

## YRAA MEETING 9/27/25

Board Members attending: Casey Mapes, Glenn Israelson, Enoch Shertel, Larry Bemis, Kathy Hansen, Consultant

Public: Rick Hoffman, ADFG; Debra Lekanoff

The purpose of this pre-meeting was to discuss the names submitted for non-fisherman seats. Debra Lekanoff sent in a written statement of interest for the Reg/Village/Shareholder seat which had been shared with the board. Casey recommended her nomination as well as James Ross for the Public at Large seat and Kraig Holdren from Yakutat Lodge for the Sport fish representative seat. Consensus was to forward the recommendation to the board at the meeting scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>. We still need to find candidates for the processor seat and a subsistence user representative.

There was a discussion about whether a quorum would be available as Oct 1<sup>st</sup> was a fishing day so if a quorum can't be reached the meeting will be postponed until Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. Debra offered to host the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at the Kwaan Plaza conference room at 5:00 PM AST with a virtual component also available.

While not scheduled, the group started an informal discussion about thoughts for moving forward away from a chum program and to Chinook instream incubation and restoration work.

Casey had invited Rick Hoffman from ADFG to hear from the Dept if they would now consider Chinook incubation. Rick believed that the Dept might be more receptive to instream incubation projects than a chum hatchery in the Yakutat area. Kathy brought up the survey done at the last fall's election for fishermen seats. There were 62 responses, and the respondents were asked to prioritize choices for moving forward. Repealing YRAA and the 2% enhancement assessment was a low priority with only a total of 24 fishermen wanting the repeal. Of those that answered there was still support for moving forward with Hatchery incubation/facility program and restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Casey brought up the idea that if YRAA moved more towards Chinook incubation and restoration projects the sport fishermen would benefit more and we should look towards implements and additional 1% bed tax to help fund projects. Kathy suggested also looking into as an alternative a box tax like Sitka implemented. It was agreed that the two options should be investigated.

Debra brought up that was needed was a boots on the ground in determining all the salmon recovery project being implemented in Yakutat and possibly using YRAA as a hub for a more

collaborative approach to planning, develop a plan for moving forward, developing the data for good business decisions, researching what has been done in other communities such as Kodiak and Cordova. It was mentioned that we need to use our available funds wisely to maintain sustainability for years to come and make Yakutat a fishing community. Enoch mentioned that he mainly fishes Southeast because of the income that could be made but would like to see Yakutat be able to support commercial fishermen staying home.

Meeting Notes adopted at YRAA Board Meeting 10/1/25