



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee April 29th 2022 9:00 a.m. (AST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81541517945?pwd=WjZyZncrK0ZkUGRvLzNHYZdoQmNidz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4151 7945

Passcode: 897045

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

1. Call to order by Co-Chair George Guy at 9:02 a.m.
2. Roll call: Committee members: George Guy, Stephanie Madsen, Ragnar Alstrom, Karma Ulvi, Laib Allensworth for Rep. Bryce Edgmon. Other ARBT members: John Jensen and Linda Kozak
Staff: Karla Bush

Public Members: Laine Welch, Jennifer Williams, Paul Wilkins, Paul Matyas, Jon Kurland, John Gruver, Brent Paine, Cody Larsen, Heather McCarty, Trent Hartill, Steve Ricci, Heather Mann, Angel Drobnica, Stephanie Quinn Davidson, Rudy Tsuka, Brooke Woods, Landry Price, Kathleen Demientoff, Elizabeth Ahkivgak, Dia, Audrey, Shannon Carroll, Mary Furness
3. Approve agenda: April 29th, 2022. Madsen moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Karma Ulvi and approved without objection.
4. Approve minutes: Madsen moved to approve the minutes of April 14th, 2022. Seconded by Karma Ulvi and approved without objection.
5. Old business: Discuss future presentations outlined in memo:
 - Pollock Sector--Incentive Plan presentations – request presentation from pollock sectors
 - Sea State presentation-technology available – recommend presenting to the full ARBT
 - Gear Innovation-Salmon Excluder work – request presentation on excluder research

Mr. Guy reviewed the suggested presentations. Madsen suggested that the Sea State presentation on technology used by industry for management may be considered at a full ABRTF meeting. Madsen will arrange for other presentations.

6. New business:

Presentation by National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region- Regulatory Structure Overview of the Salmon Bycatch measures for the BSAI Alaska Pollock Fleet, by Alicia Miller, AK Region.

Ms. Miller, Catch Share Branch Chief, provided an overview of the regulatory structure currently in place for the pollock fleet in the Bering Sea for both Chinook and chum salmon. A history of NPFMC actions was also provided. Actions to minimize Chinook salmon started in 1995, were modified in 2000, 2005 and 2008. Chum was also addressed in 2008. The current program has been in place since 2011 which established a hard cap, performance standard and required the industry develop incentive plans (IPA) to minimize Chinook salmon. In 2017, chum salmon was added to required incentive plans and a low Chinook abundance was identified by a three-river index threshold and added to the program.

Regulations were designed to support data collection efforts ie: genetics and verifying compliance. Salmon are required to be retained and counted by Federal observers to establish a “chain of custody” of the salmon. Cameras, dedicated holding bins are just some of the examples. All pollock fisheries are observed: catcher vessels- 100% coverage; catcher processors- 200% coverage and shoreplants are also at 100% coverage. Quality of data collection in this program is high.

More information on regulatory amendments can be found in the Council’s summary publication: <https://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/fmp/BSAI/BSAIGFAMActionSumm.pdf>

Salmon can be donated to a Federally permitted food bank program, Sea Share. A presentation from Sea Share is planned for the next full ARBT meeting on May 17th.

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments

1) Brent Paine, United Catcher Boats (UCB), represents 72 catcher vessels that fish in the Bering Sea. He highlighted the unique and innovative aspect of the salmon management program. Program is designed to minimize Chinook salmon at all abundance levels of both salmon and pollock. UCB has been actively involved in efforts to minimize salmon.

8. Committee comments: Ragnar requested a reminder about what the North Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering for the salmon bycatch agenda item in June.

9. Next Meeting Date: May 12th and May 26th 9 a.m.

Possible meeting dates in July: 7th or 8th Committee members indicated both dates work.

10. Adjournment: Having completed business, Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 am. Ragnar Alstom seconded the motion which was approved without objection.