

**Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee**  
**July 12, 2018 @ 6:30 PM (AST)**  
**Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation Conference Room**  
**Cordova, Alaska**

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I. Call to Order at 6:35 PM by Tom Carpenter, Chair of Game.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present (10): Tom Carpenter; Mike Collins; John Greenwood; Andy Hanson; Kevin Kimber; Mark King; John Renner; Tommy Sheridan; Amanda Wiese; Dennis Zadra

Members Absent (7): Torie Baker; Kory Blake; Teal Lohse; David O'Brien; Brad Sapp; Troy Tirrell; John Wiese.

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8.

List of User Groups Present: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G); Copper River/Prince William Sound Marketing Association (CR/PWSMA); Native Village of Eyak (NVE); Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC); Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC).

III. Approval of Agenda: Motion by M. Collins, seconded by M. King. Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: N/A.

V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jeremy Botz, Copper River/Prince William Sound gillnet fishery Area Management Biologist; Charles Russell, Prince William Sound purse seine fishery Area Management Biologist; Stacy Vega, Copper River/Prince William Sound Assistant Area Biologist.

VI. Guests Present: Forrest Bowers (telephone), Deputy Director for ADF&G's Division of Commercial Fisheries; Thea Thomas, CR/PWSMA, PWSAC and PWSSC board member; John Whissel, NVE Director of Environmental and Natural Resources.

VII. Old Business: none.

VIII. Reports

a. Chairman's report:

Chairman Carpenter gave the floor to AC member Tommy Sheridan to provide some background on the Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) et al. emergency petition currently before the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) and scheduled for board deliberation on July 17. Sheridan provided a history on recent related petitions received and reviewed by the BOF, including Hillstrand's emergency petition regarding Alaskan hatcheries at the January 2018 SEAK BOF meeting in Sitka: Hillstrand was given a three-minute opportunity to present her case to the board, and no action was taken on the issue. A more thorough review of Hillstrand's petition was heard by the board at their March 6-9 meeting in Anchorage; no

emergency was found to exist, and the petition was denied. However, the BOF established a committee (of the whole) review of Alaska's hatchery program to take place at their October Work Session as an opportunity to begin informational review of hatchery program. Sheridan described how KRSA had submitted a petition that was very similar to the one currently before the board, and which was heard during a May 14 teleconference. As a part of that meeting, ADF&G determined that an emergency did not exist, and the board itself denied the petition emergency status. KRSA et al. then resubmitted another very similar petition to the board for a finding of emergency and a request to deny a previously approved 20 million increase in the number of pink salmon eggs taken at Valdez Fisheries Development Association's (VFDA) Solomon Gulch Hatchery in 2018. ADF&G has again determined that no emergency exists, although the BOF wishes to deliberate on this petition in Anchorage on July 17.

According to Sheridan, there is significant opposition to this petition and its second hearing, and a common sentiment among many is that a summertime BOF meeting with such far reaching ramifications for stakeholders whose participation is so severely limited represents a flawed process. Sheridan acknowledges that concerns regarding Alaska's hatchery program have been recognized by stakeholders, and points to the Alaska Hatchery Research Project (AHRP) as a \$16 million investment in science, and collaboration amongst many stakeholders, including: Alaska Department of Fish and Game; the state's hatchery operators and the many thousands of fishermen that they represent; and, the state's processing community. Sheridan further pointed out recent certifications of the PWS salmon fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Alaska Responsible Fisheries Management (RFM) programs, and suggested that both certification programs were impressed by the scope and design of the AHRP during their recent assessments. Further, the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) has determined that the MSC and RFM programs are dependable indicators of sustainably managed fisheries. GSSI is a multi-stakeholder process including prominent international environmental nongovernmental organizations such as Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Sheridan further stated that the Alaskan commercial fishing industry supported an October 2018 Board of Fisheries review of Alaska's hatchery program as an opportunity for much needed board and public education on the program. This has been scheduled to take place at the board's October Work Session. Sheridan argued that there is a general perception that hatchery critics have failed to appreciate the economic value of the Alaskan hatchery program to harvesters, processors, communities, and the state, and hopes that the state will do a better job of articulating their policies regarding hatcheries, and better describing the value and benefits of the state's hatchery program.

