



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee

Thursday, April 14th 9:00 a.m.(AST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88068483741?pwd=NEdjS3loT0hYL1NRVVRQQzdCeitMUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 6848 3741
Passcode: 308779

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

1. Call to order - Co-Chair Guy called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.
2. Roll call: introduction of committee and ABRT members. Committee members George Guy (chair), Stephanie Madsen (co-chair), Ragnar Alstrom, Karma Ulvi, Laib Allensworth for Rep. Bryce Edgmon. ABRT members: John Jensen, Linda Kozak, Brian Gabriel

Public: Jennifer Williams, Anne Vanderhoven, M.Martinez, Evelyn Beebe, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Terese Schomogyi, Paddy O'Donnell, Tisha Kuhns, Michelle Stratton, Serena Fitka, Forrest Braden, Varina Zinno, Chris Oliver, Paddy O'Donnell, Paul Wilkins,

ADF&G: Karla Bush, Rachel Baker, Katie Howard, Sabrina Garcia and Ben Gray,
3. Approve agenda: Motion to approve agenda as amended, adding ADF&G presentation under New Business, was moved by Ragnar Alstrom, seconded by Madsen and passed without objection.
4. Approve minutes: none
5. Old business: none
6. New business:
 - a.) Presentation from Dr. Katie Howard on W AK Chinook and chum salmon stock status.
Chronic poor abundance statewide for Chinook salmon for more than a decade. 2021 was a record low abundance for Western Alaska chum salmon. In 2020 and 2021 there was widespread poor chum salmon abundance in Alaska with the exception of the South Alaska Peninsula are which

had high run abundance. Salmon are returning smaller and younger throughout Alaska; in the Kuskokwim Chinook salmon were historically age 5&6 and now are predominantly age 4&5, Norton Sound chum and coho salmon and Yukon River chum salmon are at a record low size. Salmon Ocean Ecology Group is focused on marine surveys with the goal of long-term monitoring, identification of survival bottlenecks that affect future run sizes to improve our ability to forecast into the future. Survival of Yukon River Chinook salmon and fall chum salmon starting in 2016 was driven by poor early life survival likely due to the marine heat waves. In the Bering Sea this has resulted in more southern-origin salmon stocks moving north into the Bering Sea, food availability has changed, more fish with empty stomachs, and increases in the number of salmon returning as 'jacks'.

(b) Review Memo and discuss next meeting dates, agendas, and presentations.

Subcommittee reviewed memo. One item was added to the potential presentation topics and confirmed the subcommittee would not hold meetings in June.

Potential additional presentation topics:

- Information regarding the hypothesis about early life history in marine waters of juveniles and low-water levels of during outmigration affecting early life survival.

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments.
 - One public comment was received requesting/supporting information on the Salmon Bycatch regulations in the trawl fisheries and an explanation of the different fishery sectors.
8. Committee comments: Subcommittee members offered support for approach that has been suggested. Reminders were provided regarding the GOA Salmon and Halibut Subcommittee meeting this afternoon, Crab GOA/BSAI on April 26th and the Task Force meeting on April 19th
9. Next Meeting Date: April 29th 9:00 a.m.
10. Adjournment: Having completed its business, Ragnar Alstrom moved to adjourn the subcommittee meeting at 10:19 a.m. No objection. Motion passed.