

ADDRESSING PRIBILOF ISLAND CONSERVATION ISSUES  
THE STAKEHOLDER PROCESS OPTION

**Fishery industry meeting, Seattle, WA, May 29, 2003**  
*Summary*

Industry attendees:

Brent Paine	Executive Director, United Catcher Boats
John Gruver	Inter Co-operative Coordinator, United Catcher Boats
Heather McCarty	Representing Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association
Ed Luttrell	Executive Director, Groundfish Forum
dave fraser	High Seas Catcher's Co-op
Thorn Smith	North Pacific Longliner Association
Barry Ohai	Aleutian Spray Fisheries (owning and operating factory trawlers, long liners and crabbers)
Wally Pereyra	Arctic Storm Management Group
Karl Hafflinger	Sea State
Mary Nerini	Sea State
Phillip Lestenkof	Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association
Steve Minor	Waterfront Associates, representing Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association

Meeting chair:

Larry Cotter	Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association
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Presenters/information providers:

Joe Sullivan	Mundt MacGregor
Billy Causey	Superintendent, FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Tony Iarocci	FL Keys commercial fisherman, member South Atlantic FMC
Bill Eichbaum	World Wildlife Fund
Margaret Williams	World Wildlife Fund
Evie Witten	World Wildlife Fund
Paul Dye	The Nature Conservancy
Rolf Ream	NOAA Fisheries, National Marine Mammal Laboratory

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1. Joe Sullivan provided:
    - o Purpose and goals of the meeting
    - o Brief overview of process to-date
    - o Brief overview of Pribilof issues, including northern fur seal population declines and management plan update
    - o Brief statement about the efficiency and advantages of collaboration
  2. Billy Causey spoke about:

- o The collaborative stakeholder process that established the FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and how that *process* (but not necessarily the outcome) could serve as a model for the Pribilof collaborative.
  - o How the stakeholders were extremely polarized at the start, and how the group slowly moved away from a very hostile environment to one where opposing viewpoints were accepted and people were able to find common ground.
  - o How they established a sanctuary advisory council with diverse representation to guide the process and governance of the Sanctuary.
  - o How the advisory council helped form the Tortugas 2000 working group that operated on the principals of:
    - Participation (all meetings were public, and groups could caucus),
    - Science (they sought the best available scientific information to inform the process), and
    - Process (established ground rules, worked for the highest level of consensus).
  - o How the working group started by identifying common goals, rather than by drawing lines on a map.
3. Tony Iarocci spoke about:
- o His experience as a fisherman opposed to the sanctuary and to the process set up to create it.
  - o His lack of trust of WWF and TNC at the beginning, and how he grew to respect both groups and eventually recognized them as allies.
  - o How the working group identified their common interests and crafted a sanctuary design that worked for everyone.
  - o His bottom line: To keep the industry fishing and protect the resources – and how the sanctuary is effective at doing both.
4. Questions & Answers:
- o Q: How did the Tortugas working group delay drawing lines on a map?
  - o A: (Billy Causey) Good facilitation, and by focusing first on what they wanted to accomplish (goals & objectives) and on team/trust building.
  - o Q: How will the Pribilof collaborative process be coordinated with the NPFMC process?
  - o A: (Larry Cotter) First explained that the collaborative will run parallel in time with NOAA Fisheries process to update the northern fur seal plan, and that the stakeholder group will contribute comments to the NOAA Fisheries process which will, in the end, send alternatives to the NPFMC.
  - o A: (Billy Causey) The Tortugas working group went before the NAFMC at the beginning, and kept the Council informed throughout the process.
  - o Q: What is the primary cause of northern fur seal pup death?
  - o A: (Rolf Ream) NMFS pup necropsy work in recent years shows that starvation is the primary cause of pup death on the Pribilofs.

- o Q: Historically, has starvation been the primary cause of northern fur seal pup death?
- o A: (Rolf Ream) In the 1950s the majority of pup deaths were caused by density dependent diseases.
  
