



Executive Board Annual Meeting & General Membership Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 29, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Puyallup, Washington

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Roll call of Executive Board
- Treasurer’s Report
- What we did in 2025
- Advocacy & Fisheries Management Updates
- PFMC / North of Falcon status and next milestones
- Legislative & Political Engagement
- Organizational & Governance Matters Doug
- Compensation discussion for North of Falcon representation
- Membership, Communications & Outreach
- FishHunt NW Annual Kids Trout Derby – Duane Inglin
- Events & Partnerships
- For the Good of the Order

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.

Roll Call

Executive Board Members Present:

Doug Saint-Denis, Robert Kratzer, Cary Hofmann, Marc Bush, Mark Coleman, Brandon Wedam, Patric Gaffney

Excused:

Jon Blank, Greg Kain

President
Doug Saint-Denis
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Vice President
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Secretary
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Member At Large A
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Advisory Member 3
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Advisory Member 4
Mark Coleman
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Advisory Member 5
Jacob Munden
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Advisory Member 6
Vacant

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented as follows:

- **Checking:** \$29,342.73
 - **Savings:** \$17.04
 - **PayPal:** \$3,972.60
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President's Update – 2025 Accomplishments Report

Advocacy & Fisheries Management

- Secured Ocean Option 3 for Coho and approximately Option 2 for Chinook at PFMC, increasing fishing opportunity statewide.
- Helped achieve ocean quotas totaling approximately 12,000 fish above the previous year, enabling full seven-day seasons in Areas 1–4.
- Successfully challenged long-standing ocean-centric management practices and elevated guide representation in federal and state forums.
- Engaged directly with PFMC, North of Falcon, and preseason forecasting processes for 2026.
- Played a key role in advancing permanent Olympic Peninsula steelhead rules, including expanded seasons, bait allowances, and reduced restrictions.

Legislative & Political Engagement

- Hosted multiple “Take Your Legislator Fishing” events with senators and representatives to demonstrate the economic and cultural value of guided fisheries.
- Participated in Legislature Day of Fishing, coordinating guide boats to educate policymakers.
- Drafted and submitted formal letters to WDFW leadership and commissioners on key issues, including advisory committee elimination and director support.
- Initiated discussions regarding formation of a Political Action Committee (PAC).

Steelhead & Skagit River Initiatives

- Supported development of funding strategies to monitor and reopen the Skagit River steelhead fishery.
- Collaborated with partner organizations and legislators on potential funding mechanisms, including stamps and endorsements.
- Monitored biological opinion cost estimates and NOAA requirements in pursuit of a Spring 2026 opening.

Membership Growth & Organizational Strength

- Increased membership by approximately 20 members during peak advocacy periods.
- Improved member engagement through outreach efforts and planning for SMS/text communication tools.
- Expanded leadership capacity by involving additional members in PFMC and North of Falcon processes.

Communications, Outreach & Visibility

- Strengthened public and agency relationships through consistent participation in commission meetings and public forums.
- Planned and invested in new marketing materials, including banners and QR-enabled assets.
- Supported industry fundraising events such as Hatchery Wild Coexist.

Financial & Governance Oversight

- Maintained strong financial standing throughout the year.
 - Conducted board elections while preserving regional representation.
 - Provided members with timely updates on tax guidance, regulatory changes, and compliance issues.
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Social Media Platform Performance Report

Presented by Danielle

Facebook

- Followers increased 10.6% (1,292 total)
- Views increased 138.7% (100,909 total)
- Average reach increased 46%
- Mentions increased 207%

While engagement declined slightly year-over-year, this was attributed to a reliance on static image content and the absence of video posts. Overall reach and visibility increased significantly.

Instagram

- Follower growth of 2.6% (119 total)
- Reach decreased 44%
- Engagement decreased 20%

Instagram was noted as not currently driving meaningful growth or visibility.

Key Takeaways & 2026 Recommendations

- Facebook should remain the primary platform; Instagram should be used for cross-posting only.
- Recommended posting frequency: four times per week.
- A key 2026 goal is increased video content, especially short, guide-sourced videos.
- Patric Gaffney has begun contributing video content.

Optional enhancements discussed included active community management and expanding guide video participation.

END OF WHAT WE DID IN 2025

Advocacy & Fisheries Management Updates

Presented by Robert Kratzer & Cary Hofmann

- PFMC and North of Falcon schedules are published; WSGA has been invited to PFMC Meeting 1.
 - Olympic Peninsula steelhead permanent rules allow improved advance booking for guides.
 - Skagit River steelhead fishery funding for 2026 (~\$500,000+) will not support a 2026 opening; focus is now on 2027.
 - Discussion of potential statewide or regional steelhead stamp or endorsement to fund future fisheries.
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Legislative & Political Engagement

- “Take Your Legislator Fishing” initiative will expand in 2026.
 - Cary Hofmann and three boats participated in Legislature Day of Fishing in 2025.
 - Members were encouraged to engage local legislators and invite them fishing.
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Organizational & Governance Matters

Presented by Doug Saint-Denis

Board Elections

- Nominations are open until February 3 at midnight.
- Doug Saint-Denis nominated Thor Ostrom for Advisory Position 6.
- Robert Kratzer nominated Jacob Munden for Advisory Position 5.

North of Falcon / PFMC Representation Compensation

Cary Hofmann outlined childcare costs associated with his role.

Proposed Compensation:

- Full-day NOF/PFMC meetings: \$350 per day
- Short/local meetings: \$175 per meeting
- Per diem reimbursement up to \$150 per full day (hotel and per diem historically covered)

Motion: Doug Saint-Denis

Second: Marc Bush

Vote: Unanimous approval

Result: Motion passed

Membership, Communications & Outreach

- Members were encouraged to recruit fellow guides.
- Association will begin using SMS/text tools for engagement.

FishHunt NW Annual Kids Trout Derby

Report by Duane Inglin

- WSGA supported the 2025 event with five guide boats serving three groups of kids each.
- Event was successful.

Motion: Donate \$1,000 to the 2026 Kids Trout Derby

Motion by: Robert Kratzer

Second: Doug Saint-Denis

Vote: Unanimous approval

Result: Motion passed

Events & Partnerships

Hatchery Wild Coexist Fundraiser

- WSGA sponsored a table at the event; attendance was approximately 300.
- Total funds raised: \$200,000.

Motion: Sponsor a table for the 2026 event

Motion by: Doug Saint-Denis

Second: Robert Kratzer

Vote: Unanimous approval

Result: Motion passed

- Members were encouraged to engage sponsors for additional support.
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For the Good of the Order

- **Skamania / Drano Lake:** Ongoing issue; Doug Saint-Denis, Robert Kratzer, and Marc Bush will meet with a Skamania County Commissioner at the Sportsmen's Show.
- **Volunteer Program Challenges:** Increased WDFW training requirements due to liability concerns. Bob Kratzer is working with WDFW to explore exemptions for USCG-certified and insured guides.
- **SB 6241:** Bipartisan bill regarding wild steelhead broodstock conservation programs received a public hearing on January 28, 2026. WSGA will monitor and update members as it progresses.

- **Modification of WSGA name:** There was discussion to whether WSGA should change the name to include “Anglers” or “Sport Anglers” so they would feel more inclusive to join our organization. Doug stated he would need to dig into some of the legal stuff surrounding that possibility. Additionally, it may also come down to messaging and how WSGA promotes sport anglers to join WSGA and why their membership would be important for them as well.
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 755PM, following completion of all agenda items.