

Haight, Glenn E (DFG)

From: Michael Link <michael@bbsri.org>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2020 11:10 AM
To: Haight, Glenn E (DFG)
Cc: Tom Brookover; Jeff Regnart; Lewis, Bert A (DFG)
Subject: Update, study team activity

Hi Glenn and Reed,

The study team has been working on six tasks identified in the King Committee's October meeting.

Better Engage Stakeholders

One of those tasks recommended by Israel was that we get together with committee members in smaller group settings and address a key part of the Committee's October agenda, which was to identify what is of greatest value and what constitutes successful sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries. Toward this end, we met with sport users in December and we meet with commercial and subsistence representatives of the Board committee this week (Thursday). Note that we had a commercial fishermen (Robert) participate in the December sport meeting and will have a sport user/lodge owner (Nanci) in our commercial and subsistence meeting this week.

Again, this task was a goal and important part of the Committee's October agenda, but it was not dealt with then.

Meet with the Department

Jeff, Tom, and I plan to meet with the Department next Monday (24th) and go over what we have learned from the small-group stakeholder engagements in December (sport) and the one later this week (commercial and subsistence), and explore with the Department the feasibility of emerging ideas on potential changes to the management plan.

There has been further progress on the technical tasks described in October (i.e., impacts of different mesh sizes in the commercial fishery, and impact from varying the Wood River sockeye trigger). The technical reports from this work still require Department (peer) review and therefore it is premature to build plan changes based on the results from those analyses (i.e., March 12).

Review the Process

As we have discussed with you two before, there is no expectation on our part, nor is there adequate time (on your part), to see introduction of an *out-of-cycle* proposal, board-generated or otherwise, that would tackle changes to the management plan prior to the in-cycle Bristol Bay finfish meeting ~Dec. 2021. Recall the original expectation of this process set out by Ruffner et al. at the December 2018 Board meeting in Dillingham was that we could possibly see a Board-generated proposal entertained at the March 2020 meeting. You/we made the decision in December there was not adequate time or nor interest from the Board to do that. Brian Kraft, Bud Hodson, and Bob Klontz (as do the commercial fishery committee representatives) understood as of December that that any possible changes to the King plan would be made as part of the regular board meeting cycle, and not in March 2020.

We expect that the study team efforts will culminate in one or more reports and these will inform Board proposals that would be due ~April 2021. Toward that end, it is our expectation (stakeholder-led study team) that we will continue to work with the Department and produce a final report prior to the Board's October 2020 work session. This will give adequate time for stakeholders to review the results and submit proposals.

The March 12 Committee meeting

In your last Board of Fisheries meeting you set a meeting date for the King Committee for March 12 (we had anticipated mid-April). We can use this opportunity to review results to date and conduct whole-committee discussions about

emerging concepts for plan changes and any technical work those are based on. However, we would not be in a position to either provide you with substitute language for a modified plan, nor do we expect to arrive at substitute language on March 12. Some good ideas are emerging and more will come out this Thursday and next Monday, but it seems unwise to make a push for a revised plan as a product from a March 12 meeting.

I can run down to the meeting today if you would like to discuss any of this over the lunch or other breaks, and/or I can be present to discuss during miscellaneous business. Just let me know. Thanks.

Michael
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