

PUGET SOUND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE MINUTES

11.16 2015

The meeting was called by Dave Knutzen, with Ryan Lothrop as the facilitator, and Colleen Desselle as the note taker. Those in attendance were: Laurie Peterson, Ryan Lothrop, Colleen Desselle, James Malcolm*, Troy McKelvey*, Gregg Williams*, Art Tachell*, Don Freeman*, Mike Gilchrist*, Dave Puki*, Ed Eleazer, Dave Knutzen*, Norm Reinhardt, Jim Jenkins, and Michael Schmidt

- ❖ **Introductions** – dismissed as all are familiar.
- ❖ **Agenda** – to remain as presented.
- ❖ **Minutes** from previous meeting – motion made to accept as presented. Seconded. No opposition.
- ❖ **BN 15-17 Budget Development** - Revenue Stream to date for Fiscal Year is \$635,000; projected to be \$430,000 during this same time period.
 - Chinook Production
 - ✓ South Sound:
 - Glenwood Springs Zero Age Program: discussed with the Director. He asked us to:
 - 1) develop a combined list of pros and cons with what the Department, the oversight committee, and Long Live the Kings to carry forward more recommendations so that he is better informed for a decision;
 - 2) to keep in mind where that money would go and what would it be used for; and
 - 3) whether it would be for hatchery production.
 - A time frame was not specified, though the sooner the better. We can work on this as a side issue. If anyone has anything to put on that list but not necessarily wanting to discuss it now, send an email to Ryan to add and share. Probably bullet points would be best.
 - ✓ Other Chinook Production Programs in South Sound: Chinook production egg take is low. **Minter** is not going to make their 3.8 million, probably be closer to 2.8 or 3 million. We got virtually nothing back to the **Chambers Bay trap**, and the tribe did not take much. There wasn't much out there, and as a result, we took everything we had and we got 28,000-30,000 out of the program of a million, and so we were able to again backfill that with **Voights Creek** fall Chinook as we made program there. After all is said and done, south of the Narrows it's the Coulter piece that goes to Deschutes for acclimation. It's about 25-30% off. Right out of the gate, **Tumwater Falls** is about 80% males and they are small. **Gorst** and **Grover** had a large number of jacks, like 30% and micro-jacks especially at Grover. A large number of jacks were seen in the White River spring Chinook. As far as production out of salmon that are small the viability is still there, it is just the fecundity is low and the sex ratios are skewed.
 - ✓ Mid-north Sound: **Marblemount** spring Chinook are really a nice size. We met broodstock there. On the negative side found IHN in the Skagit system. Luckily we had sampled and we were able to isolate some of those eggs. We had enough surplus from the broodstock to isolate the IHN-positive eggs for our broodstock program. We also took 500,000 eggs for the Cushman project for Tacoma Power. This is the second year that we seeded that program. Hopefully they will be self-sustaining in a couple years. We just kind of got hit sideways seeing it in Chinook, usually it is sockeye. **Samish** fall Chinook are above average size/return as well as **Kendall Creek**. Starting to see a few return on the captive brood on the Lummi program there, but not numbers we wanted to see. A lot of the returns on the captive brood are predominantly male. **Wallace**, despite the drought, we got our egg take there. A lot of hatchery fish on the spawning ground so the PHOS will be way up. **Issaquah/Soos Creek** has nothing surprising. We had enough broodstock to sell and got cost recovery. We've been trying to get cost-recovery for a few years with our surplus. We needed about \$6,500.
 - Coho Production
 - ✓ South Sound:
 - Net Pens: Norm had two discussions with the Suquamish hatchery manager. Ryan also tried to contact him to flesh out some of our ideas. Right now their concerns in mid-Sound are based on:

- 1) Where do we want to get the eggs given the state of the coho return this year? It looks like they may not even have net pen program because they don't have anything to put in the net pens – typically they get those eggs from the state; and
- 2) The manager has not talked to the agency yet because they are right in full bloom in terms of their chum program and he is pretty busy every day. He also contacted his bosses today and they, again, expressed that concern about the product that they would see. They want to raise fish that will survive. They have capacity to raise an extra 200,000 fish if they were to buy into that, but they have to see a very clearly defined benefit for their side. It has to be a win-win.
- There is some capacity at **Sequim** for some coho production, but that puts us way up at the north end. They have a lot of capacity at **Squaxin Island**. And with the point of trying to increase survival out of south Sound so right now there is potential for increasing production. **Elliot Bay** is likely maxed out.
- Minter: 150,000 fish for \$25,000. Relatively optimistic that it looks like there is funding for this. Will know by Thursday of this week. Are the 100% Minter getting released elsewhere? Not necessarily this year. The plan is to raise 100% at Minter and then release them at Hupp, which is on Minter Creek. They are basically going to where yearling program was (~150,000). We have taken about 1.2m over the Voights program and that goes a long way to helping the 1.6m-1.8 million we were short. That is not counting the Squaxin Island piece around 1.7m. I am relatively optimistic of how all the pieces are coming together here this last week for coho spawning.
- ✓ North Sound
 - **Marblemount** got all their broodstock and not too much surplus there. **Wallace River Hatchery** is not good at all; really small fish, about 3 or 4 pounds where they used to average about 12 pounds. Generally get about 10,000, at least 5,000, return there and this year we are barely scratching 3,000. Because they are smaller fish we have got smaller fecundity and, therefore, a smaller egg take. One thing that was really nice is we were able to help the Tulalips in their trap. We normally give them 1.7-1.8 million green eggs from Wallace and they are able to take theirs, so we were able to supply eggs to South Sound or else there would have been a shortage on both ends. **Soos Creek and Issaquah** got their egg take and actually has a surplus of coho now. Fish are smaller and the male counts are skewed.
- ✓ Ryan discussed his printout for coho production - grayed areas are for potential expanded coho options. There could be more options.
 - **South Sound net pens** - They do have room for added expansion. Those numbers where it states 362/100,000 released, that is the contribution rate per 100,000. Minter/Hupp is just raising, rearing, and then kick them out the door for our own program instead of sending them over to the south Sound net pens.
 - **Agate Pass** - Unfortunately I cannot put anything together as far as contribution because they do not wire those fish. They have not tagged them recently.
 - **Elliott Bay net pens** – they do have wire in there; they actually have high contribution rate of 955/100,000 released. That is the highest contribution rate coho program out there. If you look at the Elliott net pen for coho Puget Sound net does take a large number of those fish. When we talk about Elliott Bay (the UW site, that would be a down the road one), are we talking as early as this year or next? What we don't know is:
 - Will we have access?
 - How do they have space – do they have an extra net pen we were not told about?
 - Who would rear them? I don't know what the agreements are – we know Suquamish provides fish, but don't know other agreements out there; we would have to look to see if they are coming from south Sound or Wallace. I don't know where we can send fish.
 - It is believed that those are Green River fish in Elliott Bay. What we are getting at is that we have to rear somewhere prior to going to net pens. That's a problem. Next year or the year after, it could happen pretty quickly if we get agreement. There are a lot of discussions going on and at least, if we wanted to pursue that and see what options are available and when, we could throw that one in the mix. Obviously it is nice to know a yes or no from your perspective. A little bit of unknown, potentially a little bit of risk if we

go that route, but it also (coming from the management side because they want more fish) sounds like the recreational fisher would be able to access those fish otherwise we would not go into agreement. We would try to open our fishery earlier, about mid-August instead of September 1.

- What about **Portage Bay (UW)**? It used to be a gangbuster for sport fisheries for both Chinook and coho. Some of it has been phased out just because of the philosophy of they are not as excited about hatchery fish anymore, but I agree with you. It had been mentioned that they are going to have a conversation about what to do with the current facility soon so present it to this group. Let's add that to that list as well.
- In terms of silvers in area 11, whether we raise them at Squaxin Island, Minter, or in south Sound, but the further south they are raised, the more opportunity there is within the entire Puget Sound area for everyone. I know we had a chronic problem for kings in south sound. This year has been pretty darn good for silver fishing in Area 11 for those that went out and did it. The fish were smaller this year, but there was a lot of fish.
- How much storm water runoff contamination is affecting the south Sound? Whether fish bite or don't bite, how come they make it so far and they quit biting? We catch those fish off Sekiu, Area 9 and 10, then they get south of Des Moines and they clam up. Biologically they are getting closer and closer to dying; so up north and into the Straits everything in their body is telling them to eat anything in sight. There is a study going on to evaluate the effects of storm water run-off on adult coho. I asked them how the coho are surviving when the water running off is like 20, I believe that is what they are getting there, and they said that when they give them the full meal deal they last about four hours and die. They are putting chum in the same water and they are making it. The study is going on right now and it has been for several years. Part of that study they are hoping to get out of it is bio-filtered the run-off and it does work. Art stated that they are putting in a big system at Point Defiance Park that should be completed by the end of the month to drain off that whole hillside down in...through the city filtering systems.
- ✓ Where we are going with all this? This year's budget (the current calendar year), at this point, all the decisions are made. Ryan stated except for the coho, the funding is there. The questions are:
 - Where are the eggs going?
 - Are they going to south Sound net pens, Hupp, or somewhere else?
 - Does the group have a recommendation on where, when the decision is to be made, they prefer them to go?
 - What is the Department's opinion? Jim stated that he will supply information to Thiesfeld, Cunningham, and probably Annette – they tend to decide what is going on. For the 150,000 fish for \$25,000 when it comes time and you have eggs and fish, we need to finalize that program.
 - Are we squared away on the jumbos at Chambers? Yes.

