

Workgroup Meeting Agenda Summary- Crab  
Pribilof Islands Collaborative  
June 28, 2004 1:30 p.m.

Present: Heather McCarty, Claire LeClair, Kris Norosz, Denise Woods (notetaking)

Agenda:

1. Crab representative selection
2. Review of updated Draft Crab Problem Statement

Summary:

**1. Crab Representative Selection**

- Heather hasn't heard anything since the last Steering Committee meeting (June 23)- the crab groups are in the process of identifying but no selection has been made.
- It was noted that it would be helpful if the person:
  - Was based in Anchorage (to lower travel cost)
  - Has experience in/ permits for St. Matthew and Pribilof Islands areas
- New suggestions for rep: Jeff Steele, Lennie Herzog
- Kris will contact Jeff and Steve Minor and will keep the Workgroup updated on progress via email.

**2. Review of Updated Draft Crab Problem Statement**

- Heather has updated the Crab Problem Statement to include more species (based on information from Gordon Kruse's presentation to the PIC in January) and to summarize/ bullet the comments made at the April meeting, including information needs and goals.
- Comments:
  - Expected to see a one-sentence problem statement but this Draft could serve as a good model for restructuring the other targets' Problem Statements.
  - Some of the Needs/ Goals are already being addressed by industry and agencies (e.g.: better surveys, observers, concern for low GHF species, effects of crab rationalization)- the PIC can only do so much and should not spend time on redundant projects.
  - This Workgroup can refine the list of Needs/ Goals and present the recommendations for what to pursue to the full Group at the August meeting.
  - Change the wording of "...monitoring of economic benefits" to more neutral "economic effects" or "economic impacts" of crab rationalization.
- Suggestions for things PIC could address:
  - Address ADF&G Crab Rebuilding Plans (in the same fashion as the work on the Conservation Plan for the Northern Fur Seal).
  - Research planning/ support for work to get at Needs
  - Advocate for more surveys
  - Get a program to measure socioeconomic effects of crab rationalization
  - Monitor effects of ADF&G regulations on crab "soak time" and other bycatch handling and mortality issues

- We need an expert to weigh in on this- to make recommendations on what the PIC can/ should do (all Workgroups should have at least one expert acting as advisor).  
Suggestions:
  - Doug Pengilly (Heather has been trying on behalf of the Steering Committee)
  - Gordon Kruse (although he now works at the University and is not involved in management issues...)
  - Wayne Donaldson (Heather is also pursuing this possibility)
- The PIC needs to know what work has been/ is being done by whom and how to get access to/ how are the data collected.
- Suggested that the PIC could go beyond presenting summaries of the collective research and instead use the power of its diverse constituency to make some kind of formal statement along the lines of a formal “endorsement” if specific PIC-recommended goals are met.
  - This may be far too ambitious....better yet, lets get to the point where we can even agree on some recommended Goals for crab (the PIC has yet to spell out goals for the target resources).
- Exercise: synthesize the bullets in Heather’s draft further, reducing them to 3 or 4 main areas to focus on (i.e. distill and rank them/ determine which fit with the PIC overall goals). Categories for needs could be similar to following:
  - 1) Biological/ life cycle/ recruitment and other ecological data
  - 2) Pot surveys/ trawl surveys (make own category)
  - 3) Socioeconomic data (impacts of crab rationalization)
  - 4) Crab farming to improve stocks (make own category)
  - Crab rebuilding plan category is not so much a Need as a question for the Full Group: Should the PIC weigh in on this process? Ask at August meeting...
  - We should present the full list of needs, as they were presented in April, so that no one feels their thoughts have been ignored. The revised list of top priority needs can be presented with the full list accompanying it.
- Proposal: To Do for this Workgroup- Create and distribute to PIC a paper that summarizes/ identifies needs and info gaps for crab and recommends priorities.
  - Refine Needs and Goals further, synthesizing and separating information and research needs
  - Leave Problem Statement list as completed for now
  - Before August meeting, get advice from an expert on what the needs really are (at least get someone to review the paper)
- Heather will take a stab at redrafting the paper/ refining the list according to these comments. She will circulate and seek comments from Workgroup via email.
- Heather will present the idea of outside expert review of Workgroup documents at the next Steering Committee meeting to see if ok with group.
- Everyone needs to help identify a crab representative ASAP/ before the August meeting- Denise is holding a room on island (probably with Larry Cotter, fyi) but cannot guarantee a seat on the St. Paul flight beyond mid-July (although we can probably always work something out).