

Gordon Scott

RC 019

Whittier AC Presentation to BOF, 3/17/15  
Met Feb 21, 2015 in Whittier

Quorum needed = 5. 7 of 10 members present. (1 left 2/3rds way through), then 6 present

Fish and Game Staff Present: Charlotte Westing and Mike Thalhauser.

Charlotte made a great presentation with BOG results about 2 PWS Blackbear proposals from ACR's from WAC members.

BOF Proposals: ( non-commercial).

PROP. No. 245 AND 249: ( Harvest allocation for non-commercial Shrimp fishery).

The BOF allocated 60% for sport and 40% for commercial after subsistence was taken when starting the fishery. The subsistence is included with the personal use and sport. There is plenty of opportunity.

The Whittier AC considered these proposals as against the commercial harvest.

Call for vote: Support= 0 opposed= 7

PROP. No. 246 : (Change harvest strategies).

The thought after discussion was that the Dept should have the ability to adjust pot numbers up or down in order that the non-comms could likely catch their GHL

Call for vote: Support= 5 Opposed=1 Abstain=1

PROP. NO. 247 : (Pot limit up to 10 per vessel).

This prop. will increase the number of pots allowed per vessel. AC would not support this prop.. as it could double the amount of gear, and thus the catch. It was noted that the non commercials had repeatedly exceeded their GHL

Call to vote: support= 0 opposed= 7

PROP. No. 248 : (modified reporting requirement for non commercial shrimp fishery).

The non commercial fishery went over their limit 4 times in the last 7 years. Dept rep said that they believe the current system gives them an adequate picture of catch. Dept Rep told us it would not be possible with paper reporting to get data in a timely fashion in order to in season manage. Also, there is a good chance this reporting will be changed to a digital system a dept rep told us. Only then would this be a

possibility. The discussion indicated no need then to do this now, but possibly in the future

Call for vote: support= 2 opposed= 5

<<<<COMMERCIAL>>>

PROP. No. 250 : (register one boat per person only).

Discussion was that this represented the intent of re-opening the fishery, as it was supposed to be a small boat fishery

Call for vote: support= 7 opposed = 0

PROP. No. 251 : ( change the boundary line between area 2 and 3 for commercial pot shrimp). This seemed to be a sensible change, aligning with stat area boundaries, and had no negative effects on the fishery.

Call for vote: support= 6 opposed= 0 abstain= 1

PROP. No. 252 : (close trawl gear fishing for taking shrimp).

The view was expressed regarding Fish& Game trying to protect Tanner crabs. Trawl gear is much more efficient now as far as not disturbing the bottom as much as before

Call to vote: support= 3 opposed= 2 abstain= 2

PROP. No. 253 : (change PWS shrimp pot commercial fishery designation) (& amend season dates).

This will change from exclusive area to superexclusive area. Also, change the closed season from Sept. 15 to August 1. The thought was mentioned that superexclusive better defined the intent of this being a small boat fishery.

Whittier AC will not accept the closed season as written because it will eliminate a substantial period of fishing.

Call for vote with amendment "to reject the change of closing season":

support= 7      opposed= 0

PROP. No. 254: ( statistical area cap from 25% to 50%

Note: S. Aberle left the meeting.

This prop. was submitted and is supported by the US (Whittier AC). The basis of this is that in the first 2 years of the fishery, 60% was caught from 1 stat area. Ensuing adfg surveys and future fishing efforts show that CPUE's were not damaged – perhaps improved. The habitat in strong areas supports healthy populations and recruitment. Also was noted that in the

noncommercial fishery, 1 stat area year after year renewably produces 26% of their 50% greater GHJ year after year, which is in total a MUCH greater resource removal than the every 3 years 25%, or even every 3 years 50% proposed commercial cap. So 50% cap is still biologically conservative.

It was agreed that the shrimp live in larger numbers where the habitat supports them best, and they can be fished harder there with a sustainable high yield. And stat area lines have NOTHING to do with defining habitat. All ADFG data (CPUE, surveys) support this. Also it is thought that this would reduce pressure where stocks are weaker, and help promote them to improve, instead of getting thinned out more by extra effort. Also with 25% cap, the fishers CANNOT catch their GHJ in some cases. (only 6 stat areas area 1)

Call for vote: support=6      opposed= 0

PROP. No. 255/256: ( change the shrimp pots from 4 to 5 pots per single buoy line and no more than 300 feet between first pot an last).

All members agree these are good propositions. That the ground line restriction may be harder to enforce, but nevertheless, it was a good concept to

help reduce conflicts, and increase safety for small boats.

Call for vote: support= 6 opposed= 0

PROP. No 257: ( reporting catch requirement).

The requirement to call on Wednesday to report the catch of commercial shrimp is changed to call before leaving port with fishing intentions, and call again upon return to port with the actual harvest plus all other information needed as before. Current system is unreliable in getting the proper information to ADFG, and costs fishermen a lot of time and fuel to get in cellphone range mid trip.

Recommended amendment that ADF&G accept "Texting" and or "E-mail" along with "phone" reporting.

Call for vote: support= 6 opposed= 0

PROP. No. 258, 259, 260: ( To close the commercial shrimp pot fishery).

These were considered as spurious attempts to close the Commercial fishery for no good reasons, except the proposers do not like commercial fishing.

Call for vote: support= 0 opposed= 6