❖ **Goal Development List** (i.e., outreach and south Sound coho transport study)

- We got excited when we thought we had an extra \$250,000, and we provided our wish list to the Department. After the Department gave us their wish list, ours are all gone. Do not see a prioritization.
- We have two sub-committees – one which did not seem to work together very much, and the other one was on barging – the idea of barging and so there was a meeting with the Squaxin Tribe, Ryan, Laurie, Norm, Mike, (Gregg and Michael were on the phone), Jim, and me (Dave K.).
Barging: The Idea is for transporting fish out of south Sound to see if we could get higher survival on those fish as well as higher contribution equated to that survival. The thought was you could go from south Sound net pens (basically from Squaxin Island) and you could barge fish to the Narrows Bridge which seems to a bottle-neck for survival. Another option is to barge all the way up to Point No Point (PNP) and see if we could get higher survival. That would justify the barging expense. I, with the PSRFE hat, said that our objective is to increase survival, get more opportunity – more fish in the sport catch. We looked at graphs and the cost of such a program.
- ✓ The tribe said they could do barging with increased labor. It takes them roughly 3.5 hours to barge and put about 45,000 fish (typical for contribution data on the production group as release A, release B at the Narrows Bridge, and then release group C at PNP which would take about 8 hours) for a cost of \$3,500 (total). This would cover the fuel and labor to bring those fish up, and some of the tagging labor but not the wire. There is talk of putting acoustic

- tags in those fish. Currently 50 fish are being acoustic tagged at south Sound net pens; there is talk about bouncing that up to 100 fish. The tribe increased that number in their existing program, at least for year one. Typically this type of study should be done for two or three years. There would be some recoveries and analyses down the road.
- ✓ Is there increased stress when barging? The barge could hold about 80,000 fish but they would transport only 45,000, circulate the water, and add oxygen to eliminate some stress. Would do separate trips. Also, some talk of a landing craft – you could load it up and take it back to boat launch, send that on the way and truck that up there closer to 2 or 3 hours instead of 8. May need a fourth group that would be barged but brought back for another layer. Would not affect the rest. One group would not be barged as the control group. Need more studies.
 - ✓ Columbia River had study with barging, but no research on barging in saltwater. Worth looking into.
 - ✓ WDFW tags would be about \$10,000. Not sure this can be done in a freshwater stage. They are ready to move forward on this. The intent of doubling down acoustic tag in year one is to pick a spot to release and you have some data to back on – you get past this point, predation or whatever it is. Year two is CWT groups which can be done simultaneously.
 - ✓ We have \$5,000 per year set aside for special projects. In the goal developmental program I guess I can just go by the biennium. It is not broken out in really fine detail: outreach (misc., Seattle boat show, rockfish); production (hatchery); research (the \$5,000/year for what makes sense); and reporting (6-month bio position [place holder]).
 - ✓ If we were to get the 150,000 coho eggs at Hupp would we have to get more funding for those? No.
 - ✓ Do we want to barge and where will the funding come from? If we can do it, we should. **A motion was made to do the barging, allocating \$3,500 to release coho as a research project. Seconded.** What is the use of barging them if we cannot put the tags in them? Given all the other research that is going on at the same time, it is probably a good time to do this. Clarified to not just barging but for barging study to include CWT tagging. They already have tagging, so it would only be 90,000 additional tags which is about \$7,000. So we need about \$11,000 to cover to make entire project valid. **Amendment was made that the funding we are looking for is not \$3,900 but \$11,000 to cover to make the entire project valid.**
 - We want to find the additional \$11,000. We have \$5,000/year already allocated. For the other \$6,000, there is money in the CWT but that is already allocated for existing...actually it is Hupp Springs is in there. It hasn't been allocated for any specific programs, but you would be pulling it from programs that are trying to keep track; that is the downfall.
 - The Hupp Springs component is about \$50,000 of \$109,000. Not going into Hupp unless we get the 150,000 coho. Spending authority issue has maxed out.
 - How about Lake Washington count dollars? Would like to bring in some experts to come in and share information. We have been paying this for ten years and have not had any fisheries [from it]. Next year will be the year we have information on harvestable fish, added on to that is the need for the Department to lower the escapement numbers. Would like numbers from the last two years for the tribal C&S fisheries. I believe the Muckleshoot Tribe forewent their C&S fishery this year and the other tribes have had lower numbers this year and the previous. We were paying over \$10,000 per year for the Lake Washington predation study, but now is stabilized at \$10,000. Regardless, those funds are supposed to be contributing directly to recreational fisheries, and they are not.
 - One other little piece is that Bosworth is having some discussion with Muckleshoot, that whatever the runsize, a limited lottery fishery or something could occur. It sounds like the tribe is open to the idea and might go along with a couple thousand fish.
 - Developmental program – we have on the chart that spreads over two pages (not broken down): At the last meeting there were seven items. It was: 1) Seattle boat show, 2) descending devices, 3) research; 4) bottomfish ID, 6) artificial reefs; 5) outreach to be determined, and 6) a bio 1 position. The Department asked us for clarification, we should ask for clarification too on what each budget (7) includes.
 - ✓ Outreach – Boat show – Need a decision on the boat show – we need a green light to get in. Better than going to Puyallup sport show as there is not any presence there and we could even bring the rockfish folks, maybe even split the cost and move on forward. Doubling down

