



ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
HATCHERY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 8:30 a.m.
Egan Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage

MEETING SUMMARY

The audio from the meeting is available on the Board of Fisheries website at the following meeting link:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fisheriesboard.meetinginfo&date=03-23-2022&meeting=anchorage>.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Märit Carlson-Van Dort, Chair
John Jensen, Vice-Chair
Gerad Godfrey

John Wood
Israel Payton
McKenzie Mitchell

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order – Chair Carlson-Van Dort calls the meeting to order at 8:48 am.

Introductions of Board Members and Staff. The committee members introduced themselves. Member Jensen was absent initially, but arrived shortly thereafter. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff included:

Commercial Fisheries

Sam Rabung – Director
Forrest Bowers – Deputy Director
Bill Templin – Chief Fisheries Scientist
Andrew Munro – Statewide Fisheries Scientist
Sara Gilk-Baumer – Fisheries Geneticist
Chris Habicht – Principal Geneticist
Kyle Shedd – Fisheries Geneticist
Dr. Katie Howard – Fisheries Scientist
Ted Meyer – Fisheries Pathologist

Sport Fisheries

Dave Rutz – Director
Tom Taube – Deputy Director
Jeff Milton – Statewide Hatchery Coord.

Boards Support

Glenn Haight – Board of Fisheries Exec. Director
Henry Leasia – Publications Specialist
Fari Sylvester – Southcentral Region Coordinator

Department of Law

Aaron Peterson – Assistant Attorney General

Chair Carlson-Van Dort opened the meeting by reviewing the Joint Protocol on Salmon Enhancement (Finding/Policy #2002-FB-215).

ADF&G STAFF REPORTS

The department provided the following reports.

1. [Alaska Fishery Enhancement Program Production Trends and Planning Efforts](#) prepared by Lorraine Vercessi, presented by Sam Rabung.
2. [Sport Fishery Enhancement Program](#) by Jeff Milton.



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3. [An Introduction to the Salmon Ocean Ecology Program and Overview of Scientific Understanding of Salmon Competition at Sea](#) by Dr. Katie Howard.
4. [Statewide Fish/Shellfish Health Program in Alaska: Mitigating Disease Risks to Wild and Cultured Stocks](#) by Ted Meyer.
5. Bill Templin, Chris Habicht, Sara Gilk-Baumer, and Kyle Shedd provided an abbreviated presentation on the following reports.
 - [Alaska Hatchery Research Program: Overview of results and products to date.](#)
 - [Alaska Hatchery Research Program: Study Question 1: Population Structure.](#)
 - [Alaska Hatchery Program Question 2: What is the Extent and Annual Variability of Straying.](#)
 - [Alaska Hatchery Program Question 3: Relative Reproductive Success Update.](#)
 - [Alaska Hatchery Program Question 3: Mechanisms Driving RRS.](#)

Board members asked a number of questions to staff on the presentations.

DEPARTMENT OF LAW BRIEFING

The Department of Law provided a briefing of the extent to which the Board of Fisheries has authority over hatcheries. Assistant Attorney General Aaron Peterson offered the advice from Law has not changed from that given in 1997 which is that the board has authority to modify releases in a hatchery permit. A review of legislative intent behind AS 16.10.440(b) found that the authority was not limited to the capture of naturally occurring fish for broodstock. However, Law advised that any board modification of hatchery production needed to consider the reduction's overall impact on the hatchery operation because Board action that effectively revokes or prevents the issuance of a hatchery permit is probably not authorized.

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

Towards the end of the meeting, the board held an open forum for discussion on set topics. The board asked the audience several questions. The questions are below. The discussion may be heard on the meeting audio at the bottom of the meeting weblink starting at *Meeting 03-23-2: 4:15:28*.

Questions included:

- Is hatchery research in Alaska adequately independent?
- Is hatchery research needed to specifically address the impact of hatchery fish has on other salmon and species in the marine waters?
- 5 AAC 40.340 offers the responsibility of regional planning teams. Chiefly, that is to "rehabilitate natural stocks and supplement natural production". At what point do we conclude that those goals have been met or exceeded?
- Is the Hatchery Committee an effective and useful forum?

BOARD DISCUSSION

The board agreed the hatchery committee was a valuable opportunity to learn more and to continue to work.

SCHEDULING THE NEXT HATCHERY COMMITTEE MEETING

The board determined to hold another Hatchery Committee meeting in the next meeting cycle.

The meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.