



## Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

2-2-2023

### Executive Board Members

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present  
Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present  
Secretary – Patric Gaffney - Excused  
Treasurer - Jon Blank - Excused  
Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present  
Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Present  
Advisory Member - Cameron Black – Present  
Advisory Member - Camrin Johnson – Present  
Advisory Member - Eric Linde – Present  
Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Excused  
Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

**Call Meeting to Order:** 1030

### Introduction of Board Members Present

**Addition of Agenda Items from Board/Members:** Bob Kratzer was the president of the NW Olympic Peninsula Sportfishing Coalition. The group has decided to dissolve. Bob presented WSGA with a check for 5,550.00

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jon Blank Bank Account \$11,906.88 PayPal \$2,134.85

### Old Business:

**Buoy 10 Letter to commissioners (Initial letter & Follow up letter if needed)** Doug sent out a revised Buoy 10 letter to the executive board. This is in regards to WDFW commission interest into possibly limiting guide days at Buoy 10. Doug has done some research into this and the Oregon Marine Board would have to be on board for this to occur. At this moment we do not think this idea has traction. Therefore, the initial letter WSGA will send is essentially disagreeing with any limited guide days and we are not suggesting any limitations. If the issue gains traction later, we will address it at that time.

**Columbia River Chapter/Advisory Group Discussion** WSGA has been working toward regional chapters for several years. Given the aforementioned issue of limited guide days at Buoy 10, in an effort to gain those area members, it was suggested we offer membership to these new members of the Columbia River Chapter of WSGA for 2023 and then they would pay dues in 2024. Unpaid members would not have voting rights within WSGA. There was discussion on this issue. Doug suggested we create a page on the website to see what interest guides on the Columbia River would have in having a Columbia River Chapter of WSGA. The board agreed, as did the members in attendance of the meeting.

**Letter regarding ID, OR, BC Hatchery programs.** Doug, Marc Bush and Patric Gaffney are working on this letter. The information in the OR, ID and Canadian study is complicated and it is taking time to get this put together. They will update the members on this letter at a later date.

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Advisory Member 6  
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**Steelhead Mortality: Bob** Bob made a note of a letter we just sent in We have recently found out that Region 5 is managing winter Steelhead on a 3% mortality rate and summer steelhead on an 8% mortality rate on Columbia River tributaries. Region 6 is managing steelhead on a 10% mortality rate in winter and summer. We are trying to figure out why this is being managed with different mortality rates. It is suggested that if the coastal rivers were managed at the same mortality rate, the coast would not be having the steelhead issue we are facing right now.

**NOF: Doug** NOF is starting up. Doug said that there will be in person meeting in CA this year. Charterboat Association of Puget Sound is sending at least 1 if not 2 members to the meeting this year. Doug suggested we send someone to this meeting and partner with Carl Nyman of CAPS, to get a better understanding of the process, since Carl has been attending these meetings for years. Doug explained that per diem is \$75.00 per day and the cost of airfare and hotel is unknown. The EBoard and the members present agreed we should attend NOF and incur the cost of the trip. The EBoard will discuss who would attend. Bob Kratzer made a motion to attend someone to NOF in CA. Marc Bush Seconds. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

**Social Media Update: Doug & Bob** WSGA has hired Danielle Wheeler, with Wheeler Marketing to represent WSGA in social media. She is very organized and has a schedule of posts that go to Facebook and Instagram that Doug and Bob are able to edit and approve prior to posting.

**Gillnet Ban: Where do we stand?** Doug asked the question... where does WSGA stand in regards to the Columbia River gillnet ban? There is concern that if gillnets are banned, tribal gillnetters will come down river. Gabe Miller said that every 10 years the tribes have to re-negotiate US V. OR. Until it is negotiated, they could not come down river.

There are points made both for and against. One point made is that when you get rid of one entity, what entity is next? Could it be the guide industry. It was also pointed out at the recent Ridgefield meeting, it was the commercial gillnetters who were speaking against the guide industry on the lower Columbia River. American Sportfishing Association is supporting the ban.

It was determined that we would send out a survey to the membership to gain a better understanding of where the membership stands.

**Guiding Below Longview Bridge** Bob – We have heard rumors of a possible bill that would be dropped to allow guiding below Longview Bridge. This is a just a rumor as of right now. Again, there are pros and cons to this issue. It was pointed out by Doug that if they opened guiding below the Longview Bridge, this could actually give the Commission the ability to actually limit guide days, especially if they are launching out of WA. There is also the issue of the Charter fleet and their opposition to such a bill.

#### **Guide Questions & Concerns:**

Marc Bush suggested we get law makers back out on the water now that Covid restrictions have been lessened.

#### **For the Good of the Order:**

Bob – encourage your guide friends to join WSGA. We need support and when we have member numbers, we have more support.

**Close Meeting:** 1145am