

Whittier Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2014

Meeting began at 1:13 PM.

Members Present: Mike Durtschi , Gordon Scott, David Goldstein, Ric Vrsalovic, Jon Van Hyning, David Pinguosh.

Members Absent: Brad Von Wichman, Steve Aberle, Milton Stevens.

Public Present: Don Judd

Agency Staff Present: Dan Bosch (ADF&G SF)

The minutes of the last meeting 11-30-13 was not available to read.

Chairman Jon Van Hyning expressed that there is a correlation between the abundance of Rock Fish and the abundance of Shrimp in PWS.-: Mainly he is in favor of opening commercial fishing for direct target of Rock Fish to increase the population of Spot Shrimp.

D. Goldstein inquired if the R.F. move vertically (up/down) from the bottom and also, if the depletion of Rock Fish would affect the R.F. habitat in shallow waters. The answer is, unknown.

Agent Dan Bosch offered to help anybody who wished to write a proposal for the ADF&G.

D. Pinguosh would like to know how the Department of F&G determine the specific limit has been reached for a stat. area?.

G. Scott explained that right now when any stat. area reached 25% of the GHL, the stat. area is closed to commercial harvest of shrimp.

He proposed to change the 25% limit to a 50%, so the numbers will be more in line with the non-commercial group if you consider the commercial group has a 3 year area cycle.

D. Pinguosh suggested to modify the rule something like 50% and 25% for non-commercial.

D. Goldstein suggested maybe we should have a smaller % for areas closed to ports.

G. Scott will write the proposal as simple as possible.-----D. Goldstein second the motion.

Motion passed unanimous.

Halibut:- D. Pinguosh expressed his concern about the 29 inch limit for Charter boats. He think it will produce more mortality and waste.

Salmon:- D. Pinguosh showed charts of salmon harvest in Pass. Canal.--- For the last 10 years the catch of salmon has been declining drastically.

M. Durtschi confirmed Davids table, by saying his commercial harvest of salmon reflects a similar trend.

Some of the reason could be the increased numbers of Sea Lions hanging around north of Perry Isl. Also, the concentration of Herring north of the sound they did not school up like normally they do. -

Finally, several members discussed the salmon run in Valdez and Seward.

The King salmon in Pass. Canal will see a improvement in the future.

Dan Bosch talked about the effort done by the ADF&G to eliminate the Pike fish in Alexander creek.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:51 PM.