Prince William Sound / Copper River

Salmon harvest Task Force Mtg.

April 17, 2019

1:00 p.m.

The Cordova Center – Cordova, AK

**Attendance:**

* CDFU Gillnet Division – James Honkola Present
* CDFU Seine Division – Galen Meyer Present
* PWS Set Net Association – Forest Jenkins Not Present
* PWS/CR AC – John Renner Present
* Trident Seafoods – Leo Vargas Present
* Ocean Beauty Seafoods – Ben Kirchenslager Present
* Copper River Seafoods – Tom Carpenter Present
* PWSAC – Casey Campbell Present
* Peter Pan Seafoods – Colby Boulton Present
* Icicle Seafoods – Bob Nathanson Present
* Silver Bay Seafoods – Tommy Sheridan Present
* North Pacific Seafoods – Inlet fish Producers (NSPI) – Clayton Hevly Present
* VFDA – Mike Wells Present
* Native Village of Eyak – John Whissel Present
* Copper River/Prince William Sound Marketing Association – Jeff Bailey Present

Honorary non-voting members

* ASMI Not present
* ADEC Not present

ADF&G

* Aaron Poetter – Chair
* Charlie Russell – Area Seine Manager
* Jeremy Botz – Area Gillnet Manager

**Call to Order: 1:03 pm**

**Roll Call**

**Public Comment:**

* Does ADFG need any additional help for large runs in Coghill, via fishing, etc?
* Changes in aerial survey program
* Is the seine biologist moving to Anchorage?

**Approve September 2018 minutes**

T. Sheridan motion to approve/second M. Wells. Upon unanimous vote, approved with changes.

Discussion: Change board to “Task Force members”.

**Approve April 17th, 2019 Meeting Agenda**

ADD Kyle Shed with ADFG Genetics

ADD presentation of Mark Somerville

ADD – Chairmanship election discussion in bylaw committee discussion. Line item 11 at the end. (under old business line item B)

ADD Eshamy Weir

ADD Copper River Recording

ADD Sunday closures (under OLD Business)

Motion J. Renner / Second T. Sheridan. Upon unanimous vote, agenda approved with modifications

*Motion to approve agenda with modifications.*

**Updates/Reports**

* S. Haught provided a 2019 forecast overview. Released online in mid-Jan., discussed Forecast Methods (do not take into consideration environmental changes, pink – good, chum – average, sockeye decent but with some concerns. (Coghill weir washed out twice.). History shows forecast to be higher than actual. Noticing fish are getting smaller. Sockeye for Coghill, Miles Lake. Chinook – CR also seeing smaller fish.
* J. Botz provided a 2019 gillnet management overview, included management priorities, early season inside closure line and chinook escapement goals, Copper River District outlook, Bering River outlook, Coho salmon fishery, Coghill outlook, Unakwik
* 2019 Seine – C.Russell
* PWSAC Outlook – C.Campbell
* VFDA Outlook – M. Wells
* NVE Chinook Tagging Re-Capture Project Update – M.Piche
* K. Shed ADFG reported on the Alaska Hatchery/Wild Interaction Study.
* M. Somerville, ADFG

**Old Business**

**Bylaw Committee Update and Recommendation**

J. Renner motion/C. Campbell second.  
*Motion to pass Bylaw Committee revisions*

Discussion:

* Department becomes ex-officio member, switches chairmanship, clean up and simplification, clarification of recommendations and formalize process.
* Copper River Seafoods and North Pacific left off list of Task Force permanent members and would like to be included. Was an oversight, should be amended.
* Majority discussion 8+ members constitutes majority, 15 voting seats

Amendment: *C. Campbell: In bylaws, remove individual processor names, processor seats will be reflective of processor voting matrix with 5 voting seats and two ex officio seats*Unanimous consent to amendment

Discussion:

* Clarify whether the majority is the majority of voting members or majority of all members with a quorum of 7?

Amendment: *T. Sheridan: Under conduct of Salmon Harvest Task Force, add list item 10, quorum consisting of majority of 7+ of voting membership must be present for Salmon Harvest Task Force meetings.*Unanimous consent to amendment

T. Sheridan Motioned/ J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries with amendments.  
*Motion to accept the bylaws with discussed amendments*

**Chairmanship**

T. Sheridan motioned/ J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.   
*Motion to remove ADFG staff as Salmon Harvest Task Force Chair, nominate T. Carpenter to be chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

Discussion:

* Not a negative reflection on the Department.
* Task Force greatly values Department’s role at SHTF

**Sunday Openers**

J. Renner motioned./No second. No action taken.  
*Recommend Sunday openers not happen when practical.*

**New Business**

**Seine Issues**

**Fishery Announcement Recommendation**

G. Meyer motioned, J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.  
*Recommend that ADFG provides daily update on seine fishery*

Discussion:

* Would get information to fleet with aerial survey updates, escapement numbers, cost recovery, when to expect announcements.