Sheridan then introduced Forrest Bowers to the group, and thanked Forrest for agreeing to speak to the group regarding this process.

b. ADF&G:

Deputy Director Bowers introduced the BOF's policy on emergency petition process. Throughout its history, emergencies have rarely been found to exist by the BOF, and there is an expectation that emergencies will be held to a minimum. Prior to 2015, Board of Fisheries and Board of Game evaluation of emergency petitions took place internally, with information provided by ADF&G in response to petitions. In 2015, the board delegated its authority for determination of an existence of emergency to ADF&G's Commissioner, so as to avoid the expense and inconvenience of holding a special board meeting every time a petition alleging



an emergency is received outside the regular meeting schedule. Following a review by ADF&G, Commissioner Cotten did not find evidence of an emergency, and denied the KRSA et al. May 16 petition. However, in this case, two board members disagreed with this finding, and called a meeting to deliberate on the KRSA et al. petition. Therefore, at the July 17 meeting the board will convene to make an independent determination as to whether an emergency exists, and what, if any, regulatory action may be desired. And, as of this (Thursday, July 12) evening, the board had received a total of six petitions, with the possibility of receiving more before the meeting, according to Bowers.

Deputy Director Bowers also provided some clarification on expectations for the review of Alaska's hatchery program currently scheduled to take place at the BOF Work Session via a committee of the whole process. Bowers stated that this meeting will entail a series of presentations by the department featuring (1) a review of the state's regulatory and permitting structure as it pertains to hatcheries, (2) a history of the state's salmon fishery enhancement program, and (3) a science component, including a summary of the statewide hatchery-wild interactions study (AHRP) and a review of relevant literature.

IX. Public comment:

Thea Thomas strongly questioned the board's authority to take action on this issue, and recommended a review of the AHRP at the BOF October Work Session.

John Whissel recommended that the CR/PWS AC unanimously oppose the KRSA et al. emergency petition, and relayed Native Village of Eyak's strong opposition to the petition.

X. New Business:

After some discussion of the KRSA et al. petition, including broad agreement on the group's opposition to the petition, and shared concerns regarding such a meeting taking place when most commercial fishery stakeholders were participating in their respective fisheries, a motion was made by member Greenwood and seconded by member Zadra to make the following recommendation to the BOF:

"The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Alaska Board of Fisheries confirms Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) findings for a lack of emergency with regards to the KRSA et al. emergency petition, and requests that the board take no action on this petition. The committee is concerned by any process which stands to affect local, regional, and statewide stakeholders at a time when public participation is severely limited. Further, the committee questions the board's authority to take action on this petition regarding VFDA's permitted egg capacity and directs the board to note ADF&G's June 14 memo to Chairman Jensen and their interpretation of the board's regulatory authority as specified in AS 16.10.440(b). Finally, the committee does not believe that this situation constitutes an emergency."

This motion passed unanimously with 10 in favor, and none opposed.

Member Renner then made a motion to make the following recommendation to the BOF, which was seconded by member Wiese:

“The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommends that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adheres to its March 9, 2018 decision to convene a hatchery committee during the board’s work session being held on October 15 and 16, 2018 in Anchorage. The committee understands that hatchery production levels and salmon fishery enhancement permitting processes and regulatory structures will receive a thorough review by the board during this meeting, at a time when this issue can be vetted in an open public forum. Only then would this issue benefit from necessary public participation.”

This motion passed unanimously with 10 in favor, and none opposed.

- XI. Tommy Sheridan was selected to represent the committee at the July 17 BOF meeting in Anchorage.
- XII. The next meeting of the Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee will take place in Fall 2018.
- XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

**Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Emergency Petitions | July 17, 2018**

	<b>Position</b>	<b># Support</b>	<b># Oppose</b>	<b>AC Comments, Discussion, Amendments, Voting Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	Recommended motion for comment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding the KRSA et al. emergency petition.			
	Support	10	0	<p>"The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee strongly recommends that the Alaska Board of Fisheries confirms Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&amp;G) findings for a lack of emergency with regards to the KRSA et al. emergency petition, and requests that the board take no action on this petition. The committee is concerned by any process which stands to affect local, regional, and statewide stakeholders at a time when public participation is severely limited. Further, the committee questions the board's authority to take action on this petition regarding VFDA's permitted egg capacity and directs the board to note ADF&amp;G's June 14 memo to Chairman Jensen and their interpretation of the board's regulatory authority as specified in AS 16.10.440(b). Finally, the committee does not believe that this situation constitutes an emergency."</p>
<b>2</b>	Recommended motion for comment to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding the KRSA et al. emergency petition.			
	Support	10	0	<p>"The Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommends that the Alaska Board of Fisheries adheres to its March 9, 2018 decision to convene a hatchery committee during the board's work session being held on October 15 and 16, 2018 in Anchorage. The committee understands that hatchery production levels and salmon fishery enhancement permitting processes and regulatory structures will receive a thorough review by the board during this meeting, at a time when this issue can be vetted in an open public forum. Only then would this issue benefit from necessary public participation."</p>

Minutes Recorded By: Tommy Sheridan  
Minutes Approved By: Tom Carpenter  
Date: July 15, 2018