



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

OCEAN RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair: Curt Melcher (OR)

Vice-Chair: Robert Boyles (SC)

Friday, March 8th, 2019

8:00 am – 10:00 am

84th North American and Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference

Denver, CO

Governor's Square 12

8:00 am Call to Order/Introductions/Review Agenda – *Curt Melcher, OR*

- *Action: Approval of Draft Meeting Agenda/September 2018 minutes – Moved Gary Whelan and seconded by Chris Wright*

8:10 Review NCN Submission and Process – *Devin DeMario, AFWA*

- *Not enough fisheries opportunities in process so made more broad, similar to the Agriculture Committee*
- *Open to amendments for the future*
- *LOI is next step in May*
- *Full grant proposals in July*
- *Added \$300K for fisheries*

8:15 National Fish Habitat Partnership

- *Update – Ryan Roberts, AFWA*
 - *PPT – Send to Devin*
 - *New chair – Ed S.*
 - *Legislation dropped into ACCESS Act*
 - *NFHaPennings is the new newsletter*
- *National Fish Habitat Assessment; effects on state agencies – Gary Whelan, MI*
 - *PPT – Send to Devin*
 - *Noted issues with geo-referencing earlier USFWS projects*
 - *Will provide USGS Miller et al 2018 flow paper to all and the datasets are huge*

8:30 NOAA/NMFS Updates - *Heidi Lovett, NOAA/Chris Wright, NOAA*

- *Handout*
- *Budget noted*
- *SK Grants*
 - *160 of 438 to full proposals*
- *NFWF (\$3.78 million) and Aquaculture (\$850K) grants noted*
- *Angler collected data issues*

- AFS is willing to help look for the solutions – Working group session on statistics
- Congress has directed another review of the angler collected information
- Need to look for better ways to estimate effort
- Stock Assessments
 - Summer Flounder did not change much as effort was not changed
 - Striped Bass will be heading back to overfishing due to reference point
- Aquaculture
 - Grants are available to all states not just coastal
- Habitat Grants – Application periods will be 4/16/2019
 - Great Lakes have \$5 million in grants
- Species recovery levels are about \$7.0 million

8:50 Climate Change and Ocean Acidification – *Ed Bowles, ODFW*

- Carbon effects on climate and increasing temperature with levels higher than ever in the last 650K years
 - 1/3 absorbed into oceans
 - pH decreased – reduces the ability to build exoskeletons and lose of exoskeletons
 - First observed issues in OR
 - Sea butterflies – Key grazers - Terapods
 - Seeing shells dissolving
 - Could be gone within 100 years
 - Key YOY salmonid forage item
- Large water abnormality in 2015 with no upwelling – Greatly affected stock dynamics
- Declining ice with rising seas
 - Will be estuary losses – Subtidal alteration
 - Greenland ice losses – 34 to 215 gigatons/year from 1990s to now
- Showed Dr. Peterson table showing how to display issues
- HABs increasing on West Coast – Dungeness crab and clam closures
- PW has been on fire of late – Suitable habitat reductions seen by 2040
- Setting table for habitat – Ocean circulation, pH and many others areas
- Need to develop adaptation strategy scenarios now
- Pacific Coast Collaborative – oalliance.org
- Oregonocean.info show action plans with WA and CA plans done and OR nearly done
- Oregon strategies
 - Market-based program to reduce emissions
 - Funds for adaptation assets
 - Climate change strategy in process to feed a Governor’s Order
 - Creating a New OR Climate Authority
 - Likely allocating 5-10 FTEs in OR to efforts on ocean acidification and climate change
- Climate Science
 - Keep funding
 - Data
 - Strengthening collaborations
- AFS-TWS Meeting wants to build policy statements
 - Key items for Climate Change
 - Resolve uncertainties on approaches and consequences

- Audit monitoring programs to see how they track climate change
 - Same issues for agriculture and coastal communities as for fisheries
 - Ecosystem functions are key
- Partnerships are available with transportation and military to move science forward
- Glenn noted issues with many species changes in NE
 - pH a bigger issue in NE
 - Cod and lobster moving north from NH
 - Blueclaw Crabs and Black Sea Bass moving north
- House Issue
 - One testimony to a Natural Resources Committee tried to show improve of increased acidification
 - AFS is looking for information to inform debate

9:25 AFWA's 2018 Marine & Coastal Adaptation Survey – Devin DeMario for Maggie Ernest Johnson, AFWA

- Handout
- Collaboration opportunities
- Coastal States
 - More staff time going to climate effects and vulnerability
 - Data sources are from NOAA, academia, peer-reviewed journals and NGOs
 - NOAA noted for data and products
 - Key needs
 - Fish distributions
 - Ocean temperature
 - Synthesis is most needed
 - Increase information outreach and communications
- Results will lead to tools and communication opportunities for our members
- WA has synthesis documents and plan in place
 - Use Killer Whales as a tool to assist
- AFS is developing a clearinghouse for climate adaptation information
 - Commissions
 - PSMFC – Portal exists there – West Coast data portal
 - NOAA Regional Action Plans

9:35 Marine Legislation Update – Devin DeMario, AFWA/All

- Wallop Breaux Reauthorization
- Legislative summary sent out
- Many meetings on climate change and infrastructure
 - Mag-Stevens Act as has opportunities in this area – not likely to have legislative movement
- Wetlands rules with infrastructure and adaptation
 - Not considering sea level rise appropriately
 - Over regulating in key areas and over-delineating systems
 - Example with replacing culverts to be more appropriate for weather events
 - Concerns with infrastructure in NW with major earthquake
- Regional spatial planning has helped in areas even with the end of the Federal program
 - Agreement in principle for fast tracking some types of projects
- WRDA – Looking for assistance

- Will know more soon
 - Collaboration with other committees
- Federal appropriations – looking for input
- Transportation Bill Reauthorization that includes Wallop Breaux – April needs request coming
- Senate Bill last session
 - Amended Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow management of Sea Lions – focused on Pacific NW
- Vessel Incidental Discharge Act
 - Ballast water from vessels
 - WA expertise was noted
 - Preempts states authority
 - collaboration/consultation needs more definition
 - EPA has authority over technical aspects of section 312
 - Petition options provided to states for more stringent
 - Great Lakes and West Coast have exceptions
 - Grants tacked on to the end of the bill – Provisions for funds sources uncertain
- Coastal Zone and Coastal Reef Acts in the works
- Modern Fish Act signed into law
 - AFWA was neutral due to member issues
 - AFS was neutral but provided technical support

9:55 Meeting wrap-up and adjourn – Curt Melcher, OR

Committee Charge:

Discuss, develop, and recommend Association positions related to:

- *Federal laws, regulations, and policies concerning marine ecosystems, habitats, fisheries and other resources, and related funding for such programs.*
 - *Marine fisheries management programs, practices or considerations (e.g., Marine Recreational Information Program, catch shares) and emerging issues (e.g., climate change, coastal energy, marine aquaculture and marine spatial planning).*
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