



Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

DRAFT May 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

1. Call to order

The Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Chair Kozak at 9:02 am

Roll call: acknowledge Advisory Council participants.

Members present: Linda Kozak (Chair), John Jensen (Vice-Chair), Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel, Stephanie Madsen (50 minutes late)

Other attendees: ADF&G staff: Henry Lesia, Kari Winkel, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker

2. Approve Agenda: May 23, 2023, Approved

3. Approve Minutes: May 1, 2023, Approved

4. Old Business: Review draft Mission Statement, *Approved with no objections.*

- **Chair Kozak** reviewed the Bycatch Advisory Council statement of purpose.
- **Vice- Chair Jensen** motioned for approval.
- **Member Gabriel** Seconded
- **Member Delany** spoke to the Statement.

5. New Business: Bycatch Resource Presentations

a.) NPFMC Staff

- Maria Davis discussed navigation of the NPFMC website to find bycatch information.

b.) NMFS Staff

- Abby Jahn discussed navigation of the NMFS website to find bycatch information.

c.) ADF&G Staff

- Kari Winkel discussed navigation of the Fish and Game website to find bycatch information.

6. Review ideas on implementing State Engagement issues.

- **Chair Kozak:** Discussed current and ongoing efforts by both state and federal entities regarding engagement on bycatch issues. Mentioned Commissioner Vincent-Lang to hold town hall in Kodiak in the fall to speak about bycatch with the public. Spoke to how implementation is moving forward and how the State is working towards fulfilling the engagement obligations as requested by the ABRT final report.

7. Public Comment

- **Alexis Kwachka:** Encouraged Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to come to Kodiak, also Homer and Cordova if regarding Tanner crab specifically. Possibly coordinate this with end of season salmon association meeting.

- **Laine Welch:** Feels public outreach on bycatch is busy work, requests plans of further action on policies that actually reduce bycatch.
- **Eric Velsko (ABRT member):** Appreciates ball moving forward on bycatch issues and reduction of that bycatch by rules being followed.

8. Discussion on implementation ideas and feasibility of State Engagement issues 1-2

- **Chair Kozak** called for discussion on topic. Discussed a possible Op-Ed by ADF&G.
- **Member Delaney** wants to market bycatch information in a way that groups calling for it are able to consume it.
- **Member Madsen** spoke to information being out there but how that is consumed can be problematic.
- **Member Gabriel** spoke to how much information is out there and how overwhelming it can be.
- **Deputy Commissioner Baker** spoke to what the department could do based on discussion at this meeting.

9. Consider development of a road-map for ABRT issues and discuss priorities

- **Chair Kozak** called for discussion on both a short term and long term road map.
- **Member Gabriel** Suggested making the ABRT recommendations a living document by listing steps that have been taken to follow through with recommendations made by the ABRT.
- **Member Madsen** called for a look at how research is being organized and prioritized between the different entities.

10. Summer work for subcommittees and individuals

Assignments

Member Madsen and Vice-Chair Jensen to work on FAQs

- **Chair Kozak:** Discussed meeting with Commissioner and what that would mean for the Bycatch Advisory Council.
- **Member Gabriel:** Notes that this will be a multiyear process of implementation in small stages.
- **Member Madsen:** Suggested research efforts should be discussed in the fall when next years budgets are in development.

11. Discuss and set fall meeting dates

- **Chair Kozak** discussed Kodiak meeting with Commissioner week of September 18.

12. Next Meeting Date: September 5th @ 9:00 am and October 24th @ 9:00 am

13. Adjournment by 11:19 am