

**Committee Chairman**

Bob Smith

**Committee Members**

Mayor Clay Koplín

(ex officio)

Ron Blake

Warren Chappell

Andy Craig

Bobby Linville

Gus Linville

Tommy Sheridan

John Whissel

**ADF&G Invitees**

Janet Rumble

Alisa Russ

**The City of Cordova**  
**Fisheries Development Committee Meeting**

December 13, 2019 @ 12:00 pm

Cordova Electric Cooperative Conference Room

**AGENDA**

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

**C. Discussion Items**

1. Prince William Sound Tanner/King Crab update from Janet Rumble
2. Other Developing PWS Fisheries (Black Rock Fish, Skate, Sea Cucumber, Octopus)
3. Next meeting date & place/agenda items

**D. Adjournment**

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The City of Cordova  
Fisheries Development Committee Meeting  
December 6, 2019 @ 12:00 pm  
Cordova Electric Cooperative Conference Room  
Minutes

**A. Call to order & Roll Call**

**Chairman Bob Smith** called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm on December 6, 2019 in the Cordova Electric Cooperative Conference Room. Present for roll call were **Chairman Bob Smith** and Committee members **Mayor Clay Koplín(ex officio)**, **Ron Blake**, **Warren Chappell**, **Andy Craig**, **Bobby Linville** and **John Whissel**. Committee members **Gus Linville** and **Tommy Sheridan** were absent. ADF&G Invitees present were **Karen Swartzbart** and via teleconference were **Janet Rumble**, **Elisa Russ** and **Mike Byerly** Public present were **Zek Brown**, **Makena O'Toole**, **Jacob Hand**, **Chelsea Haisman** and Deputy Clerk **Tina Hammer**

**B. Discussion Items**

**1. Prince William Sound Tanner/King Crab Fishery**

**Janet Rumble, ADF&G** gave committee members an update on tanner crab.

- Currently they are in the process of analyzing all the information to develop a PWS wide Tanner Crab management plan which is the highest priority of management and research for the participants in this group and the central region.
- New information has been collected from the commissioner's permit fisheries including port sampling data, two years of pot surveys and two additional years from trawl surveys. With the help of stakeholders, the goal is to make amendments at BOF to the current management plan from this new information to cover the entire PWS.
- Bring a BOF proposal forward for the December 2020 Tanner Crab Fishery in a collaborative effort.
- Deputy Director looking into the possibility of opening of the Northern and Hinchinbrook areas with a Commissioner's permit for the upcoming season, but she needs clarification from the department of law.
- Clarified that any Tanner Crab fishing season is established by emergency order, including commissioner permit fisheries. Openings and closings are always established by emergency order under regulatory standard 35.310.
- Golden King Crab - Due to the lack of State funding, local fisherman and NVE have been working in a collaborative effort with ADF&G to develop a plan to established if there's commercial quantity of crab for a fishery. In an effort to survey PWS, **Elisa Russ** will be doing onboard observing and port sampling in February aboard vessels participating in a survey. She will also be training NVE's research biologist. A BOF proposal for an increase in subsistence seasonal and bag limits was discussed.
- City of Cordova to support State funding of fisheries research and assessment of developing fisheries. Other avenues to fund these efforts was also discussed.
- **Elisa Russ** discussed the adoption of the 2017 Tanner Crab harvest strategy and the creation of the commissioner's permit for the Eastern and Western districts. Legal size, threshold limits, changes in crab location and data collected was discussed in evaluating and amending the harvest strategy. **Russ** said cautionary approach was adopted for the Eastern and Western districts, but she does recognize that the crab harvest in the PWS commissioner permit fishery was more crab than the abundance estimates for the fishery.

**2. Other Developing PWS Fisheries**

- Sea Cucumber - In an effort to develop a fishery by expanding the assessment of PWS, three skilled divers are scheduled on May 14 -22 to dive with **Janet Rumble** off the Solstice. **Mike Byerly** discussed what he saw on the ROV surveys he conducted in the sound.
- Octopus - **Mayor Koplín** said there's a 35,000 lbs. allowable bycatch in PWS and that ADF&G would be open to a directed fishery if there was a processor and he encouraged interested fisherman to pursue.

**3. Next meeting date/agenda items**

- Meeting next Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at noon, CEC conference room with **Janet Rumble** for update on commissioner permit.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 pm

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Hammer, Deputy Clerk