

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 9, 2017

MEETING CALLED BY	Dave Knutzen
TYPE OF MEETING	Oversight Committee
FACILITATOR	Ryan Lothrop
NOTE TAKER	Colleen Desselle
ATTENDEES	Dave Knutzen, Ed Eleazer, Gregg Williams, Colleen Desselle, Michael Rian, Troy McKelvey, Jim Jenkins, Norm Reinhardt, Mark Baltzell, Ryan Lothrop, Mike Gilchrist, Mark Riedesel, Art Tachell

Agenda Topics		
DISCUSSION	Introductions	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions ✓</li> <li>• Review Agenda ✓</li> <li>• Approve previous meeting minutes</li> <li>• Oversight Committee positions</li> </ul>	
CONCLUSIONS		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion made and seconded to approve previous meeting minutes. No discussion. Approved.</li> <li>• Accepting nominations or volunteers to act as chair. Dave Knutzen was asked to continue as chair. Hearing no other nominations or anyone volunteering, he accepted.</li> </ul>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Chair meetings	Dave Knutzen	

DISCUSSION	Puyallup Sportsmen's Show	
	<p>Discussions and emails occurred regarding this – agreed that PSRFEF will have representation there. It is already paid for. Ryan spoke with the marketing team who is coordinating marketing strategies on fishing for other shows and are focused on Puget Sound and pink salmon. Marketing will highlight the pink salmon, so Ryan will coordinate materials. WDFW also has a Department booth, and there may be some overlap so will ensure PSREF is pointed in same direction. Ryan would like assignments of 4-hour blocks. Volunteers will get a ticket to the show. Ryan will provide materials, e.g., salmon ID sheets, Fish Washington stickers, banners, a TV, a non-audio video that will cycle through, rockfish materials – key chain IDs and descending devices. Marketing is working on salmon cut-outs (good eye-catchers for children). Note that while manning the booths, volunteers may be questioned about other things happening within the agency. Volunteers can always state you don't know or that you cannot answer as volunteers are not a staff member. Volunteer hats, and t-shirts are available while staffing.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS		
	<p>PSRFEF is to highlight what PSRFEF and WDFW are good at doing, get people excited about pink salmon, and help anglers improve their chance of catching fish. Depending on volunteer's comfortable level on other topics related to our program, volunteers may choose to converse on them. A little cheat sheet will be provided on highlights and what staff volunteers can refer to on certain topics. Ryan will pass the schedule around. Volunteers do not have to fill it out now and will be shared later. Be prepared to tell folks that WDFW doesn't know if there will be a pink fishery, but to be ready to go if it is announced, about late February to mid-April. Volunteers need to show them how to identify a pink. Although PSRFEF is not a pink program, volunteers should encourage them to take children pink fishing. May have a tablet or phone available to show people WDFW's new fishing app.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
This is solely being manned by Committee members. If there is an emergency Ryan can help out, but Ryan's priority is to make sure you have the materials, supplies, etc. Gregg to generate questions by next week to provide appropriate response.	Ryan Lothrop	January 25-29, 2017

