



# Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) GOA Salmon and Halibut Subcommittee May 24, 2022 9:00 a.m. (AST) Meeting Minutes

## Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85969687233?pwd=emVGc0tqZGJ2RGtabmdvNVRraXZXQT09>

- Meeting ID: 859 6968 7233
- Passcode: 052422

**Committee members:** Brian Gabriel, Kevin Delaney, Mike Flores, Raymond May, Duncan Fields

1. Call to order at 9:00 a.m Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Gulf of Alaska halibut and salmon committee meeting called to order at 9:01 AM by Chair Brian Gabriel
2. Roll call of committee and ABRT members
  - Committee members present: Brian Gabriel (Chair), Kevin Delaney, Mike Flores, Duncan Fields, Raymond May
  - ABRT Members present: John Jensen, Tommy Sheridan, Stephanie Madsen
3. Approve agenda: May 24, 2022, Approved
4. Approve minutes: May 3, 2022, Approved
5. Old business:
  - Observer and electronic monitoring program in GOA groundfish fisheries. This presentation will be requested for a full ARBT meeting.
    - Some discussion was had that this presentation would be made on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the full ABRT meeting.
6. New business:
  - Presentation from Julie Bonney of Alaska Groundfish Databank on the GOA shoreside trawl fleets and a brief recap of the history of GOA trawl fishery rationalization efforts (catch shares)
    - Committee questions on information
    - Made available in the ABRT webpage here:  
[https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.committees#meetings\\_goa\\_ahs](https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.committees#meetings_goa_ahs)

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments stopped at 1:56:31
- Paddy O'Donnell: Wanted to highlight that the catch for chinook in place today in GOA encompasses pelagic, nonpelagic, and the rockfish program. Reduced during the Walker administration as a purely political move. Provided some information from the groundfish data bank. Biggest concern is impacts of hatchery released fish, thinks there is a lack of data there and something that should be considered by the task force. Suggests looking at the hatchery production to see what effect that has on bycatch. Concerned with what impacts hatchery released stocks have on wild stocks. Chair Gabriel asked if trawl speed differentials had been changed to see if that would mitigate bycatch. Noted that the size of the salmon affects their ability to escape the smaller they are the less strong of a swimmer they are and are more likely to get caught.
  - Rebecca Skinner, Alaska whitefish trawlers association Kodiak based: Noted there are concerns about rationalization in general yet the GOA rockfish program has not seen any of these negative consequences. There has not been vessel or processor consolidation. Commented on crab rationalization that it caused consolidation of the fishery, this was intentional but left a bad taste in the mouths of residents that had to deal with this. Noted trawl in Kodiak is a very important fishery as it keeps the processing facilities open. Asked a question of the Committee are we trying to reduce all the bycatch we can or have a functional fishery? Because a functional fishery is more important to Kodiak's economy than anything else.
  - Nasisaq/ Krystalynn Scott: Tribal member of ONC and Nanushuk tribal council. Commercial fishing has had a significant impact on the communities on the Kuskokwim River communities. Any action or inaction does directly impact the Kuskokwim fishery. Has 10 years of data collected by her family of traditional fishery data collected showing the decline of salmon runs on the river. She knows that the inter-tribal fish commission is engaged but, in her experience, she has seen the salmon from her families river going into the ocean and being wasted. Anyone king caught on a boat is wasteful and it is not Alaskan. They get no monetary impact, and it is just tradition that is dying. The economic impact is not the values of the Native people and their traditional uses. The ABRT must think about Alaskans that are subsisting on the salmon resource. ANILCA dictates a priority of subsistence and how do you determine who gets what. Wants the Commercial fisherman to consider how five opening would affect them just as the Yukon Kuskokwim traditional subsistence users only get 5 openings this year. Responded later to Laine Welch's question regarding the CDQ groups, noted that this was done mostly in the 80's and everyone thought it was a good deal and it was a popular effort. There are many communities that have benefited from the CDQ groups, but one thing to keep in mind is that not every community on these rivers belong to a CDQ. Hard to explain the way people are starting to process awareness about how the CDQ's own trawling vessels and contribute to bycatch that is affecting returns on the rivers. Other communities not CDQ and bringing awareness to CDQ communities about what the boards of these CDQ groups are doing. They do not like that but they do appreciate the benefits of the CDQ groups. Noted it would be a good survey to take out and ask how the CDSQ fishing vessels are impacting their traditional fishing practices.
  - Caleb Jennings Sport fisherman: Noted historical information on other trawl fisheries that have collapsed and are no longer fishable. If damage to the environment will not be considered than he suggests implementing better systems to manage bycatch by looking

elsewhere to see what has worked and not worked. Member Flores noted he went to Finland and they only have farm fish now we could easily be in the same boat if we cannot figure out what factors are affecting returns of fish. Supports caps for vessels not caps for fleets to promote more accountability. \*\*\*Later addressed comment on hatchery fish vs wild fish by noting how many pinks are released from AK hatcheries.

- Chris Woodley: Thanks Julie Bonney for presentation, wants factual information to be focused on. Noted that a comment about the observer program might not have been factual given the amount of information from NOAA and other reputable sources is readily available.
- Laine Welch: Had questions for Nasisaq how western Alaskans, primarily on the Yukon feel about the CDQ group on the Yukon delta having 75% ownership in fishing vessels in the Bering Sea. How do people in the Western AK CDQ groups reconcile their concerns about salmon and halibut when everyone of the groups is fully or heavily vested in the fleets that are creating this bycatch issue.
- Louie Green Jr. from CDQ community Tier II salmon fishery in Nome: Became active at BOF through Native Corporation and was on an advisory committee as well as the Fed RAK. CDQ program has very few haves and very many have nots. Noted a Hatchery facility was built but it is empty due to CDQ groups not supportive of a hatchery. Not all CDQ folks are for it.

8. Committee comments discussion on future meeting information requests

- Chair Gabriel suggest scheduling a meeting for June 28<sup>th</sup> following the full ABRT meeting on June 21
- Tommy Sheridan noted that the Science and Tech committee would be interested in looking into these topics on behalf of the other committees.
- Duncan Fields: Commented he is uncomfortable going too far into hatchery issues this is a bycatch task force meant to comment on bycatch.
- Raymond May: Wants a study on how fast fish move vs other fish, will need to research further where to get this information. Suggested research and Karla going to look into where to find this information
- John Jensen: Commented that there is an ongoing Hatchery research project but it needs a few more years to have the information gathered be complete
- Kevin Delany: Mentioned discomfort at too much hatchery information, wants to taper off information at this point forward to try and address the information already presented.

9. Next Meeting Date: June 28, 2022, at 9:00 am

10. Adjournment by 11:25 am