



**SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

**Thursday, November 1, 2018
8:30 AM-10:30 AM
CAG Meeting 11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
Call in number: to be sent.**

**The Grange
1502 First Street North
Friday Harbor**

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene Meeting: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	Approval of Minutes: <i>All</i>
8:40 AM	Update on Governor's SRKWs Task Force related recommendations and next steps: <i>Giles, Jeff Friedman, Lovel Pratt, Jamie Stephens</i>
9:40 AM	Proposal for "Plastic Free, Salish Sea" Garbology Community Workshop: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven and Carl Davis (vote needed)</i>
10:00 AM	North of Falcon letter: <i>Frances Robertson and Byron Rot</i>
10:30 AM	MRC conference details: <i>Frances Robertson</i>
10:40 AM	MSA review: <i>Frances Robertson</i>
10:55 AM	Public comments
11:00 AM	Adjourn the meeting: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
11:02 AM	Convene CAG meeting: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
11:05 AM	Introduction of Laura Ferguson, Puget Sound Partnership: <i>Byron Rot</i>
11:10 AM	CALF salmon recovery presentation: <i>Byron Rot</i>
11:25 AM	Climate change integration and chapter update: <i>Byron Rot</i>
11:30 AM	Adjourn CAG meeting: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>

Committee Members in Attendance –Megan Dethier, Phil Green, Laura Jo Severson, Karen Roemers-Kleven, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Marta Green

Non-Committee in Attendance: Byron Rot, Laura Ferguson, Deborah Giles, Frances Robertson

Committee members not in attendance – Carl Davis, Jeff Dyer, Jeff Friedman, Patti Gobin, Christina Koons, Kendra Smith, Jamie Stephens, Terry Turner

8:47 AM **Convene Meeting:** *Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

8:47 AM **Approval of Minutes:** DELAYED to next month, *waiting for quorum.*

8:50 AM **Update on Governor's SRKWs Task Force - related recommendations and next steps:** *Lovel Pratt*

- There are three working groups within the Governors' Task Force representing key threats: PREY (Giles and Kendra) VESSEL DISTURBANCE (Jeff, Lovel, and Frances), and CONTAMINANTS.
- These threats are linked. Fewer salmon means less for orcas to eat. Vessel noise makes communication and foraging difficult, requires more energy, causes blubber to burn and release contaminants into blood stream causing health impacts.
- The contaminants issue is getting the least attention out of the 36 current recommendations under consideration. PCB's were banned years ago but they're still and released from the environment. PCB's accumulate up the food chain from plankton to fish to orca at the top. Transient killer whales bodies' have higher contamination loads but because they're getting enough food, not as affected by contaminants. Contaminants are viewed as a long-term issue.
- Priority is getting whales food now. Task force goal = increase the population of local SRKW by 2.3% per year by increasing salmon prey by 15% and decrease vessel noise by 50%.
- According to Ken Balcomb, the whales need 400K fish every year, that means 4 million need to be available. That means reducing loss of Chinook from bycatch.
- On the issue of vessel noise and disturbance, the large tankers have lower frequencies that interfere more with whales' ability to communicate. The smaller boats (whale watch and recreation) have higher frequencies that mask echolocation, interfering with hunting. Ferries are on the water 24/7 365 days a year, 70% of commercial vessel traffic because of sheer volume.
- There are 36 recommendations in current draft issued on 10/24, Lovel's highlights;

Goal 1 = increase Chinook abundance. Related recommendations:

1. increase investment in habitat restoration (freshwater, less nearshore)

2. more related to SJI's – funding restoration of nearshore habitat
3. enforce habitat protection laws, take advantage of the authority we have
4. strengthen regulations that protect habitat important to orcas. example: legislation regarding single-use docks and shoreline armoring
5. incentive programs to encourage habitat restoration
15. Monitor forage fish pops,
16. zooplankton sampling program

Goal 2 = decrease disturbance from vessels

17. “go slow” bubble;
18. permit for whale watch operators (not currently supported by whale watch association due to prohibitive language changes)
19. require annual “be whale wise” certification for recreational boaters
20. increase enforcement for small vessels
21. discourage use of echosounders and transducers within 1 km of orcas
22. Implement large commercial shipping noise-reduction
23. Design quieter ferries, plug-in/hybrid-capable, quieter and fuel-efficient
24. Increase protection from the risk of a catastrophic oil spill
- 24A. emergency response towing vessel (Dept. Ecology recommendations)
- 24B. require shipping industry to fund an ERTV, i.e. tug escort.

