

## PSRFE Spring Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023, 10AM—Noon

Issaquah Hatchery, Watershed Science Center

We discussed the fishery package that came out of North of Falcon and detailed the fishing seasons across Puget Sound Marine Areas. We updated the committee on current estimates and test fishing numbers in Marine Area 11 through June 4, 2023.

We presented a breakdown of the current budget, detailing the goal development and marking and tagging accounts and the leftover funds for this biennium. We informed the committee on the approximate \$90k left to spend and then presented a few funding opportunities to act upon before the end of the month (and biennium).

- 1) Emergency regulation notifications via SMS messaging. The communications team has acquired a GovDelivery account to notify anglers of emergency regulations via SMS messaging. PSRFE can support this effort by purchasing a tier of 100k messages per year for \$3000. These messages would only be used to notify anglers of any changes to Puget Sound recreational salmon fisheries.
  - a. Most of the present committee members were not interested in funding this. Some thoughts included: 1) DFW already has too many platforms with fishing information, why add another one? 2) Why should PSRFE pay for this? 3) How does this align with our goal to enhance fisheries?
- 2) Dr. Mickey Agha presented the department's new efforts in hydroacoustic monitoring and requested funding for annual echoview (software) licensing to process the data.
  - a. The presentation highlighted the benefits of hydroacoustic monitoring and the new effort on Skagit River, including the timeline of the project.
  - b. A majority of the committee approved annual funding.
- 3) Martin Chen proposed new areas in MA-12 for bottomfish fishing and asked for support from the committee to make this happen.
  - a. Bottomfish fishing in Hood canal has been closed for 20 years. Martin proposed new areas within MA-12 to open for bottomfish fishing, emphasizing the species: Starry flounder, Sand dab, and Rock sole. are areas within MA-12 that support.
  - b. Martins' proposal provides "a shoreline fishing opportunity with 3 state parks and 2 fishing piers". The areas include the Hoodsport city dock, Triton head to triton cove with access out to 120 foot depth and east of a line from union ramp to Ayres pt, waters less than 120 feet deep.
  - c. Martin is in contact with the groundfish coordinator, Kathryn Meyer, from DFW. He has also reached out to David Lowery from NOAA, whom had no objection to fishing on those fish listed above.
  - d. 7 out of 7 committee members present supported the proposal as it would provide opportunity for those anglers who fish for bottomfish.

We ended the meeting with photos from PSRFE noteworthy events including the Oak harbor fish release, CORE net pen fish release, and the Snoqualmie ducks unlimited youth event.