

APPROVED Dungeness River Management Team Meeting Notes December, 2023

Prepared by Enrique Valenzuela, Clallam County

Introductions, River flows: USGS: 355CFS, Ecology: 350CFS, Daily Mean: 365CFS-Ecology, 317CFS-USGS

In Person

Enrique Valenzuela-Clallam County Planner; Craig Hoffman-Clallam County Planner; Hansi Hals-Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Director, DRMT Chair; Robert Beebe- Riverside Property Owner; Ben Smith- Water Users Association; Stephanie Robinson- Graysmarsh Tidelands Owner; Phillip Martin- Property Owner; Rashal Mark- Guest, County Resident; Tom Lank- County Resident; Neil Harrington- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Biologist; Will Habel- Clallam County; Katie Kowal- Clallam County Environmental Health Water Quality Specialist; Sandra White- Clallam County Environmental Health Specialist; Shawn Hines- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Powell Jones- Dungeness River Nature Center; Josh Rose USFS NR, DRMT USFS Representative; Montana Napier- Dungeness River Nature Center; Chris Burns- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Aaron Brooks- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Scott Chitwood- County Resident; Jamie Tippet- County Resident, Sports Fisheries DRMT Representative; Randy Johnson- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Chandra Johnson- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe;

Online

Danielle Zitomer- WDFW, WDFW DRMT Representative; Lorenz Sollmann- USFW; Jenna Ziogas- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Michael Blanton- County Resident; Ann Soule- City of Sequim; Bruce Cornett- County resident; Joel Green- Clallam County Streamkeepers, Lexi Wagor-NOLT DRMT NOLT Alternate; Hannah McDonough Washington Water Trust, Solvei Metcalf- Washington Water Trust; Marguerite Glover- Sequim Association of Realtors; Bowen Kendrick- Clallam PUD, Randy Cooper-WDFW (Late) Rebecca Mahan- Clallam County Habitat Biologist (late)

Public Comment

Will Habel amends November notes, Ben Smith makes a motion to approve November notes Powell Jones seconds the motion, motion carries, November notes are approved.

Randy Cooper WDFW: Spawning Ground Surveys- Season Recap and 2023 Data Comparison to Historical

Chinook weekly live and dead counts from 2023-08-03 to 2023-10-16. Mid-September was high count for live and dead. Comparison of Chinook Redds in 2023 vs 25 year average, 2023 redd count are higher than average, especially in the lower basin. Average trend of adult chinook return is upwards since 1998. Trend of chinook redds in lower Dungeness vs. upper compared to river flows, higher water flows tend to allow for higher counts of Chinook in upper Dungeness.

2:33- Questions for Randy Cooper

Hansi Hals asks: What are our escapement goals? Randy Cooper answers: 925, minimum 500 Hansi Hals affirms this is the first time in recent memory we can remember beating escapement goals.

Ben Smith asks: do escapement goals change? Answer: these escapement goals were set in the 2000's and may need to be updated soon.

Bowen asks: are flow level peaks associated with survival rates? Randy Cooper answers: 3000 cfs is a critical threshold for survival, flows above that reduce survival.

Bowen asks: Is this survival rate for wild or hatchery salmon? Randy Cooper answers: Survival is about 67% hatchery and 33% wild

Hansi Hals asks/affirms: Was the effort to help fish migration in historic low flows worth it this year? Affirms yes, Chris answers yes

Montana Napier asks: is there a relationship between low flows and return in the Upper River or Gray Wolf River? Randy Cooper answers: There is no concrete comparison, but this year we saw less fish return in the Upper River than we had hoped for.

Ben Smith affirms success of fish passage despite low flows.

Chandra Johnson Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe GIS Specialist- Green LIDAR data

What is LIDAR and why do we need it? Chandra explains the limitations of gps and photographic data. LIDAR provides 3D geographic data by range finding, using gps, and flight. LIDAR provides multiple points of data including bathymetric depth images. Elevation profile changes from 2016 to 2023 of the river channel next to the Dungeness Nature River Center. Elevation data normalized against the thalweg of the river. 2016 vs 2023 Dungeness River Morphologic Conditions map on <https://.gis.jamestowntribe.org>. Map allows us to see restoration projects and their impacts normalized against river thalweg. With two years' worth of data, on [gis.jamestowntribe.org](https://.gis.jamestowntribe.org) we can see the places that have eroded and those that have aggraded.