on the years we are trying to have surveys completed. Perhaps we can have tablets for people to do survey while at the show, January 29-February 6, 2016. \$4,000. Ask to have a decent location within the boat show. **Motioned to support for no more than \$4,000.**

Seconded. All ayes. No opposition.

- ✓ Rockfish ID – Perhaps we can get some descending devices from NOAA (or other groups) who were trying to give them away at other venues. I think the issue is finding all the unique angles and give them out like I can go to JBLM at the base. They rent boats out to fish off from and that is my one inside channel where I can take it right to them and say, “hey, you are going to hand this brochure on how to ID rockfish, the descending devices, etc., and this will kind of help fill some of the voids we are looking at.
- ✓ Six-month bio position - \$32,000 Biennium.
 - I get a lot of help from the hatchery program but there is a variety such as analyses from the surveys and things like that. That is not even getting to our 5-year reporting of this or that as we have in our goals and objectives. There are some big “to dos” coming up soon. Obviously, that was an ask, but any help we do get to help me produce these required reports we have to go to the Commission and at some point across the street on our progress, it would be helpful to have a quality product that we can share with the Legislature and the Commission. We are spread pretty thin.
 - increase survival of Lake Washington sockeye
 - a report that identifies alternative rearing strategies
 - as well as a number of different ones.
 - Dave stated that last year we spent \$45,000 and that was not even for an FTE. The \$16,000 stands out. This budget for the biennium is \$175,000, so we went from not even paying one FTE – we were paying ½ or less of an FTE the last previous two years and now all of a sudden we are paying for one plus. Ryan rebutted: as you recall last biennium, the reason that number is low was the spending authority reduction and we delayed...basically put a negative allotment in the second fiscal year, so if you go back two years, the full biennium cycle back, other than the 3% salary increase for Laurie and the bump I got it should be the same otherwise. Dave asked if we want to dive into that further at the next meeting.
 - Laurie stated, we can drill down more into what is within these numbers. I know really increasing these facts is the amount of time so I can see the jump between FY16 and 17.

Voights Creek dedication was quite impressive. There is plenty of ability to pump/keep water. No loss of capacity. The layout is a ladder is on one side of highway, goes under the highway, and gets to the facility eventually.

❖ **Next Meeting**

- Let’s discuss why we need extra biologist salary, go into detail of the coordinator fund and rockfish habitat. Day Lowry to discuss rockfish habitat. We will set up the schedule for the Seattle Boat Show and provide an update of the South Sound coho transportation study.
- Next meeting mid-January in Olympia, Tacoma, or South Seattle.