

Pribilof Islands Ecosystem Stakeholder Process Organizing Committee  
Jan. 9 & 10, 2003 meetings  
**DRAFT Agenda and minutes**

Agenda:

- 1) Funding:
    - a) Update re: NMFS proposal and plans (Larry)
    - b) Decision re: scope and timing of proposal to Sen. Stevens
    - c) Review draft work plan and budget
  - 2) Updates and decision re: 501c3 to receive & manage funds for stakeholder process
  - 3) Determine criteria and timeline for selecting a facilitator
    - a) Select team to schedule and conduct interviews
  - 4) Discuss and finalize fisheries data requests
  - 5) Discuss letter to Hogarth regarding stakeholder process
  - 6) Next meeting date
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January 9, 2003 meeting minutes:

Present: All committee members (Greg, Debbie, Larry, Randy, Joe, Evie)

- Funding: update on NMFS proposal and plans:
  - Larry told the committee about his early January conversation with Mike Payne (NMFS) regarding NMFS plans for EISs and stakeholder processes for fisheries management measures related to the northern fur seal and subsistence harvest revisions:
  - Mike is concerned that NMFS fully comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which applies under the MMPA. Complying with FACA is their primary reason for planning stakeholder processes for the EISs.
  - Mike was not aware of the letter from Mike Williams (LGL) to the City of St. George regarding the northern fur seal plan revisions. Larry and Mike discussed ways to make the NMFS processes dovetail with Pribilof Islands Ecosystem (PIE) stakeholder process and to avoid redundancy and confusion:
    - Mike indicated NMFS would consider conducting an extended and frequent public review process as part of their EIS activities, holding 2-4 day meetings for discussion vs. the usual ½ to 1 day public hearing. Under this scenario, NMFS would work with the PIE stakeholder group on the timing of the meetings, and some of the PIE group meetings would coincide with the NMFS meetings, thus creating a synchronized process and allowing part of the PIE stakeholder dialog to happen during the review of NMFS EIS drafts.

- The PIE stakeholder group would still be independent, and would still address a broader range of issues than NMFS will address under the two EISs. Further, the PIE group would have some meetings independent of the NMFS meetings, but would synchronize and attend whenever NMFS holds a meeting for the EISs. People and groups not participating in the PIE stakeholder process could participate in the NMFS meetings.
- Under this scenario NMFS has the involvement and buy-in they need, and the PIE group has a more direct means of requesting data and research.
- The committee agreed it will be in everyone's best interest to work with NMFS; they are the lead decision-making agency, they will be conducting a similar process during the same timeframe, we will need information from them, and working in a coordinated fashion will best facilitate communication and avoid confusion and misinformation. Further, this scenario does not inhibit the PIE process; instead it lets the group formally participate in the NMFS process.
- Next steps: to continue and formalize this discussion with NMFS. Larry will contact Mike Payne and suggest a meeting with several organizing committee members and NMFS staff.
- Funding: proposal to Senator Stevens/ review draft workplan and budget
  - Agreement to delay these discussions until after meeting with NMFS
- Next organizing committee meeting: Jan 10, 3pm.
  - Agenda: finish January 9 meeting agenda

January 10 meeting:

- Letter to Hogarth:
  - Discussion about timing of letter relative to timing of meeting with NMFS Alaska staff and reaching agreement about structure, relationship of NMFS and PIE stakeholder processes.
  - Agreement to send a general letter letting him know process was initiated and that we are exploring appropriate relationship with NMFS process. Joe will draft letter.
- 501(C)(3):
  - SWAMC: Steve Miner (on fisheries committee of SWAMC; works for St. Paul CDQ group) left Joe a message, saying he has concerns about the stakeholder group working with SWAMC. The nature of his concerns is not clear. Joe will contact him and report back to committee. Debbie and Greg reported they have inquired with various people on the Islands, and have heard no objections to working with SWAMC to date.

- Joe reported: SWAMC is willing to work with us in either a hands-off manner acting as a pass-through organization or with more involvement in the process, depending on stakeholder group's wishes; SWAMC board and staff are very supportive of stakeholder process as a way to resolve marine mammal decline and other resource issues, and want to help; SWAMC sees this a good opportunity to work with the Pribilofs and learn more about issues and how they can do more for and with the Pribilofs in the future.
- Discussion about pros and cons of working with a local non-profit with interest in issues (SWAMC or other) vs. a non-local group (e.g, Tides Foundation or other). Agreement that, unless significant issues are raised, would be best to work with a local non-profit.
- Facilitators:
  - Agreement that Evie will contact and request information from every facilitator on our existing list. Joe, Debbie and Randy will email contact information for additional facilitators to be considered. Evie will forward information to all committee members. Committee as a whole will interview finalists.
- Fisheries data request:
  - Larry will review draft data request, summarize what data he has/has not already requested, check on status of requests and email report to committee members early next week.
  - Agreement to follow-up Larry's verbal request with formal written request from committee representing stakeholder group. Larry will finalize draft data request and prep it for sending to appropriate agencies.
- Socio-economic information:
  - Suggestion to compile and have ready to distribute to stakeholders easily obtainable socio-economic information on the Pribilofs (e.g., from NPFMC Stellar sea lion and groundfish reports)
- Next meeting: January 21, 10 am conference call