



PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
66th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY
September 25, 2013

Chair Sharon Kiefer of Idaho called the 66th annual PSMFC business meeting to order. In attendance were:

Sharon Kiefer, Chair, Idaho Advisor, representing Commissioner Virgil Moore
Eric Anderson, Idaho Commissioner
Fred Trevey, Idaho Commissioner
Phil Anderson, Washington Commissioner
Harriet Spanel, Washington Commissioner
Brian Blake, Washington Commissioner
Bryce Edgmon, Alaska Commissioner
Eric Olson, Alaska Commissioner
Sue Aspelund, Alaska Commissioner
Barbara Emley, California Commissioner
Richard Gordon, California Commissioner
Jeff Feldner, Oregon Commissioner
Steve Williams, Oregon, representing Commissioner Ed Bowles

COMMISSION ACTION ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the FY14 PSMFC budget as presented was adopted unanimously by the Commission. The Committee's recommendation to approve the 2012 Annual Business Meeting minutes was also adopted unanimously by the Commission. In addition, it was noted as an informational item that the Committee reviewed and accepted the PSMFC's independent audit for the period ending June 30, 2013.

OTHER COMMISSION ACTIONS

Issue 1, offered by Alaska, **reaffirming the importance of setting federal budget and funding priorities** to favor state and regional office needs **and Issue 7, reaffirming support for amendment of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to deal with marine mammal conflicts, including lethal removal.** Chair Kiefer recommended that, since Resolution numbers 1 and 7 were reaffirmations of previously adopted Commission positions, they could be considered together. Resolutions 1 and 7 were adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

Issue 1: In an era of reduced federal and state spending, PSMFC strongly supports the prioritization of funding for basic fisheries management over new initiatives that may compete for funding. Items such as stock surveys, research, in-season management, fisheries-dependent data, and observer programs should be fully funded first.

Furthermore, NMFS regions' states' and RFMC's funding should be given priority when developing federal budgets. Lastly, if and when states are delegated with management of federal fisheries and/or implementing federal initiatives, adequate federal funding must be provided to those states.

Issue 7: PSMFC reaffirms its support for amendment of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to provide states additional management authority to address marine mammal conflicts, including lethal removal.

After further discussion, it was concluded that previous Commission resolutions should remain in effect unless specifically rejected or modified by subsequent Commission action. It was further suggested that, in the future, resolutions that are being specifically reaffirmed for emphasis should include that fact within the resolution.

Issue 2, offered by Alaska, **supporting reliance on regional fishery management council processes in observer and monitoring programs.** The resolution was adopted with California, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska voting aye and Washington voting no.

The Adopted Language

The States support the regional fishery management council processes for determining observer and monitoring programs.

Issue 3, offered by Oregon, **favoring** a Magnuson Stevens Act amendment concerning **seafood sustainability certification.** After discussion and clarifications, including one to indicate that the certification could be replaced with a sustainability mark, and expressions of concerns about the costs and resource demands to secure certification, the resolution was defeated. California and Oregon voted aye; and Alaska, Washington and Idaho voted no. It was observed that this issue should be more fully vetted at next year's annual meeting.

The Motion Language

That the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission support an amendment to the MSA authorizing the National Marine Fisheries Service to provide the U.S. seafood industry with a mark which would provide the industry with the ability to

promote and sell its seafood products, in both domestic and export markets, as sustainable based upon the requirements of the Act.

Issue 4, offered by Oregon, **raising concerns about** the consideration of **offshore wind energy project effects on fisheries**. After discussion, the resolution was amended to include Oregon's suggested language changes which broadened the range of issues that should be evaluated before siting offshore wind energy projects. It was adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

The PSMFC expresses concern over the development of offshore wind energy off the West coast, and believes that thorough analysis must be done of potential adverse economic, social and ecological impacts before wind energy projects proceed. PSMFC recommends that the Bureau of Ocean Energy and Minerals consult with the fishing community and other appropriate stakeholders before making wind energy siting decisions.

Issue 5, offered by California, providing for a Commission letter **supporting** collaborative efforts to evaluate and develop **non-lethal sea lion deterrence technologies**, in compliance with Marine Mammal Protection Act requirements. The resolution was adopted with California, Alaska, Washington and Oregon voting aye and Idaho abstaining.

The Adopted Language

The Commission supports the current collaborative efforts of the Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) and NOAA to develop an effective non-lethal seal lion deterrent device. Commission staff will express support to the developers of the device and keep track of progress for our member states.

Issue 6, offered by California, **calling for California Coastal Chinook Abundance-based Management**. After discussion, it was clarified that the Commission would write a letter to the appropriate authorities urging them to continue the work in pursuit of an abundance-based management approach. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

PSMFC supports continuation of the workshop held in 2012 (resolution 7) through the PFMC process. This would continue progress made in 2012 until data and management issues for this stock are resolved.

Issue 7, offered by Oregon, on reaffirming support for **amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act**, was adopted as part of the dual action on Issues 1 and 7 earlier in the meeting as noted previously.