DISCUSSION	Program Update
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- Sub-committee report
  - Pink derby (Art, Don, Troy – unable to do much until after North of Falcon, mid-April at the earliest. Sub-committee came up with to tag 250 fish with \$500 the tag value for 20 of them. However, the sub-committee wondered the odds of someone catching the tagged fish so we thought perhaps we want to tag more fish. Ryan - It would be Floy tags. Sub-committee doesn't know who will tag them yet, what method to capture those fish, or where to release them so that recreational fishermen have the best opportunity for catching the fish. There is also the question of whether to have other prizes. Stipulation is that anglers have to have a license in order to collect a prize. Recovery rate is ~ 1 in 20. How will the \$ be collected from the Department? Sub-committee thinks the best method would be to go to the nearest Department office and talk with a biologist who can verify the tag. The question is can this group (or the state) give away money. May have to take this question to the state Gambling Commission. Will need to ensure the color/s and numbers of the Floy tags are kept top secret to avoid someone else ordering tags. Another thing to think about is the angler who will continue to catch and release several fish trying to get that tagged fish. Sub-committee may want to consider having a club or two do the derby, and monitor it, instead of the state. Sub-committee need to be aware of the legal aspects of doing this since it does involve state money, taxes, and gambling. Sub-committee may want to see if clubs would get together for a weekend, provide tags and contract the tagging, get substantial prizes instead of cash, and have the derby for kids. WDFW need to kick this conversation up and ask what is legally possible – get legal counsel on whether it can be state sponsored, or if we can have private clubs hold the derby and/or supply prizes.
  - Legislative – nothing to report at this time.
  - Alternative Funding – stagnant. Rename Innovative.
  - Subcommittee membership (Legislative, Alternative Funding, and Hatchery Evaluation) – it will take a lot of Legislative work to get the ideas to fruition. Puget Sound is getting closer to ESA listing coho. Maybe PSRFEF can get some ideas before Puget Sound Partnership reaches out for alternative funding such as the barging coho study, potentially barging sockeye in Lake Washington, etc. If that is the case, can PSRFEF provide funding? Dave K. suggests that instead of having a special sub-committee on alternative funding, maybe it would be more appropriate to have, maybe as PSRFEF does barging or if something else comes up, people keep their eyes open and bring it to our attention, but not as a sub-committee. Ryan suggested that as things come up that PSRFEF create ad-hoc groups. Dave K. asked if PSRFEF need sub-committees or should PSRFEF just go with ad-hoc groups as needed. GW stated that he thought PSRFEF needed standing committees on topics such as the Legislative to keep on top of things, but for others ad-hoc should work. Dave K. – we have the Hatchery committee who is to look at if PSRFEF are getting the bang for our buck at hatchery production which PSRFEF asked HRSG to help answer. Dave K. – we should have a standing committee on goal development.
- Hatchery Programs:
  - Jenkins
    - The Deschutes River fish ladder is capped. The river has gone over it, trees have grown over it, and the last person to go down was probably myself (Jenkins) over 20 years ago to clean it out, re-set it, and the largest is 6 inches wide to let the fish through at the top. Twenty years of confined space has jammed things up. This year the agency is serious about clearing the top off, lifting it off with a boom truck, and moving in there to see what going on. Meanwhile there is a capital project to redevelop the trap at the Deschutes and am trying to incorporate rehabilitation of the ladders and have not had a lot of luck, but the ladders need love. They were built in a time that it is hard to maintain them correctly with OSHA laws, rules – to do that now and rearing for fish passage, not sure if they would pass mustard that Engineers would design. But they work great. WDFW gets fish of all different sizes.
    - IHN at Minter - Everything WDFW has taken away we have sampled the fry just to be redundant. When WDFW import eggs from other facilities to Minter. They're a different brood to pathogen-free water, within the fish health guidelines to go ahead and take them back out, and sampled them - it is a redundancy we needed to do and they came back clean. WDFW have to 100% sample and the samples have to come back clean if we are going to export anything, so this particular year WDFW did not export anything from any of

the other programs. What that means is that might affect (and WDFW have talked about it before) is the White River spring Chinook who are going to sunset. Meaning, we were going to take eggs, but normally went to us for eggs for release into Minter Creek and this cycles around, now WDFW are going to take eggs at Minter Creek, transfer them to Puyallup, rear them, clip them and take them for acclimation into the other watershed with no release so as the years go by nothing is going to return in 5 years of this sunset, I think it is 2020 or 2021 is the sunset and that is the way the HGMP is written, but this year they had IHN and there was abundance in the water in the White River watershed so the program is covered. There was never any debate about what to do. They can stay there. WDFW did not euthanize them, WDFW kept them, and we are negotiating what we are going to do with them. They are too small to fin-clip, but they are out of the incubators and they are eating. We are the crossroad of this brood – we're going to release it, of course if we do, we have to have three years of clean production, so that river has four years and five sunset years. If WDFW were to continue to release, we would have fish returning over and over again. There are things to be worked out. WDFW are talking in-house and with the co-managers. Right now WDFW has 2016 brood with 450K+ at Hupp. When WDFW clip these things, can WDFW find a funding source because we are spending money right now and later on, on the fish feed. Dave K. – I cannot speak for the committee but I would think funding the fin-clips would be very high on our list.