3:10 Question: is the data collected over one day? Answer, data is collected over two days

3:10 Chandra Johnson affirms: Overall change of the river has eroded by 0.12in, breakdown of erosion between river miles.

3:15 Chandra- Other uses of LIDAR, being able to see channels and choke points in projected flows.

3:22 Chandra- LIDAR will provide baseline data for the restoration efforts on the river so far

3:25 Ben Smith asks what the flow of the river was in flooded picture. Answer; about 2600cfs

3:29- Randy Johnson states: one of the goals of the restoration project is to aggrade the bed, can you tell if this project is successful from this data? Chandra Johnson states that since there is only one data point there is nothing to compare to, we need more LIDAR data in later years to be able to tell.

3:31 Question: do we have LIDAR for the mouth of the Dungeness and can we see patterns of erosion or deposition? Chandra Johnson answers- we can see some deposition at the mouth, more data is necessary to see that change over time.

3:34 Rebecca Mahan asks: what type of money is necessary for good continued LIDAR data? Chandra Johnson answers: It would be great to get LIDAR data every year, we don't know the costs of expanding map data but having more data would be great.

3:39 Randy Johnson states: cost of LIDAR on river was total 90 thousand, it may not cost more than 20 to 10 thousand to add a few more miles of coastline.

Green Crab Update, Neil Harrington, Environmental Biologist Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

What are European Green Crabs? Smaller crab, omnivore, aggressive, one of the world's top 100 invasive species. Have been expanding on the east coast and reached west coast around 1989, Sooke basin in 2012, Dungeness NWR and Sequim Bay 2017. 2022 Sequim Bay 250 traps set, no green crabs found. South Sequim Bay no green crabs trapped in 2023. Discovery Bay in 2023: 1302 Traps set, 157 green crabs caught, CPUE. 2023: three crabs caught on Salt Creek, one green crab in Port Angeles Harbor.

4:10- Will Habel asks, do normal crab traps catch green crabs? Neil Harrington answers: no, the crabs are too small and fall through the holes in the mesh.

Lorenz Sollmann WDFW, Green Crab Update

Summary of traps set to date from 2017. This year's CPUE was 5.5 crabs. Summary of EGC Management Areas and All EGC Trap Locations 2023.

Question: What happens when green crabs destroy the eelgrass they're living in? Lorenz Sollman answers: Other agencies have used eelgrass clearing as a population control method, generally the eelgrass grows back.

Question: Is anything eating the green crab? Neil Harrington answers: Yes, gulls and other crab, and many species feed on their larvae.

4:26: Question: How are we addressing the crabs going forward? Lorenz Sollmann answers: We were first of the mindset to eliminate them before they take hold, but we are now continuing maintenance trapping into the future.

Other Orders of Business, Standing Agenda Items, Announcements

4:28 Ann Soule reports: Tony gave a presentation to the league of women voters which was his presentation to the DRMT in September 2022, several of the attendees at the league of women voters gave recommendations.

4:31 Rebecca Mahan announces: Funding for McDonald Creek irrigation and fish passage structure secured. Second round of planting by WCC on Dungeness starting January. Dec. 5th County commissioners decided option 2 for two lane road with trail on levee.

4:34 Joel Green announces: measured flow data with ADCP, compared floodplain to main stem flows.

4:40: Bowen Kendrick Clallam PUD announces: Installing new water main at the northern terminus.

4:42 Meggan Uecker City of Sequim: Test drilling for Silverhorn well field was approved by city council, likely to be performed in January.

4:43 Hansi Hals announces: Thank you to vice chair Greninger for hosting the state level riparian round table, Ben Smith for hosting the group at maple view farm, Clallam Conservation district for hosting the group at the northern conservation deck club, and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition for hosting at the DRNC.

Elections: uncontested elections

Vote for Hansi Hals as chair is uncontested, vote for three chair positions: Ben Smith, Robert Bebee, and Tony Corrado is uncontested. Powell Jones motions to uphold uncontested election results, Robert Bebee seconds and the motion is carried with no abstain or opposed votes.

Public comment

None, meeting adjourned.