**Gillnet Issues**

**Main Bay Subdistrict Recommendation**

J. Honkola motioned/J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries  
*Recommend to keep Main Bay Subdistrict open to minimize build up in the AGZ.*

Discussion:

* Management find a way to reduce build up, keep it open as long as possible to reduce competition and chaos.
* Would this make broodstock accumulation more difficult or affect size of brood?

**Coghill Recommendation**

J. Honkola motioned/J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries  
*Recommend to have at least a short duration Coghill opener paired with Granite Bay Subdistrict*

Discussion

* Alleviate congestion
* Flexible management

**Deep Gear Recommendation**

J. Honkola motioned/D. Zadra second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.

*Motion to recommend to continue to use EO authority to use deep gear prior to July 1.*

Discussion

* Worked well last year, continue to support this.

**Gillnet Fishery Announcement Recommendation**

J. Honkola motion/J. Renner second.   
*Motion to recommend to include number of permits fished not number of deliveries reported in fisheries announcements.*

Discussion

* Need additional communication from processors to gather that information.

*Motion tabled until next SHTF meeting.*

**Eshamy Weir Recommendation**J. Honkola motioned/ D. Zadra second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.   
*Motion to recommend for SHTF to reinstate Eshamy Weir*

Discussion:

* Department funding no longer allows, benefits both user groups but try and seek out funding to do so

**Chinook Recommendation**J. Honkola motioned/J. Renner second. After unanimous vote, motion carries. (VFDA and PWSAC abstain)   
*Motion to recommend during sockeye conservation concerns department shifts opportunity, when harvestable surplus of chinook, the Department uses EO authority to shift mesh size adjustment prior to July 15.*

**Copper River Subsistence Reporting**

J. Honkola motioned/J. Renner second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.   
*Motion to recommend support for weekly reporting of Copper River Subsistence Gillnet catch.*

Discussion:

* Weekly reporting useful as inseason management tool
* Effort distribution information would add to value

**Public Comment**

* Against long duration opener in Main Bay district, thinks it affects the size of fish
* Test fishery on Copper was poor choice from Fish and Game, dumping fish on market that were not known to be on market, something must be done in Main Bay, enforcement - give tickets
* Number of permits in announcements seems redundant, but in support of Eshamy weir
* Buildup of dark chums, early season openers close to hatchery were great for fishermen and market but broodstock was not met.
* Behavior was different, management strategy will be similar to last year but a touch more cautious.
* Support of Eshamy weir, question for Department - Gulkana brood is accounted for within inriver goal but not managed in-season due to run timing however run timing on the Gulkana, when in the personal use fishery they are still a month away from the hatchery so there is no way to manage in season.
* Odd years have had a huge surplus in Orca which is regulatory closed waters, why is it closed waters and would you open if there was a surplus? In lifting closed waters manager does have EO authority, in 2017 there was a buildup around town but didn’t open but would like to do so in 2019 if there is sufficient fish to do so.

**Task Force Remarks**

* D. Zadra- Test fish Copper River Salmon hitting market were of substantial detriment to market
* General thanks to department and bylaw committee
* Homer seine meeting May 21

J. Whissel motioned./D. Zadra second  
Motion to recommend that research and management position be split back into two positions

Discussion:

* J. Whissel - Too much for one person to efficiently do so would like them split
* A Poetter - Can appreciate desire for more staff, however this is not the time the administration is going to support more positions. It is not up to the department, we have to make do with what the legislature gives us, making a recommendation to the department is not the appropriate route

Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.

**Next Meeting Date and Chairmanship  
Chairmanship Discussion**

* T. Carpenter is OK with doing it
* J. Whissel- CDFU is organizing body so could choose chair
* C. Campbell- agrees with Whissel on CDFU designating chair, long term continuity with the body, Galen Meyer- thinks it’s within CDFU to find chair, nominates Tom for next meeting.

Galen Meyers motion/J. Honkola second. Upon unanimous vote, motion carries.   
*Motion to nominate T. Carpenter.*

Galen Meyer motion/C. Campbell second. Motion tabled until fall meeting   
*Motion to nominate Brian O’Leary as co-chair*

Discussion:

* Does not support ex-officio member as chair or vice chair, suggests it is tabled.

**Next meeting date:** September 25 (*tentative, to be finalized during summer*)

G. Meyer motioned/J. Honkola second. Meeting adjourned.   
*Motion to adjourn.*