- Eleazer
  - Nooksack at Kendall the spring Chinook, coho returns, and chum returns are a little bit weak. WDFW were only able to get about 500K. It is an integrated program but we'll squeeze by.
  - Skagit – WDFW had IHN in the spring Chinook, but it was such a small degree that WDFW was able to make our program.
  - Marblemount, through Legislation session, WDFW put in this budget \$500K for some permitting and design work to replace that infrastructure there.
  - Baker had a pretty good sockeye year. WDFW got our entire program. WDFW got some eggs that were transferred down to the saltwater facility on Hood Canal for the Tacoma Power facility. Edward thinks WDFW got 250K eggs that were shipped down there successfully.
  - Wallace Chinook and coho escapement were really good. WDFW recently had to shut down some of the rivers for steelhead and Edward thinks that they are just pretty darn good at catching them because this year it is a pretty low river and those guys are lined up above Wallace and Reeder Hatchery and they are sight fishing them and still pretty aggressive so we had to close them down. WDFW didn't close down the whole river – the thought was we just closed down an area to give the fish a chance to come back and we have been getting broodstock since then, and will reopen it in the next few weeks. Wallace did really well at the Legislative session. Wallace got a few million dollars to do some renovation there.
  - Soos got a good return for Chinook and coho though still super weak on steelhead. That is kind of the thing that WDFW has been seeing, but Edward doesn't know what the cause is.
  - Lake Washington is not that great this year – barely got sockeye returns there. There is a rumor that there will be gillnetting for predators which could help the sockeye.
- Budget Status:
  - This biennium: PSRFEF have received 96% of what was planned in the account. PSRFEF are at 30% of where PSRFEF expected to be at the end of the second fiscal year. PSRFEF is sitting pretty decent in the budget at this time. Record high sales in May and record lows in June of last year for license sales. Survey: On the survey anglers were asked if the anglers intended to fish in marine waters or in Lake Washington. If the answer was yes, PSRFEF receive a proportion of that license type – saltwater, combination, and temporary licenses. PSRFEF doesn't get a percentage of freshwater license sales even though there is Lake Washington. What does PAF stand for on this sheet? Answer – Proportional Administrative Funding (14.6%). Bar graph is a snapshot of all agency license sales to date. Gold bar sheet – not much change - only goal development and a clarification on hatchery utility and agency bills that I merged into one for simplicity for PSRFEF. Goal Development: Jim stated the \$32K at Voights is last year's tagging money. It has been completed, but not charged for this yet. Ryan's attendance at the Fishing conference is ear-marked but not charged yet –

should have some roll-over which will cover this next biennium. Everything looks good. The only challenge is, can we spend our money? One reason is PSRFEF gets billed for indirect no matter what. Question is, is PSRFEF going to be able to spend the money for Hupp Springs' marking – PSRFEF does not have control of that. Otherwise the only other big ticket item is the HSRG and then whatever else is on the third sheet like the Pink Derby. DAVE K. stated Dave thought a placeholder should be there for the Hupp Springs fin-clip, and the agency should talk to PSRFEF before abandoning this project. Jim asked if the committee is holding \$25K for the marking (clip and tag) the spring Chinook and nothing else associated with that. Motion made to do that. Seconded. No objection. Ryan - If the Department should need additional funding for this marking, should they approach PSRFEF? Yes, these fish are important to PSRFEF, but use caution as PSRFEF does not want them to think PSRFEF is an open checkbook and it is important that these are deemed Hupp Springs Chinook or South Sound Chinook, not White River Chinook. HSRG – Dave K states PSRFEF are moving forward. It was \$25K to leverage some other money PSRFEF has to get more bang for the buck. PSRFEF was looking at basically if the possibility of increasing production at our facilities to see if it would increase the possibility of harvest. PSRFEF is talking about mid-Sound to south Sound coho and Chinook.

