

Pribilof Islands Ecosystem Stakeholder Process Organizing Committee
June 18, 2003, 9 am teleconference

Agenda and meeting summary

Agenda:

1. Refine and list next steps (goals, agenda, strawman components) in preparation for stakeholder meeting such that we can:
 - Reliably estimate costs and draft a budget
 - Draft letter requesting participation & funding
2. Decide date and location for meeting
3. Draft work plan (who is doing what by when)
4. Discuss follow-up to Seattle meeting (approve summary, post & distribute summary)

Meeting Summary:

Present: Randy, Larry, Evie, Joe, Greg, Meg King

1. Change to agenda: Joe gave a report-to-date on June NPFMC meeting still under way in Kodiak:
 - During the executive director and staff reports session of the Council meeting Mike Payne reported that NMFS will become much more active regarding northern fur seal population declines, and plans to draft some sort of an action plan in the immediate future. He spoke at length to the Council about working with the Pribilof stakeholder group.
 - Council members were concerned, stating they are not aware of where the stakeholder group is in its planning, what the scope of the effort will be, who will be involved, etc..
 - Jim Balsiger proposed the Council appoint a committee from the Pribilof Collaborative group to work with NMFS to ensure public involvement in the agency's process from the start.
 - Other Council members recommended waiting until the October Council meeting to appoint a committee, and in the mean time work on defining the scope, mission, relationship between committee and agency, membership on committee, etc.
 - This issue was not resolved when Joe left the meeting yesterday.
 - Heather McCarty testified on behalf of the City of St. Paul and CBSFA, requesting the council appoint a committee with representation from both islands and industry to address primarily northern fur seal and perhaps other issues.
 - Joe spoke with Heather who said they are not in favor of the Council working with the Pribilof Collaborative group because, in their opinion, the process has not been transparent and the organizing committee has been exclusionary.
 - Joe proposed to the organizing committee that he resign and we formally invite Heather McCarty or Steve Minor take his place. Under this scenario, Joe would continue to participate in organizing committee meetings as an interested party and TNC board member.
 - The committee discussed Joe's proposal and agreed it is a good idea. Final decision was postponed until Debbie can be reached and consulted.
 - Larry stated he had a conversation with Kevin Duffy (ADF&G commissioner) about having the existing Steller sea lion RPA committee (with the addition of a few new members) address fur seal issues as an interim measure in the event a decision about a committee is not put off until October. Larry told Kevin Duffy and the organizing committee that he believes the stakeholder/Collaborative process is the best avenue for dealing with northern fur seal issues, and that if the Council chooses to have the SSL

- RPA committee address a fur seal issues as an interim solution, he will work to move that responsibility out of committee and into the collaborative process.
- Larry also stated that if the pollock fleet's concentrated effort around St. George in recent years is not due to SSL regulations, as Mike Payne's report to the Council suggests, then Larry will recommend an immediate closure in the area.
 - Joe noted this is exactly the type of issue we hope the Collaborative process will address.

2. (agenda item #4): The committee agreed the Seattle meeting summary should be distributed and posted on the Web with the next batch of meeting summaries

- Next steps:
 - o The organizing committee will wait to hear if the Council makes a decision about appointing a northern fur seal committee, then write a letter to the Council with an update and other recommendations or requests as appropriate pending their decision.
 - o Evie will contact Debbie with a full update.
 - o The committee will address other agenda items during the next (6/25) meeting.