



WSGA June Meeting - June 08

Review financials, update on key legal battles, and discuss industry issues

Executive Board Members

President - Doug Saint-Denis - Present
Vice President - Bob Kratzer - Present
Secretary – Patric Gaffney - Absent
Treasurer - Jon Blank - Excused
Member at Large A - Marc Bush - Present
Advisory Member - Greg Kain - Absent
Advisory Member – Jacob Munden – Present
Advisory Member – Brandon Wedam – Absent
Advisory Member – Gabe Miller – Present
Advisory Member - Mark Coleman – Present
Advisory Member - Cary Hoffman – Present

Members Present

Ty Wyatt
Mike Aisnworth
Artem

Key Takeaways

- Chehalis Case is Top Priority: The Bo Smith case is the top priority for the upcoming WDFW meeting. The tribe is asserting jurisdiction over navigable waters, demanding a \$500 permit, and threatening boat confiscation. This case sets a dangerous statewide precedent for access.
- Skamania Legal Action Advancing: The attorney's letter to the RCO is due this week, seeking a long-term solution to the county's access restrictions. An update will be emailed to legal fund donors.
- WDFW Broodstock Contract Secured: WSGA will contract with WDFW for \$5,000 to collect Bogus Hill broodstock, bypassing volunteer restrictions and increasing the collection goal to 50 fish.
- Guide Optics a Major Concern: The board will add a social media section to the Code of Ethics to address negative public perception, driven by issues like lower-river guides posting photos of summer Chinook while upriver guides face a closed season.

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Advisory Member 6
Gabe Miller
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Agenda

Treasurer Report

- Total Funds: ~\$57,000
 - Checking: \$42,119.78
 - Savings: \$17.05
 - PayPal: \$7,494.63
- Recent Expenses: ~\$11,000 paid to attorneys and PFMC.

Chehalis Tribal Dispute

- Core Issue: The Chehalis Tribe is asserting jurisdiction over federally navigable waters, demanding a \$500 permit and threatening boat/gear confiscation for non-compliance.
- Bo Smith Case:
 - Bo Smith is fighting a ticket in tribal court to establish a legal precedent.
 - Tribal Argument: Fishing is a "different type of action" than simply floating, justifying tribal jurisdiction.
 - Process: Awaiting the tribal judge's ruling (due in 2 weeks). This ruling is a necessary step before the case can be appealed to state court, which is when the WA Attorney General can intervene.
- WDFW Meeting Strategy: The Chehalis case is the top priority for Cary's upcoming meeting with WDFW's "two Kellys." The goal is to confirm the state's commitment to intervene once the case is appealable.

Skamania County Legal Update

- Progress: The attorney's letter to the RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) is due this week.
- Rationale: The letter seeks a long-term solution to the county's access restrictions, which were temporarily circumvented this season.
- Communication: An email update on the legal fund will be sent to donors.

WDFW Broodstock Contract

- Outcome: WDFW will contract with WSGA for \$5,000 to collect Bogus Hill broodstock.
- Benefit: The contract bypasses WDFW's new volunteer restrictions, allowing guides to use their own insurance and training.
- Increased Goal: The collection goal will increase to 50 fish (30 hens, 20 bucks) with guide assistance.

Guide Optics & Social Media

- Problem: Lower-river guides are posting photos of summer Chinook caught during the spring season extension. This creates negative optics for upriver guides who face a closed summer Chinook season due to a low forecast (40,000 fish).
- Context: PIT tag data confirms that 90% of fish passing Bonneville are currently summer Chinook.
- Solution: The board will add a social media section to the Code of Ethics to guide members on professional posting practices.

Other Updates

- Hatch the Wild Break-in: A storage shed was broken into, with ~\$20,000 in gear stolen. The organization is seeking donations for its kids' programs.
- El Waco Tuna Club Event: Bob Kratzer will speak at the club's annual kickoff to promote WSGA.
- Skagit River Chinook: The fishery may close this week due to a poor return (est. 2,500 fish vs. 9,600 forecast), driven by a reduced smolt release.

Next Steps

- Cary:
 - Prioritize the Chehalis dispute for the WDFW meeting.
 - Send the Skamania legal fund update to donors.
- Mark C:
 - Revise the Code of Ethics to include social media guidelines and circulate for approval.
- Doug:
 - Email last month's meeting minutes for approval.
 - Mail membership decals upon receipt of the new debit card.
- Doug & Bob:
 - Draft a document clarifying WSGA's scope of work for members.