Background: the Neah bay-based rescue tug has had tremendous success, established and funded by WA state legislature initially until industry funding could be found. Now ships going into major ports pay a fee that supports that rescue tug. Request from an environmental coalition to amend wording in 24B to not assign costs to shipping industry since it doesn't seem realistic. Marta is working on a draft report regarding progress toward an ERTV, available in December. This is an MRC near-term action which will inform the Legislative process.

TIMELINE:

November 6, 2018 is the next & last task force meeting
 November 16, 2018 – report due with recommendations
 December 2018 – governor proposes 2019 budget (a two-year biennial budget)
 January 14, 2019 – Legislative session begins (105 days)
 October 1, 2019 – SRKW Task Force year 2 report due. This will address noise concerns with the Navy from both vessels and aircraft.

If the MRC has priorities to communicate the best way would be to ask the Council to write to the Governor once recommendations are finalized.

For some, the ‘silver bullet’ is hatcheries. 50 million additional hatchery fish (now 23 million in PS) has been proposed, could impact wild fish. Proposal at Glenwood Springs hatchery on Orcas to double production – now 900K, up to 1.5 million.

If we ramp up production,

1. we don't know if the food web can support more hatchery fish
2. Timing of dumping – to separate wild fish from hatchery fish temporally
3. PS is already a place where fish aren't surviving well, is it predation?
4. If hatchery fish spawn with wild fish there could be loss of genetic robustness

9:48 AM Proposal for “Plastic Free, Salish Sea” Garbology Community

Workshop: *Karin Roemers-Kleven*

VOTE NEEDED – but *no quorum*.

ACTION ITEM: Karin will present it here and vote by email next week so we can show it to the NW Straits Commission.

- The original idea was to look for a project we could do as an MRC or with the community to reduce single-use plastics. We established a subcommittee to partner with Lopez/San Juan/Orcas waste management and Friends of San Juans. Combine forces and to put on a garbology workshop. It will:
 - use experts, waste management directors. Motivate decisions about garbage.
 - where does recycling actually go? alternatives to China taking materials.
 - showcase new technology being generated here on the Island.
- Planning to ask for \$10K. Expenses will be space at the Grange or Brickworks, food, and marketing. Eye-catching mailer will go out to all Islands to get the message out.
- Carl Davis is a cinematographer, making a video of local inventions to present at the NW Straits conference to motivate reduction of single-use plastics
- The conference will be in April – Earth Day. Ride the wave of awareness.

9:58 AM Task Force – Prey issues: *Deborah Giles*

- Connected with the issue of Harvest, bycatch got added into the 2nd Task Force meeting and quickly ascended to the top of list of things that could be feasible in Year 1. There have been ways to monitor bycatch but it hasn't been mandated. Example solution: providing ways to escape nets such as LED lights like a 'landing strip' along the net that salmon can follow out ("Excluder" device). Giles related a case in which an informant reported 40K lbs. of Chinook ending up in the back end of a Hake net (not recent). This could have been avoided by behavioral modifications on the part of fishers. Regulators always go to gear (eg; make net mesh bigger or smaller). BUT they can do things like slow down or not fish as deep. Putting those fishers in contact with the task force will be a goal for Year 2
- Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST), between WA ,BC, Alaska, Oregon (US and Canada). The treaties are “rules of the road” for the next 10 years in terms of coordinating harvest. SRKW mentioned in this treaty for the first time – a huge step.
- (The PST is international, the North of Falcon includes just the U.S.)
- The PST is about fisheries management and investing in habitat conservation efforts. Meetings are often in Vancouver. Giles plans to get more involved with fishery harvest. Karin is also interested in participating in those meetings.
- Columbia river would provide food at key times of year if/when dams are down. Historically Snake River would have the biggest fish and likely won't

get those back. But anything from the Columbia is good. There is no silver bullet, even if we could clean up all contaminants and remove all boats. It must be multi-faceted; absolute statements fracture us as humans and keep us from working together.

