



# Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Western Alaska Salmon Subcommittee August 12th, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Meeting Minutes

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

1. Call to order at 9:00 a.m. by Co-Chair George Guy
2. Roll call: George Guy, Stephanie Madsen, Ragnar Alstrom, Karma Ulvi, Seth Whitten on behalf of Rep. Bryce Edgmon.

ARBT Members: Linda Kozak, Brian Gabriel.

ADF&G: Karla Bush, David Loomis, Rachel Baker, Bill Templin

Public: Laine Welch, Rebecca Skinner, Steve Ricci, Chris Woodley, Tom Gemmell, Paul Matyas, Serena Fitka, Landry Price, Krista Milani, Chris Barrows, DMJ Allen, Karen Gillis, Jason Anderson, Frank Kelty, Paul Wilkins, John Walsh, Jeff Kaufman, Kari Nore.

3. Approve agenda: August 12th, 2022. Madsen motioned to approve. Seconded by Alstrom. Approved without objection.
4. Approve minutes: July 28th, 2022. Ulvi motions to approve. Seconded by Madsen. Approved without objection.

5. Old business: Review workplan for August/September  
Subcommittee Research Recommendations due August 31<sup>st</sup>.  
All other recommendations due Sept. 23rd

*Reviewed the 3 areas of recommendations: Research, State Engagement and Management. Additionally, committee reviewed the TF approved outline for final report and the committee template.*

6. New business: Discuss possible Research Recommendations  
Review summary sheet and identify any additional items

*Madsen reviewed the Memo on Research Priorities. Committee should have discussion to determine if all recommendations or only bycatch specific recommendations should be presented to Governor for consideration.*

General Recommendations: *no comment or objections*

ADF&G recommendations: *No specific comments.*

*Madsen suggested that groups providing Research Recommendation may be available for questions at the next meeting.. No committee suggestions.*

Bering Sea Fishermen's Association recommendations:

*Karen Gillis: No additional information to provide. Happy to see overlap of research priorities showing consensus among multiple entities regarding research priorities.*

North Pacific Fishery Management Council recommendations: *No Comments*

North Pacific Research Board: *No set of recommendations developed yet. No Comments.*

Overall recommendation document

*Guy: Based on presentation by various agencies, there are many different missions and desired outcomes based on analysis of disappearing Chinook and chums. Groups might be crisscrossing research. Should evaluate what research has already been done, compare amongst researchers and managers.*

*Madsen concurs that bycatch should be in one bin and should separate research being done with recommendations for research not yet conducted. Be more specific about what research is needed and share results about what has already been done.*

*Alstrom: Troubling to see some projects are only funded for short periods. Would like to see longer funding commitments for long term research and evaluation. For example, at least 1 full life cycle of chum and chinook salmon, 5-7 years. Interested in studies like the Alaska Fisheries Science Center looking at model ocean distribution and migration of chum and Chinook stocks. Important to understand migration patterns. Where are they at each time of year to maximize avoidance of intercept as bycatch.*

*Kozak: Need for good collaboration and coordination for research projects and competition of funding. State could take leadership role by holding annual workshop for exchange of research ideas and ways for collaborative research and funding.*

*Madsen: Alaska science symposium could be a good venue. Likes the idea of a workshop or some way to facilitate greater collaboration.*

*Ulvi: Agrees that a venue for all stakeholders to come together to share new research ideas and evaluate how current projects are going.*

*Alstrom: concurs that enabling greater collaboration among agencies in annual meeting is a good idea.*

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

*Chris Barrows: appreciates conversation.*

*- Need to deconflict and prioritize in terms of the application of these thoughts and coordination of the research. A format to present that is specific to bycatch collaboration would be useful. Alaska Marine Science Symposium is a good venue for this but is scheduled same time as Council meeting. Makes implementing General Recommendations number 3 more difficult to implement with multiple competing meetings.*

*- Identify where AK legislature can help provide more funding to ADF&G. Determine additional resources they will need to meet research priorities. Recommendation to Governor should include need for providing funding support for the proposed research projects.*

*Linda in response to Chris: "science symposium" sounds intimidating. Might not attract general public. Might be best to have a less formal venue for the state to host, then synthesize and present information from workshop meeting to science symposium or some other more formal meeting venue.*

*Madsen concurs. Chris Barrows concurs.*

*Serena Fitka: likes the idea of some sort of symposium to bring people together to exchange ideas and direct future research. Thinks it would be a good idea to implement.*

8. Committee comments:

*Guy: regarding cohos on Kuskokwim. Cohos not coming in as expected. Low returns. Federal subsistence might take over may close entire Kuskokwim River. Another salmon species that appears to be suffering low numbers.*

*Gabriel: announced Kenai River Classic Roundtable on topic of Bycatch. Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.*

*Kozak: added to Guys comments. Initial reports showing low coho returns for this point in season in Kodiak area.*

9. Next Meeting Date: August 26<sup>th</sup>, September 16th

10. Adjournment. Madsen motions to adjourn. With no other business to come before the committee, Co-chair Guy adjourned meeting at 9:58 a.m.

\*\*\* PUBLIC HEARING- WEDNESDAY, October 12<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*