

Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Meeting 1/9/2017 @ 14:00

KWF Conference Room

In attendance: Jack Sinclair, Kyle Graham, Branden Bornemann, Marcus Mueller

On Phone: Christy Cincotta, Sue Mauger, Mike Daignault, Tracy Smith, Marie McCarty

Presenting - Lindsey Bloom: Alaska Fishermen's Relationship to Salmon Habitat, United Fishermen of Alaska

Results from Summer 2016 Survey available at United Fishermen of Alaska website

Lindsey does contract work related to fishery policy and is a commercial fisherwoman herself

United Fishermen of Alaska – volunteer board dealing with wide range of salmon related issues

Started program with a survey which produced following takeaways

1. Fishermen care very deeply about fish habitat and value to industry
2. Fishermen see salmon habitat as important to overall life, not just jobs
3. Habitat conservation important to fishermen
4. Independent and friendly data sources highly trusted
5. Fishermen highly engaged in conversation
6. Willing to take action for habitat
7. Want to hear more about habitat in general

Over 500 fishermen shared ideas, great insight into how fishermen relate to salmon habitat

Survey findings in area of:

Demographics – 85% of survey takers from Alaska, from many parts of the state, respondents were relatively young, **results at UFA salmon habitat information program website**

Description of salmon habitat – many different words used to describe habitat – streams, spawning beds, open ocean, lakes, headwaters, etc... freshwater terms used more often than saltwater

Value of salmon habitat – cultural values, importance to next generation, community and regional dependence on the resource

Concerns about salmon habitat – mining, climate change, and pollution are among most prevalent concerns...large scale mineral extraction of highest concern

Relationship to salmon habitat management – habitat conservation rated as more important than market and price variables

Where fishermen get information – ADF&G and local/regional fishing groups are most trusted sources of information, most utilized news sources are other fishermen, ADF&G newsletters and Alaska Fisheries Report, many fishermen use Facebook and other social media sites

Likelihood to take action – high percentages donate to organizations and/or are involved in political processes, many willing to do more

Sue: What is relationship between threats reported by fishermen and threats highlighted by KPFHP CAP?

Invasive species is listed

Next steps for UFA: Climate change will be high priority based on rate of concern among fishermen, plan to visit with legislators at beginning of new session to stress importance of fish habitat to fishermen

Lindsey on fish habitat permitting:

Briefing packet in meeting documents

Conversation surrounding permitting process related to development in fish habitat

Alaska has very progressive policy regarding natural resources

Title 16 includes statute requiring permitting of development if it allows for proper protection of fish and game

Question lies in how you define or apply the above statement

Sustainable Salmon Policy contains very good language that supported a proposal to Board of Fish for legislation to adopt habitat provisions

Special meeting resulted in Board drafting letter to legislature requesting update to law

Meeting in Kodiak this week, hopeful sending letter to legislature

Lindsey would appreciate feedback from KPFHP board, will stay in touch with Jack to keep group updated throughout legislative process

Jack distributed notes from previous meetings, please send corrections as necessary

Science Symposium

Jenn Peura added as member of symposium planning committee

Ian Dutton to be keynote speaker at symposium, to speak about work going on throughout the state, interconnectedness of groups, users, habitat partnerships, etc.

Jack to send out bio of Ian

Discussion of whether to charge for attendance at the symposium

Branden: seems like it may be exclusionary for some parties, not necessary based on the symposiums roots in grant funding, not struggling to find money to pay for it

Sue: Without justification for charging, agrees with Branden

Jack: Seemed to work well at Mat-Su symposium to defer food costs, will be providing at least two meals to attendees, may be making additional posters, payment often leads to commitment to attend. Not absolutely necessary to charge attendees, but may add value.

Mike: would like steering committee to consider lack of fee resulting in fewer attendees, could implement scholarships if there are financial issues for any likely attendees

Tracy: Mat-Su symposium saw big dip in participation upon implementation of fee, but added a free registration option for students and generated a media release

Kyle: Goals of local involvement and broader reach may be impacted by fee, one month before there is a no-charge event with similar attendees and similar discussion topics...March 7th and 8th John Morton hosting major meeting "Land Management Planning Workshop" expecting 100 attendees

Marie: Does not support fee, a lot of effort for people from southern peninsula to travel twice to this area for similar events

Tracy: Mat-Su justified fee based on food and cost of renting the building

Jack: Likes idea of financial hardship waiver, believes symposium is different than John Morton event and is a valuable event for relevant parties, some nominal fee would add level of commitment

Kyle: Suggests considering charge, but would like to discuss amount, and supports students coming for no fee

Sue: important for fish and game to be able to go, should confirm this first, have been unable to attend events with fees in the past

Mike: FWS employees would consider event a conference, if not listed in nationwide conference list and database, would not be able to attend – could attend Mat-Su symposium with student waiver

Branden: Suggests that an answer will be necessary to respond to why fee is being implemented now

Kyle: Justification includes posters, quality food, improving event etc.

Branden: Would individuals from sponsoring organizations be charged?

Jack: Suggests a recommended donation at time of registration

Sue: Could include a choice of habitat poster at time of registration, or fee for lunch

Tracy: Many entities will not be able to pay for lunch

Kyle: No separate funding for symposium, all rolled into general budget for partnership

Jack: Final decision is to go with free symposium and give opportunity for donation at time of registration

Strategic Plan

New members in group, may be necessary to reassess plan and priorities going forward

Jack: suggests setting aside an hour for talking about the strategic plan next meeting

Several member express interest

Jack suggests half-day workshop on strategic plan – general approval of idea

Sue: Need to decide whether to talk about strategic action plan or CAP, advocates for in-person half-day meeting for strategic action plan and CAP

Jack to send out doodle poll

Marcus: Suggests facilitator for meeting, perhaps Heidi Chay or Dave Athens

Closing Comments

Marcus and Branden: Looking forward to working on CAP

Kyle: Jack and Mike Daignault finished final accomplishments report

Christy: No updates, excited about CAP review

Sue: Wondering about feedback after last meeting regarding EPSCoR project

Jack: meeting scheduled for Feb. 3rd

Marcus: Followed up with Jamie Trammel, provided information about what had been discussed last meeting

Sue: Should reach out to EPSCoR to present information at symposium

Marie: Excited about strategic plan and CAP review, appreciates full-circle thinking and conversation

Tracy: Willing to help with symposium

Jack: Appreciates input from everyone, will send doodle poll for half-day CAP workshop, looks forward to next meeting

End of Meeting