



## Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m (AST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82155298256?pwd=WWExS1R6S3hLajNYs2JKcVd4eUdSQ09>

Meeting ID: 821 5529 8256

Passcode: 278009

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**Committee members:** George Guy-Co chair, Stephanie Madsen-Co chair, Ragnar Alstrom, Karma Ulvi, Representative Bryce Edgmon

1. Call to order at 9:00 a.m Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska salmon committee meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Co- Chair George Guy
2. Roll call of committee and ABRT members
  - o Committee members present: George Guy-Co chair, Stephanie Madsen-Co chair, Ragnar Alstrom, Karma Ulvi, Seth Whitten for Representative Bryce Edgmon
  - o ABRT Members present: Tommy Sheridan, John Jensen, Ray May

ADF&G staff: Kari Winkel, David Loomis

Public: Anne Vanderhoeven, Steve Ricci, Korra's Hope Dealer, Jennifer Williams, Ryan, Amory LeLake, Paul Matyas, Laine Welch, Tiffany Andrew, Eric Osborne, Paul Wilkins, Martin Nicolai, Chris Woodley, Nasisaq, Louis Green, John Gruver, Ben Payenna, Art Nelson, Bill, Tony, Joan Crima-Levenson, Tyler Kampnich, Krystal Scott.
3. Approve agenda: May 26, 2022. Madsen moved to approve, Alstrom seconded and motion approved without objection.
4. Approve minutes: May 12, 2022. Member Ulvi requested minutes be revised to reflect her request for further specific information on bycatch, Madsen moved the revised minutes. Alstrom seconded and motion approved without objection

- Links were provided by ABRT member Sheridan in response (links below). ABRT Chair Jensen noted that after the NPFMC meeting in June the ABRT will have access to further information provided to the council that may be responsive to member Ulvi's request.

- i. [https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165783620303477?fi=RR-2&ref=pdf\\_download&rr=7118111c0bc03083](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165783620303477?fi=RR-2&ref=pdf_download&rr=7118111c0bc03083)
- ii. <https://cdnsciencepub.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjfas-2021-0241?journalCode=cjfas>

5. Old business: Review workplan for July/August

- Co- Chair Madsen noted July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, is the next meeting date. Following this one and further discussion of the work plan, an additional meeting will take place the last week of July. Co-Chair Madsen will get staff from NPFMC to summarize bycatch information as presented to the council as it pertains to this committee.

6. New business:

- Presentations on Salmon Excluder Development
- Brent Paine, President, North Pacific Fisheries Research Foundation, presented an overview of the industry efforts to develop and test salmon excluder devices including a video produced by the Nature Conservancy that spoke to how the pollock fishery impacts salmon bycatch and the work done to avoid or exclude salmon from gear. Brent noted that the salmon excluder was developed using Experimental Fishing Permits (EFP) over twelve years with the goal to make this device the most effective as possible. The pollock industry worked with the NMFS staff to research and test these devices to make them as useful as possibly based on familiarity with gear and fish behavior. Although the projects have varied results on different vessels generally the result can be a 10-50% exclusion rate, and it is paired with a camera to record how well the excluder is working. The final EFP report will be presented to the NPFMC in June. The Incentive Plan Agreements (presented to subcommittee at the last meeting) contain provision requiring vessels to use excluders.
- Noelle Yocum- Engineering and Conservation Division, NMFS  
Noelle leads the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center Conservation Engineering Group. Part of this groups work is to develop bycatch reduction devices. Ms. Yocum spoke to how the excluders work in the pollock fisheries in more detail via a PowerPoint presentation. Noted that the various excluders have been developed over the last couple of decades and fine tuned with testing, use and input from industry. Additional information was provided on the current design being tested. The group is also working to assess salmon vision to understand possible benefit of using lights to help promote escapement. Salmon did not respond to light in the way the researcher hoped but they did partially respond to some light. Noelle noted that light is not a silver bullet but more research could make it a useful tool in excluder use.

Discussion: Members were interested in research on the possible reentry of salmon once they leave the net as well as vessel towing speed differences in reducing bycatch.

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments
  - Louie Green Jr.: Requests that a small-scale hatchery in Norton Sound to study return of fish and research how healthy these fish are. Mr. Green also requested information on food fish for salmon and are they getting enough.
  - Laine Welch: Raised concerns about public notice and availability of meeting materials and hoped other methods such as Facebook would be considered.
  
8. Committee comments:
  - Co-Chair Madsen summarized requests.
    - i. Getting summary of numbers for Member Ulvi
    - ii. Get NPFMC staff to summarize some of the council actions related to bycatch following their June meeting.
    - iii. Requests for committee members to commit to another meeting date in July possibly the last week of July, requested committee members to send availability for that week to Co-Chair Madsen.
    - iv. Noted YRDFA weekly calls will begin in June and they are on the ABRT calendar.
  - Member Ulvi requested more information on Area M fish and Co-Chair Madsen noted that there may be a voluntary stand down for the first part of June. Karla Bush (ADF&G) will look into getting some more information on that presentation. ABRT Jensen noted some more information on this topic.
  
9. Next Meeting Date: July 8, 2022, at 9:00 am
  
10. Adjournment – Ulvi moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 am. Madsen seconded and the motion passed without objection.