



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT)

August 16, 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 Chair **Jensen**.

2. Roll call: acknowledge Task Force participants

Task Force Members present: John Jensen, Ragnar Alstrom, Brian Gabriel, Linda Kozak, Mike Flores, Erik Velsko, Stephanie Madsen, Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, Seth Whitten and Amory Lelake for Representative Edgemon, Senator Micciche, Kevin Delaney, Karma Ulvi joined later, Raymond May joined later.

Other attendees: Karla Bush, Department of Fish and Game; Kari Winkel, Department of Fish and Game; Amory Lelake for Rep. Edgemon.

3. Approve agenda: August 16, 2022, was approved.

4. Approve minutes: July 19, 2022, were approved.

5. Committee reports

a.) Science, Technology, and Innovation Committee

Chair **Sheridan**, although absent, provided a document summarizing the meetings thus far for this committee, a copy of which is available on the ABRT website.

b.) Western Alaska Salmon Committee

Co-Chair **Madsen** provided a presentation regarding the work of this committee, a copy of which is available on the ABRT website.

c.) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Crab Committee

Chair **Kozak** provided a presentation regarding the progress of this committee, a copy of which is available on the ABRT website.

Commissioner **Vincent-Lang** asked what other Departments the ABRT thinks would participate in bycatch research. Member Madsen responded that DNR or DEC might be participating in research on non-fishing effects to the environment but agrees that if this is only bycatch specific than this does not make as much sense. Mostly about the State providing better coordination of overall research.

d.) Gulf of Alaska Halibut and Salmon Committee

Chair **Gabriel** provided a presentation regarding the progress for this committee, a copy of which is available on the ABRT website.

Member **Madsen** asked how do we parse general ecological research priorities versus bycatch-specific research? Wants the ABRT input on how to prioritize these types of research.

Chair **Jensen** mentions that is a good question and something for the group to have input on.

Member **Kozak** agrees with Member Madsen that trying to focus on bycatch only – there is a lot of overlap and a lot of questions of what relates closely enough to bycatch to be considered by the ABRT.

Senator **Micciche** commented that even if it doesn't have to do with bycatch the Task Force should still make some recommendations even as something to look at in the future not related to bycatch. It would be good to identify what bycatch affects and what it doesn't for the public.

Member **Delaney** commented that we need to develop a focus on bycatch research and wants the group to focus on a 4-bin system to compartmentalize research into, to better focus research.

Member **Flores** questioned if there is money available for this research? Member **Kozak** responded that is exactly why coordination is needed for industry to coordinate funding for these research efforts.

Commissioner **Vincent-Lang** thanked the Task force members for their engagement in the committee process. Noted that the first step in acquiring funds for research is to clearly define and identify a research project to go out and seek funding for.

6. Old business

a.) Committee report template

Member **Kozak** believes that the committee report template and timeline are right on track, and Chair **Jensen** agreed with this statement.

b.) Timeline for final report

Discussion of the final report timeline took place during the previous agenda item (committee report template).

7. New business:

a.) Agenda for September meeting

Member **Kozak** recommends that the ABRT address the research recommendations at the September 20 meeting, and suggests follow up meetings on October 18 and November 15, to which Member **Madsen** agreed.

b.) Agenda and structure for Oct. 12 in-person meeting

An update was provided by ADF&G staff regarding location and travel for ABRT for the October 12 meeting and requested that the ABRT think about how to structure the in-person meeting.

8. Public comment

There was no public comment.

9. Task Force comments

Member **May** is appreciative of the work done, and plans on catching up after a busy summer.

10. Next meeting date is September 20, 2022, at 9:00 am.

11. Adjournment at 10:14 am.