



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) May 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

The ABRT is established for the purpose of exploring the issue of bycatch and providing recommendations to policy makers with the goal of improving the health and sustainability of Alaska's fisheries and protecting Alaska's record as a leader of fisheries' conservation and sustainability. ABRT website: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.main>

1. Call to order

Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Tommy Sheridan Co-Chair.

2. Roll call: acknowledge Task Force participants

Task Force Members present: Tommy Sheridan, Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel, George Guy, Linda Kozak, Stephanie Madsen, Raymond May, Erik Velsko, Karma Ulvi, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Jim Anderson Delegate for Commissioner Sande

Other attendees: Karla Bush Department of Fish and Game, Staff for Representative Edgemon, Kari Winkel Department of Fish and Game

3. Approve Agenda: May 17, 2022, Amended and Approved

4. Approve minutes: April 19, 2022, Approved

5. Old Business:

- a) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska crab committee
 - Chair Kozak provided a brief update, discussed presentations both past and upcoming on the May 31st also indicated what information is forth coming for Bering Sea and wrapping up GOA. Planning final recommendations for August.
- b) Western Alaska salmon committee
 - George Guy Co Chair provided a brief update has met twice and with one upcoming May 26th. Plan on taking a break and restarting in July. Provided brief update on public input and presentations provided to the committee.
- c) Gulf of Alaska halibut and salmon committee
 - Brian Gabriel Chair provided brief update made recommendations for future presentations and some following the June NPFMC meeting. Provided a brief overview of the materials reviewed by this committee.
- d) Update from F&G regarding staffing
 - A hire had been made David Loomis and he is getting up to speed on Task Force information so as best to take over the administrative tasks.
- e) Science and Tech committee

- Chair Sheridan- has been absent a meeting will take place within the next few weeks. A request was made to have the observer program information provided to the Task Force as a whole. A discussion was had over whether that was appropriate or not. It was determined to be relevant to the Task Force at large. A discussion was had on notice. The website and public notice system seem to be not enough so possibly an email list to send out notifications or maybe an op-ed to draw attention as mentioned by the Commissioner. A suggestion was made to post these things on the Department Face book page. Commissioner will look into this.

6. **New Business:**

- Sea State – Bycatch Avoidance Programs in Alaskan Fisheries, Steve Martell and Merrill Rudd
 - Q&A with committee members
Made available in the ABRT website under the meeting date the presentation occurred <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.meetinginfo>
- SeaShare: Bycatch in the Hunger-Relief Effort, Jim Harmon
 - Q&A with committee members
 - Made available in the ABRT website under the meeting date the presentation occurred <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.meetinginfo>

7. **Public Comment**

- Brent Paine, Executive Director of UCB: Comment on Steve Martell’s presentation regarding fines, these are only assessed to Captains if they fish rolling bycatch hotspots. Over the years this has happened about 6 times and the funds go to salmon research in Alaska. Salmon saving credits is a program that creates incentives to minimize bycatch of Chinook in all instances. It is reward based and not a penalty program.
- Julie Bonney: Noted to Committee that Sea state presentation that 3 fisheries are rationalized fisheries which increases cooperation. Vast majority of SOA fisheries do not have observer programs and information should be used from both. Request made to discuss observers in the science committee and submit information to the Task Force at large.
- Karen Pletnikoff: Support member Delaney’s comments on information and how managers need to utilize that information better so that management can be made better through the sharing of this information.
- Chris Woodley: Noted the presentations were very helpful and informative and appreciates that these were made for the Task Force and the Public. Presentations like these make it clear that vessels are paying attention to bycatch making sure bycatch is minimized is number one priority.

8. **Task Force Comments**

- Linda Kozak: Commented on Julie Bonney request for SOA observer program reports specifically the crab observer program will be made to the Crab subcommittee. Question posed to Julie regarding rationalized fisheries participating in rationalization by the State in Gulf Fisheries. J. Bonney affirmed they will be making this request. Requested Karla to get out some NPFMC meeting information so the Task Force can pay attention to anything bycatch related and specifically to their various committees.
- Tommy Sheridan: Noted the science committee will be researching observers and providing that information to the Task Force. Thanked everyone for their participation.

- Raymond May: Asked when the science and tech committee will meet next week. Chair Sheridan responded that Friday would be the most likely day next week. Requested that committee meeting recordings be posted to the site. ADF&G will work with committees to post the recordings to the site.
- George Guy: Commented minutes should be approved by the committee members before posted for the public to take a look at.
- Stephanie Madsen: Noted that the NPFMC meetings the Task Force might be interested in are linked to the ABRT calendar. As well as some other weekly calls the ABRT might be interested in.
- Karma Ulvi: Thanked presenters for the good information.

9. Next Meeting Date June 21, 2022

10. Adjournment at 11:36 am