- BN 15-17 Remaining Projects
  - Sport Shows: See above for Puyallup Sportsmen's Show. PSRFEF is talking about right now is getting people interested in fishing or how to get information on fishing.

**CONCLUSIONS**

New assignments for sub-committees: Legislative (Williams, Puki, and Reinhardt; Innovative – Gilchrist, Tachell, and Rian; and Hatchery Evaluation: Riedesel, McKelvey, and Freeman. Knutzen will float, but definitely wants to be on the Innovative Committee.

**DISCUSSION**

**BN 17-19 Budget Development**

- Future budget – will be on agenda for next meeting which will take place either May or June. Dave K. reminded that PSRFEF doesn't actually create or approve budgets. PSRFEF provides input and the agency makes the decisions on what they truly believe in what is supposed to be done. On Dave K.'s horizon is 1) Glenwood Springs – the committee had recommended not funding Glenwood Springs. The agency has maintained that as a funding source so PSRFEF needs to get some direction from the agency as to what they plan on doing with the \$80K per year. Is PSRFEF planning on funding it or not? And when it comes to Glenwood is to consider (still) is that the fish do not contribute to the recreational fishery at as high a rate as PSRFEF would like. PSRFEF likes the people that run the program; PSRFEF just doesn't like the fact that the fish are harvested in Canada and by the Lummi Tribe – those are the two biggest harvesters of those fish. The recreational fishery does harvest some of the fish, so Dave K. told Michael Schmidt that I would throw out that there is some benefit to some recreational fishers in Puget Sound (~17%) so if PSRFEF did 17% of what LLTK says is their budget, it gets PSRFEF to \$25-30K is probably a reasonable fee for the Glenwood Program. When Dave K. says that, PSRFEF is also throwing away all the past history that we have had with LLTK and the way they chose to play ball. PSRFEF doesn't think we need to make that decision today, but to think about it and find out what is the WDFW's true plan with LLTK. The property at Glenwood is for sale. The Lummi Tribe and WDFW are looking at the possibility of purchasing it. 2) Lake Washington counts – the recreational community just went through the one promising year that PSRFEF thought we might be able to have a fishery, and did not even come close. Even if the co-managers lowered the threshold, it came in well below still. Dave K. thinks we need to look seriously at that \$10K a year and find a different program to spend it on which would be more fruitful. These will be the two things Dave K. will bring up at the next meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

.Discuss at next meeting

Dave Knutzen

**DISCUSSION**

**Wrap-up**

- Q & A – Has there been any thought about doing a salmon enhancement plate at all? Ryan thinks the Department would be happy to have more ways, but the limitation is from the Legislator side. It took a lot of leg-work just to get the steelhead. There is a moratorium on new plates so Ryan thinks it

is a huge uphill battle. Dave K stated that he liked where an angler could get a (Chinook) stamp on their license. That could be a cool thing for the Department to go back to doing. Could get a hot key to do that on your license, or have a donation – if someone wants to donate \$10 to the enhancement fund – there is tons of stuff like that. Ryan - All of that has to go through the Legislative process, so it is going to take time.

- Date and Location for Next Meeting
- Subcommittee can have Ryan or other staff to meet with them in the interim. Probably no meeting until after North of Falcon (May), but the subcommittees do need to keep chugging away. This room is always available and Ryan can help with conference calling.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Early May if possible.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE**

**DEADLINE**

Will do Doodle Poll for potential dates.

Ryan Lothrop

**OBSERVERS**

**RESOURCE PERSONS**

Colleen Desselle and Ryan Lothrop

**SPECIAL NOTES**