winter fishery out of Wallace and 73 out of Hoodsport. AT: Which marine areas are they caught in most often? GM: Wallace River: MA 9- 12%; MA 8 & 7- 9-10%; MA 10- 7%. Hoodsport: MA 12- 25%; MA 9- 21%; MA 11- 14%; MA 10- 10%
- AT: We need to be spreading the programs throughout Puget Sound, there is a lot of emphasis on mid to Northern Puget Sound.
- DP: Yearlings are residualizing on a much higher rate than sub-yearlings, regardless of survival rate, are contributing at a much higher rate than sub-yearlings to the fishermen's creel. What are the chances of the Squaxin tribe reestablishing net pens in the South sound? Are they discussing a yearling or sub-yearling program there? GM: That is a sub-yearling program they are discussing both fall Chinook and spring Chinook out of that production group. Potentially, spring Chinook using Marblemount stock and fall Chinook would be Tumwater Falls. One of the challenges we run into while talking about HGMPs is straying concern. They must be strategically located where they can be in zones to minimize straying.

Which is a challenge because we see high stray rates out of our saltwater net pens from the historical data that we do have.

- MB: The Tulalip/Snohomish project is that focused on summer Chinook?
GM: Yes, that is summer Chinook. They are manipulating growth in the hatchery, slowing the fish down so they do not smolt in the first place.
 - MB: Looking at overall Chinook production, can you ballpark a percentage of what is sub-yearling and yearling as far as total production? Is it like 20% total production? GM: 10% would be my estimate
 - ??: The yearling trend looks more variable, why would that be? GM: We had some groups that had very low survival, which brought the trend down. We also have smaller tag groups on those fish, which lowers recovery chance.
 - GM: I wanted to add that the late release of fish out of Garrison, I do have the recreational catch data for those marine areas and we do see those fish have the highest contributions in marine area 11- 23%, marine area 9- 17%, marine area 13- 11%, and marine area 5- 6%.
 - DS: Cost benefit of sub-yearling release? GM: Certainly, save money. Sub-yearlings are cheaper, but a yearling release generally has better survival rates.
 - ??: How long are we going to run the program? GM: PSRA committed to 5 years for the Garrison study.
- **2017-19 Biennium budget breakdown by program (Stormer/Baltzell)**
 - DS: Broad look at over the last few biennia, where PSRFEF budgets have gone on a categorical scale. Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of our budget has gone to production programs. Over the last few biennia about 6% on average has been dedicated to marking and tagging. Research is some of the projects that have been approved through the committee. We didn't have a goal development category until 2016.
 - ??: Who is funding the Garrison late-release program if the money was taken away? DS: I will check with our Fiscal group. There could be a reason to lend more PSRFEF support.
 - DS: I can talk really quickly about the MI codes briefly; they are what I am most closely related with. 54912 is Goal Development and you can see in fiscal year 2 there was money moved to cover marking and tagging. My suggestion would be to move that support around to reveal that for future biennium to show use. There was a billing error in the Glennwood Springs account, and it was charged to the wrong MI code. DK: How do we know this isn't happening in other places where money is being taken from the wrong account? DS: I will be working more closely with allotments, from now on. This is just a presentation of what we were given by fiscal before we had looked and made any adjustments. We are here now to review what the allotments are.

- **Potential areas/projects for funding**

- South Sound net pen project, CORE- Chinook Orca Recovery Education (Art Tachell & Wayne Harmond)
 - CWT portion/tagging portion is important, and they have reached out to Long Live the Kings, and others for support in data collection. We think as far as bang for your buck we have proved it first year with water quality and health of the fish and also gives us opportunities like late release, which now appears to be more compelling with the data that we have received-- we can start to do late release and some yearlings. We have a lot of data with freshwater pens but because of bad press with recent salt water pens, this is a great opportunity to get some more data, bring some fish into the environment and it seems to check a lot of boxes but is still premature so we are going to need some support. If you look at migration and take data, it shows that South Puget Sound contribute to a wide swath. Our primary concern with this group is increased opportunities and the only way we are going to get that is increasing the amount of healthy adult salmon returns. We have tried to learn from best practices of both the department and the tribal fisheries and are taking their lead on the science and putting together some practical material as well. We have reached out to SE Alaska and Oregon to see what the latest best practices would be for our type of program. We have been getting some optimistic results even on our first year. Having those fish raised in saltwater pens with good circulation really shot off the charts with regard to what the Puyallup tribe is seeing when they pull fish over that were held in raceways with higher concentration of fresh water and they weren't near as healthy as the fish that we were stewards of. We would like to play this out in order to do that we will need more data and CWT, but we are excited about the early returns. ??: The group you grew last spring, they weren't CWT were they? WH: No, they were all clipped, but not CWT. ??: So, you will be adding CWT. WH: That is what we are budgeting for, yes. ??: Transponder tags as well for better data? WH: Yeah. And the public outreach and public involvement of the SAMI kids is important too—raising awareness and getting them involved in preserving, enhancing and participating in our salmon culture, which includes sport fishing. ??: How many high school kids are you getting to volunteer for this? WH: Several hundred. We get several classes that are participating, SAMI, which is right at Point Defiance, had to get their kids on busses to get transported to the Tacoma Narrows. With the Parks department now seeing the viability of the program from an offsite, they have now approved a new location at the Point Defiance Marina and aquarium. Our long-term goal is to have