Issue 8, offered by California, **advocating an extension of the moratorium on requiring National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits** for certain recreational, commercial and charter vessel fishing operations. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

PSMFC supports continuing the moratorium on the requirement that sport, commercial and charter vessels less than 79 feet have to obtain an EPA permit for discharges.

Issue 9, offered by California, **supporting cooperative research on constraining stocks** and utilization of previously acquired data on constraining stocks to inform management decisions. After further requests for clarification and concerns about whether the issue was an appropriate one for Commission action, California withdrew the proposal.

The Motion Language (Withdrawn)

The Commission supports cooperative research focused on constraining stocks. PSMFC also encourages the utilization of data previously acquired through cooperative research to inform management decisions.

Issue 10, offered by Washington, **supporting** certain previously adopted resolutions. These resolutions addressed **funding for the Mitchell Act hatchery production, monitoring, evaluation and the funding of ongoing hatchery reform measures; and funding for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund** at a level consistent with the FY 14 US Senate budget proposal. After discussion confirming that the resolutions went beyond simple reaffirmation of previous Commission positions on funding levels for these activities, the amended resolutions were adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

The Commission supports funding of Mitchell Act hatcheries sufficient to maintain current production levels, monitoring and evaluation, and funding to support ongoing hatchery reform measures. In addition, the Commission supports funding for PCSRF at a level that is consistent with the Senate's FY14 (\$65M) proposal.

Issue 11, offered by Oregon, expressing the Commission's support for the Pacific Fishery Management Council's **recommendation regarding** the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's **objectives for and studies of enhanced spill in the Columbia River fisheries restoration effort**. After discussion of economic analyses that might be needed and recognition that further consideration of the issue would likely occur in the future, the resolution failed. Alaska and Oregon voted aye; Idaho and Washington voted no; and California abstained.

The Motion Language

The PSMFC supports the PFMC’s recommendation (PFMC letter to Tony Grover, Director, Fish & Wildlife, NPCC on 8/6/13) that the “NPCC maintain existing Basin-level Biological Objectives that set a smolt-to-adult return rate goal of 2-6 percent (average 4 percent). As called for in the current Program, the NPCC should proceed with a process to assess the value of quantitative biological objectives and to develop an updated and scientifically rigorous set of such quantitative objectives. The NPCC should also consider a study of higher spill levels to test the efficacy of spill in increasing adult returns to the Columbia Basin. Quantitative Performance Goals set by NPCC for smolt-to-adult return rates should also be emphasized, and performance assessed annually.

Issue 12, offered by Washington, on the Commission continuing **support for the Tri-State Dungeness Crab management** process. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

The Commission will continue to support the Tri-State Dungeness Crab process and encourages the participants to begin to develop a consensus position regarding the renewal of the state authority to manage Dungeness crab in federal waters that is scheduled to expire in 2016.

Issue 13, offered by Washington, concerning the Commission’s position on a variety of **aquaculture-related issues** of particular concern to West Coast fisheries. The resolution provided that:

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission reaffirms its support for states’ abilities to “opt-in” to aquaculture by time, area, species, and/or gear, and extending it to the full exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Further, any federal framework for EEZ aquaculture should:

1. Ensure that funding for any aquaculture initiative come from new sources, not existing federal fisheries research and management funds;
2. Recognize that aquaculture is not a “commercial fishery” under the MSA and requires its own distinct statutory and regulatory structures;
3. Recognize that salmonid hatchery programs are not aquaculture and are adequately regulated by other means;
4. Require meaningful consultation with regional fisheries management councils and affected states; and

5. Require NEPA (or equivalent) analysis of socio-economic and environmental impacts.

The resolution was amended to delete the phrase “and are adequately regulated by other means” and was then adopted unanimously.

The Adopted Language

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission reaffirms its support for states’ abilities to “opt-in” to aquaculture by time, area, species, and/or gear, and extending it to the full exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Further, any federal framework for EEZ aquaculture should:

1. Ensure that funding for any aquaculture initiative come from new sources, not existing federal fisheries research and management funds;
2. Recognize that aquaculture is not a “commercial fishery” under the MSA and requires its own distinct statutory and regulatory structures;
3. Recognize that salmonid hatchery programs are not aquaculture;
4. Require meaningful consultation with regional fisheries management councils and affected states; and
5. Require NEPA (or equivalent) analysis of socio-economic and environmental impacts.

Issue 14, offered by Idaho, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund budget for FY14. Given the previous action on PCSRF funding at this meeting, Idaho withdrew the resolution.

The Motion Language (Withdrawn)

The Commission supports funding for PCSRF at the \$65 Million proposal.

FUTURE MEETING CONTENT

There was a general discussion about the structure and content of the next annual meeting. It was suggested that the meeting agenda incorporate more opportunities for discussion among Commissioners in place of at least one presentation. The Commission delegated further work on the concept of increased member interaction to the Executive Director. There was also some discussion of new member orientation for new members and advisors.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in Washington State at Skamania Lodge. Commissioners and the Executive Director extended their thanks to Sue Aspelund for her service on the Commission and her many contributions to the work of the Commission. The retirement of Russell Porter was noted and his contributions to the Commission were acknowledged. The Commission thanked the Executive Director and staff for a successful annual meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 am.