10:26 AM Workshop

Frankie sent a draft agenda to the workshop sub-committee. Workshop is at Brickworks Dec. 6th all day. There's a save-the-date notice on MRC website.

ACTION ITEM: Planning Sub-committee needs to meet

10:27 AM MRC conference details: *Frances Robertson*

Frankie is on killer whale panel, Karin and Carl are on Plastic-Free Salish Sea, Lovel will present "ignite". Frankie reviews accommodations and transportation for participants. Stay for the nights of the 15th and 16th. Still waiting to hear from Carl and Jeff to confirm. This will be our biggest contingency to visit an MRC conference.

10:30 AM CALF salmon recovery presentation: *Byron Rot*

Byron shows presentation from the CALF workshop. Focus on a climate change strategy for salmon. Need project managers to consider climate change. The key thing about the Snake River as time goes forward is increased heat in the lower river (SE part of WA). We need to mitigate effects of temperature such as thermal refugia. One way is to reconnect flood plains, then cooler groundwater can come back into river. Planting trees to engage the flood plain.

10:36 Introduction of Laura Ferguson, Puget Sound Partnership: *Byron Rot*

Based in Tacoma near PS Partnership's office, attendance at some MRC meetings.

10:47 AM MSA review: *Frances Robertson*

Kendra reviewed projects at last meeting, needs a sub-committee. Frankie can send around deliverables. Identify how to start process. Convert MSA doc to Word?

ACTION ITEM: Terry needs to convene sub-committee & Frankie to send MSA plan to Committee

10:49 AM Public comments *no public present.*

Laura Jo – IOSA is holding a training on Lopez this Saturday for oil spill response

10:50 AM Adjourn the meeting: *Megan moves, Lovel seconds, all in favor.*

10:50 AM Convene CAG meeting: *Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

Budget numbers: *Byron Rot*

Related to task force recommendation #1 is full funding for the RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) in the Governor's budget. ESRP asked for 20 million last year and received 8 so they're asking for 20 again. This is coming from 20 billion State biennial budget. Approx. 4-8 billion goes to roads, 3-4 billion to capital budget, the rest is the operational budget. Funding for salmon projects comes from capital

budget, as does schools and anything related to building, health– a lot of competing funding. First, governor needs to include it, then goes to the legislature where funding is usually decreased. So, it's important to contact the Governor.

ACTION ITEM: Byron will talk to Jamie about the Council contacting the governor to support recommendation #1 *Megan moves, Karin seconds, all in favor*

11:00 AM Draft Salmon Recovery Lean Study

- Goal of the study is to become more efficient. What we have now is a bottom-up, local process. In the early days of salmon recovery, all entities would present projects and a funding board would decide. The Lean study is focused on efficiencies across the State, considers 6 or 7 organizations, but focused on local processes. PSP is the regional salmon recovery organization for Puget Sound.
- The current process: send out pre-application, project sponsors complete it, then a field trip, review panel, then CAG does project list/scoring/ranking. Then a second review, for projects that are flagged their sponsor presents to review board.
- New process (will be proposed to the Salmon Recovery Board in December): Embed review panel into the lead entity process, review proposals at the same time.
- Instead of September they'll meet in June (pulling everything up three months)
- We (the CAG) will still rank & score after the initial review process.

Recommendations:

- #3.1 – 3.4 gets into the nitty-gritty of change. Eg. consolidating lead entities, changing funding streams, all pushed out to 2019. *Propose to discuss this further at December or January meeting.* Core 18 million for small projects but the bulk of \$ would go into larger pot to get ranked at a State-level
- #3.3 – consolidation of lead entity administration

11:21 AM Adjourn CAG meeting: *Phil moves to adjourn, Lovell seconds, all in favor*

Not addressed during meeting:

Climate change integration and chapter update: *Byron Rot will follow up by email*