displays and things that would be within the zoo itself. They have a warmwater tropical exhibit but no salmon, and to us that seems like a travesty. Several hundred students there at the Narrows. We have extended the invitation to include Chief Leschi and would like to increase interaction between tribal and nontribal, so we can make sure this is all inclusive. ??: It is looking like you are wanting to raise about three times as many fish? Is there space in the net pens for that many additional fish? AT: Yes, we have plenty of room there. We have great depth of water... we have checked off all the boxes of this project. We know how many fish per square foot we can put there and how much feed it will take. WH: CWT is necessary to quantify results. If the group could pay for CWT and feed, that would be huge. ??: What is the number you are looking for from the committee? WH: Anything for next year around the \$25,000 range would take care of a large share of what we don't have yet. The following year, we would see that being cut in half; the nets would be there, the facility will already be built, there will be a new group of kids. DK: There is nothing about sport fishing on the promotion materials. It talks about orcas and tribal heritage but nothing about the fishing community. WH: That is something that needs to be changed. We take full responsibility for that. On the website, it does list fishing first and foremost. We are trying to cast the net widely so that comanagers and general public can all get involved. The goal of the program is to support the sustainability of adult salmon to the benefit of all stakeholders. The sole purpose is more fish and more opportunity, which should be apparent by having them fin-clipped that they are available to fishermen. DK: How many fish again? WH: 100,000 approximately for this year. DK: So, 100,000 averages out to about \$18,000 a year. I think you are about \$25,000 in and you said half next year, so that's \$12,000. In a two-year program, it's \$37,000 dollars. WH: Our target funding is for a five-year program. ??: Are you asking this committee for a two-year funding proposal? WH: Since it is a biennium budget, that would be a great start. DS: Are we planning another 100,000 fish next year? WH: Yes, possibly more depending on other funding and the health of the fish after this year. We are going to take this on a one to two year to year basis but are looking at a minimum of 100,000 fish ongoing at this facility. DK: You must need money soon if you're planning on putting in net pens. AT: Yes, there are things we need to get on right away. The sooner the better, but it doesn't have to be this week. WH: If we don't receive funding from this group, we will have to go forward with a smaller amount of fish which is then a smaller sample. This committee could help this project go a long way in making a measurable

impact with good data. We would need these pens in the water by March. DK: Perhaps we should give a smaller amount first to keep them going and continue this discussion later. GW: Does anyone want to make a motion of our intent to fund a smaller amount at this juncture to keep things moving? ??: If we are trying to not do a full \$25,000 funding tonight, I would say to look at giving money for the pen, feed and feeder, it should be roughly \$12,000. ??: I think CWT is the most essential ingredient. If we can substantiate that these fish are contributing, we can feel better about telling people we invested in it and discuss investing more. I would say let's use CWT to prove that it works. ??: I agree, but tagging can be paid for down the road but there is more immediate need to get the pen materials going early on. I would love to see it fully funded. WH: If we got this funding to start that you are talking about, we could earmark it as you see fit and continue to hammer on the CWT folk to get those numbers down as well. We will do everything in our power to leverage what you give us to make that number a smaller number and will come back with adjusted numbers—we would like to spread out your funding as much as we can. ??: Would we have to CWT every single fish? Could we do 50,000 instead of 100,00? DK: If you really want to maximize your recoveries you are going to need every bit of those 100,000 fish tagged. The typical Chinook index group would be 200,000 fish. So, in a way, unless you wanted to look just at the local area fishery, you could get by with fewer but if you are wanting that data, you will need every bit of that 100,000 fish tagged. ??: What kind of recovery rate do you expect, 2%? DK: More like half. If you got 2% survival out of the net pen that would be incredible. AT: The Puyallup tribe told us optimistically 3-5%. WH: The larger the sample size, the better the data. The Puyallup tribe expected us to double their recovery rate. DK: What is your CWT budget? WH: \$15,000 for both marking and tagging, most fish will come to us marked by the tribe. There are a few moving parts by type of CWT tags and transponder tags so that they can be tracked by the Long Live the Kings and NOAA electronic net sensors so that we can see where these fish are migrating through the Sound. DP: This, to me, benefits not only those on the Sound, but people in Alaska, Canada, the coast and the straights. I don't have a problem putting a motion on the floor to allocate \$25,000 for this coming year only with a new proposal for the following year to fund this project and continue support toward the five year goal. ??: I second. ??: Opposition? ??: None. Please note, Norm abstained from this vote.

- DFW South Puget Sound Chinook & Coho diet study (Stormer)

- To be discussed in Dec conference call.
 - DFW Fish & Wildlife 2 position description (Baltzell/Stormer)
 - To be discussed in Dec conference call.
- **Dungeness River Chinook recovery (Dan Witzak)**
 - To be discussed in Dec conference call.
- **Outreach/extension (Committee, Stormer)**
 - Coho fishing clinic- To be discussed in Dec conference call.
 - Squid fishing clinic- To be discussed in Dec conference call
 - Chum fishing clinic- To be discussed in Dec conference call
 - 2020 Puyallup Sportsmen Show; ideas for theme(s)- To be discussed in Dec conference call

Wrap-Up

- Date and location for next meeting- David will send out doodle poll.