

Appendix B. Terms of Reference for the Study's Advisory Panel and a Summary of Meeting Date and Locations.



Terms of Reference

Advisory Panel to a Study of Alternative Escapement Goals for Bristol Bay, Alaska

February 2014

Introduction and Purpose

This Advisory Panel (AP) has been formed to provide information, expertise, and feedback during the execution of a scientific study to examine alternative escapement goals for sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay.

The AP was created to help make the results from the scientific study empirically based, practical, and useable by those in the industry and on the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Background

In December 2012 the Alaska Board of Fisheries (Board) struck a committee to oversee the analysis of *optimum escapement goals* (OEGs) for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. OEG is a broad term that encompasses escapement goals designed to take into account factors other than biological yield. OEGs can be fixed escapement goals or policies designed to meet objectives such as fixed harvest rates or fixed catches. The Board action was in response to proposed revisions to Bristol Bay sockeye salmon escapement goals by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). At the time, the Board stated that the OEG analysis was:

"... intended to give industry time to meet, discuss, and analyze economic information that would assist the Board in developing OEGs"

ADF&G agreed to postpone the implementation of recommended Biological Escapement Goals (BEGs) for six sockeye stocks until the 2015 season, pending the results of an OEG analysis, which are expected prior to the 2015 season.

The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) committed to helping lead an analysis of alternative escapement goals for Bristol Bay sockeye salmon. Some salmon processors in Bristol Bay and the driftnet fleet's Regional Seafood Development Association (BB-RSDA) also pledged financial support to the analysis.

Advisory Panel Membership

Prerequisites for serving on the AP will be expertise in Bristol Bay in one or more of the following areas:

- Harvesting
- Processing
- Fishery management
- The regulatory process of the Alaska Board of Fisheries

In addition, scientists and economists familiar with the methods used in this study may serve on the AP.

AP members will be selected by the Project Manager (M. Link) based their expertise and knowledge of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery; he will also rely on input from BBEDC, BB-RSDA, ADF&G, and others in the Bay's harvesting and processing industry. The 3-person OEG committee appointed by the Board of Fisheries (Regnart, Johnson, and Link) will also serve on the AP.

The Project Manager serves as the Chair of the AP. AP members serve at the discretion of the Chair. Although the Chair may remove an AP member for any reason, diverse opinions and perspectives will not be grounds for removal. Removals would be reserved primarily for any obvious violations of the guiding principles of the AP (see Section 6).

Any temporary or permanent replacements for individual members must be approved in advance by the Chair.

Role of the Advisory Panel

The AP will assist the study team by providing input in several ways.

- Identify sources of foregone wealth in the fishery that might be captured under alternative escapement goal management.
- Provide information and data on harvesting and processing costs.
- Help to characterize how harvesting and processing costs and product value might change under alternate escapement goal strategies.
- Assist with the development of alternative escapement goal strategies for the study team to analyze.
- Help characterize long-term processor investment decisions and long-term harvester fishing decisions under alternative escapement goal strategies.
- Help evaluate the practical consequences of any modifications to escapement goal management in Bristol Bay.
- Act as ambassadors to the study within the greater Bristol Bay fisheries community by providing colleagues and others with their first-hand experience with the transparency and applicability of methods and rigor of the study.

Input to the study team will be done in a workgroup manner and input by the AP is not binding. However, a constructive and positive treatment of AP input can be expected given the goal of AP members acting as ambassadors to the greater community.

Scope and Methods of Work

The AP will provide its input to the study team primarily through 5 or 6 one-day meetings beginning in March 2014 and ending December 2014.

The study team acknowledges the value of AP members' time and will strive to respect that and operate meetings in the most efficient manner. The Project Manager will provide the AP with an agenda and packet of supporting materials approximately 2 weeks prior to each meeting. The packet will contain materials to read before the upcoming meeting and/or questions to ponder. The AP members should prepare to address these questions during the meetings. Preparation for each meeting will typically require 1 day of effort.

The AP meeting format will be along the lines of a "workgroup" or "working group", where questions and discussion are encouraged at any time during the meeting. On rare occasions during presentations, the Chair may ask to hold questions until the end. AP members are free to suggest modifications to the meeting format and content.

Code of Conduct, Fairness, and Impartiality

AP members have volunteered for service because of their long history and passion for the sustainability of the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

AP members recognize that with a fair and equitable examination of escapement goals in Bristol Bay has the potential to improve the economic condition for all in the fishery. The value of the study will ultimately depend on the degree to which others view this as a fair and equitable examination of the issues.

AP members will adhere to the following guiding principles.

- Be considerate of the time and efforts of fellow AP members and those on the study team.
- Help to build trust and maintain a creative and supportive environment during meetings.
- Separate ideas from individuals; critique ideas and not individuals.
- Recognize the value of trust when brainstorming new ideas and use discretion when discussing AP dialogue outside of the AP.
- Respect confidentiality when members explore hypothetical situations or share information on cost or revenue data.
- Not distribute or discuss with others preliminary results that the study team asks to remain confidential until further analysis and review is complete.
- Employ fairness and impartiality when describing the study results to others; put differently, avoid manipulating results from the study.

Expenses and Compensation

The study will cover the costs associated with travel and accommodation, and will provide a stipend to compensate for AP members' time for each meeting attended.

Measures of Success

The AP will have been successful if the study provides the following.

- An accurate and empirically based examination of the potential benefits of alternate and realistic escapement goal policies.
- Others in the fishery community with access to their peers who understand the strengths, weaknesses, and applicability of the study results and conclusions.
- Can speak to the study's results in a fair and impartial manner in the regulatory environment.

Panel Members

Jeff Regnart, Director,
Commercial Fisheries Division, ADF&G

Fritz Johnson, Regional Fisheries
Coordinator, BBEDC; Alaska Board of
Fisheries

Michael Link, Project Manager,
LGL Alaska Research Associates, Inc.

Matt Luck, Bristol Bay driftnet fisherman
F/V Meg J

Abe Williams, Bristol Bay driftnet
fisherman, *F/V Crimson Fury*

Vince Webster, Setnet fisherman,
Naknek-Kvichak District

Bill Monroe, Fleet Manager
North Pacific Seafoods, Inc.

John Heins, General Manager, North
Naknek Plant, Trident Seafoods

John Boggs, President and CEO
Deep Sea Fisheries, Inc.

Dr. Matt Reimer, Institute of Social
Science Research, University of
Alaska Anchorage

Meeting dates and locations for the Advisory Panel of the Bristol Bay OEG Study, 2014-15.

- March 5, 2014 Millennium Hotel, Anchorage, AK
- March 24, 2014 North Pacific Seafoods, Seattle, WA
- June 9, 2014, Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center, King Salmon, AK
- Sept. 25, 2014 North Pacific Seafoods, Seattle, WA
- March 5, 2015 North Pacific Seafoods, Seattle, WA