



Alaska Bycatch Advisory Council (ABAC)

September 5, 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 9:00 am

Roll call: acknowledge Advisory Council participants.

Members present: Linda Kozak (Chair), John Jensen (Vice-Chair), Kevin Delaney, Brian Gabriel, Stephanie Madsen, Karma Ulvi

Other attendees: ADF&G staff: Annie Bartholomew, Joe Felkl, Deputy Commissioner Rachel Baker

2. Approve Agenda: September 5, 2023, Approved

3. Approve Minutes: May 23, 2023, Approved

4. Announcements

- Chair Kozak spoke to a variety of upcoming events and meetings that relate to bycatch that may be of interest to the public and/or members of the council. All meetings are on the bycatch calendar. She also addressed subcommittees and how their work and meetings are progressing.

5. Progress Report Presentations

a.) Salmon Research

- Dr. Katie Howard provided a presentation on salmon research relevant to Bycatch.

b.) Crab Research

- Dr. Ben Daly and Mark Stichert provided a spoken presentation on current and upcoming projects.

c.) Management

- Deputy Commissioner Baker provided a general overview of State management at the policy level.

6. Review initial ideas on Frequently Asked Questions

- **Chair Kozak:** Introduction to the reason for FAQ discussions within this group and what they aim to accomplish with their publication.
- **Stephanie Madsen:** Spoke to the draft of the FAQ being drafted and the issues and input still needed.
- **John Jensen:** Encouraged the public to participate in the drafting of the FAQ.
- **Karma Ulvi:** Provided a draft FAQ map document to give guidance on what should be on the FAQ or what information it should link to.

7. Public Comment

- **Mike Chulich:** Recreational fisherman questions about why there is an acceptable level of bycatch when in recreational fisherman are fined for one fish killed when they are not supposed to. Requests research on gear modification. Comments that bycatch is unacceptable we should not be catching species that are not targeted when fishing, needs to be looked at through an ethics lens and not just the politics and economics of the issue.
- **Julie Bonnie:** Include in FAQ this is where you can go to find this information by summary. Jurisdictional issues in an FAQ should be considered such as what the rules are in state vs. federal waters. Appreciated some of Member Ulvi's suggestions, especially genetic information. Wants monitoring addressed in state fisheries.

8. Action

a) Discuss FAQs

- **Chair Kozak:** Requested assistance from the Council and gave out an assignment to have 10-12 FAQ questions by the next meeting.
- **Member Madsen:** Spoke about managing expectations in what could be put in an FAQ.
- **Member Ulvi:** Mentioned the issues residents of Western Alaska have and how those could be helped with the FAQ development and upkeep.
- **Vice-Chair Jensen:** Agreed with FAQs being helpful but could not be kept up in real time.
- **Member Delaney:** Called for a regional specific FAQ to better address the needs of people in the different respective areas of Alaska.

b) Discuss priorities.

- **Chair Kozak:** Spoke to some priorities and what needs to be done moving forward.
- **Member Madsen:** Commented on the priorities and her willingness to be a part of that discussion. Spoke to Sea Share making annual reports available.
- **Member Ulvi:** Commented further on bycatch and donating bycaught fish vs. reducing bycatch and not supporting bycatch by utilizing it. Asked how much bycatch is brought back to Alaska y Sea Share to donate.
- **Member Jensen:** Voiced his approval and thoughts.
- **Member Delaney:** Supports the idea of bycatch utilization and bringing in ABRT member Fields given his robust support of that issue.

c) Consider development of a road map for ABRT issues

This to be discussed when Brian Gabriel is present.

9. Next Meeting Date: October 24th @ 9:00 am

10. Adjournment by 11:50 AM