- o Q: Is pup production declining, and if so, why?
- o A: (Rolf Ream) The number of females returning to the Pribilofs has decreased, therefore the number of pups born there has decreased.
  
- o Q: two-part question: 1. How will this process avoid mission creep (like Channel Islands), and 2) why are you assuming the population declines are fisheries problems?
- o A: (Joe Sullivan) Don't assume we are going to modify fisheries practices or activity. We need to recognize that the perception is that they are fisheries problems or could be fisheries problems, and the process needs to address those perceptions.
- o A: (Larry Cotter) We are stewards of the resource, whether we are affecting it or not, we should be asking what we can do to protect it.

5. Bill Eichbaum spoke about WWF:

- o WWF US is one of 30 independent WWF organizations worldwide, all connected through a global network
- o The Hallmarks of WWF are:
  - Science-based
  - Work at large scale – assuring sustainability natural resources for both biodiversity and economic health. WWF looks for ways to integrate biodiversity conservation with opportunities to improve people's living conditions.
  - Long term commitment to places

6. Paul Dye spoke about TNC:

- o TNC is place-based, not issue-based
- o Committed to non-confrontational approaches and market driven, private-sector solutions
- o Works with diversity of partners (e.g., cattleman's association, Nat. Forest Service, other conservation organizations).

7. Questions & Answers:

- o Q: What would stop Greenpeace or others from suing over these issues?
- o A: (Billy Causey) This process is proactive, you will get out in front of the issues with the collaborative approach, and if someone does sue, already have a process set up that can help resolve issues.
- o A: (Larry Cotter) There is nothing we can do that will take away other's right to file a lawsuit, however the sooner we address the problems, the

sooner we can right the situation for the benefit of the resource, and maybe ourselves, too.

- o A: (Joe Sullivan) This process cannot address NEPA issues, that's the agency's responsibility.
- o A: (Paul Dye) The best information wins the NEPA process, at least this process can pull the best information together.
- o Q: How were participants/stakeholders chosen and defined for the Tortugas process?
- o A: (Billy Causey) The working group had the power to vote; it worked because the working group was diverse.
- o A: (Paul Dye) Need to focus on what you want to accomplish and how, not on who should or should not be at the table. Need to start by defining goals.
- o Q: Why don't you define the problems now? We need to know up front if we can solve them (e.g., albatross bycatch problem was relatively easy to solve), fur seal and seabird problems may not be easy to solve (may be due to predation and natural fluctuations – factors we don't have direct control over).
- o A: (Joe Sullivan) The full, diverse stakeholder group should formally define the problems. We know that people are concerned about wildlife population declines (e.g., northern fur seal, other marine mammals, seabirds, etc).
- o Discussion about causes of declines. Several industry representatives asserted that declines are not connected to fisheries activities. Bill Eichbaum and Margaret Williams disagreed, stated that causes are poorly understood and could be caused by fisheries, and that in the face of unknowns best to add to and assimilate best available science to answer questions, and to act in a precautionary manner.

8. Evie Witten gave a brief overview of the process to date:

- o November 2003 meeting
- o Phase I: Organizing committee raising money and seeking to build trust with constituents (e.g., this meeting)
- o Phase II: (next step) Facilitator will design a process by working with stakeholders one on one and during a first meeting where all will have a chance to decide if they wish to proceed.
- o Phase III: If stakeholders decide to proceed, begin discussing issues in depth, seek best science, etc.
- o Feedback: Funding needs to come from third party; industry groups are reluctant to contribute up front because they don't know what the outcome will be, and may not want to be associated with the outcome.
- o Response: (Evie Witten) The request at present is only to help fund a facilitator to design a process by working with stakeholders one on one and during a first meeting where all will have a chance to decide if they wish to proceed. Not asking for long term funding or a longterm commitment at present.

9. Larry Cotter concluded the meeting:

- o He had a general sense of support for a collaborative approach, but that the process needs to be better defined.