

Whittier Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 30, 21013

Members Present: Jon Van Hyning, Steve Aberle, Milt Stevens, Ric Vrsalovic, James Norris

Members Absent Excused: David Pinguoch, Gordon Scott, Brad Von Wichman

Members Absent Unexcused: Mike Durtschi, Charles Eldridge, David Goldstein

Public Present: Mike Stoltze

Staff Present: Sherry Wright

Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm.

Elections were held with the following results: Jon Van Hyning, Ric Vrsalovic, James Norris as three year members. Brad Von Wichman and Charles Eldridge were elected as one year alternates.

A summary of the Joint Board meeting actions was provided by Sherry Wright

Minutes of the March 9, 2013 meeting were read and approved.

Preparation/discussion of a subcommittee to develop BOF proposals for PWS finfish and shellfish.

Concern of the overpopulation of deep water rock fish (over 150 fathoms) that adversely impact shrimp populations is one proposal that Jon Van Hyning will write up and would like to be considered. Active management requires management of the various species of fisheries. SE Alaska keep their rock fish populations down and their spot shrimp populations are good. 20 – 25% of the rockfish populations could be harvested and that would have a big effect. This effort would take several seasons to put into place. Jon would prefer it as a directed fishery, although doubts the board will go for that. By catch percentage has been the primary means of regulating the rock fish populations. Black cod fishermen are in deep waters, so very little sport caught/targeted fish would be affected. A question of what depth the P-cod populations frequent was asked. They also eat a lot of shrimp.

25% per area harvest limit on spot shrimp would like to increase the percentage and provide information regarding the population recruitment that occurs from the fringe areas. The shrimp population management and the need to preserve the fringe groups that provide recruitment for the main groups actually hurts the populations, rather than help conserve the shrimp. Jon will get with Gordon to work on that.

Black cod: discussion was presented related to the poor harvest of Black cod during the spring opening 2013. By the end of the season, fishing got a little better.

Discussion of the private boat owners that go out daily to harvest may be having a large impact on the halibut fishery. An annual limit on halibut may help conserve them. Charter may only

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harvest 2 per day. There is no monitoring process for private individuals with a boat to record their harvest.

Public Testimony – Mike stated that the smaller boats need protection as the gray cod longline fishery are overtaking the three mile (should be outside the three mile state waters).

Next meeting will be in early March (first or second Saturday).

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.