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**MINUTES**

**April 18, 2002**

**USA/Kodiak Steering Committee**

**United Salmon Association Office, Kodiak**

**Call to Order:** 4:15

**Steering Committee Members Present:** Thom Wischer, Virginia Adams, Matt Keplinger, Chris Myrick, Leo Kouremetis; Ross Kendall on the phone

**Other Present:** Erin Harrington, Don Gallagher

**Approval of Agenda:** Approved unanimously

**Correspondence In/Out:**

Letter of Support for HB 286 went out to Senate Resources/Senator Torgerson.

Letter of support for SCR 28 went to Borough Assembly to be read into public record.

**Chamber of Commerce Meeting:**

USA has extended invitations to the Island's Native Associations, and will contact and invite Kodiak Regional Aquaculture, Northwest Setnetters, and Kodiak Seiners Association.

Adams expressed concern about losing control of ownership of the Kodiak Island Salmon project.

Wischer noted the importance of third party certification and the importance of USA and USA fishermen in an eventual program.

Wischer also noted that it will be essential that a program be accessible for all fishermen, regardless of where they live or whether they can travel to sell their own fish. For that reason, he noted that eventual participations from processors will be essential.

Harrington noted that there will be a possibility of piggy-backed efforts by fishermen as they work to sell their fish this winter. For example, Fisherman A may be able to help sell Fisherman B's fish, through some sort of arrangement.

Myrick noted that his first impulse is to see USA maintain control of the program, but asked if the Association would be prepared to give up ownership if circumstances necessitated. Myrick also reported that Mark Majdic has been interested in lending a hand in a program like this in the past.

Adams asked that Majdic and Charlie Dorman be invited to the meeting.

Harrington suggested that USA should use the media to help maintain a perception of USA ownership of a regional marketing program.

**Meeting w/Steve & Jenny Roth:**

Wischer told the group that Steve and Jenny Roth had come to Anchorage during the Statewide USA meetings to share the knowledge and expertise that they have gained while selling Ray Wadsworth's fish. Wischer noted that the Roths deserve the gratitude of USA, and that a thank you card had been sent to them.

Keplinger reported that the Roths learned that a person must sell fish in small quantities, and cannot just walk into an establishment and sell 5000 lbs. of fish.

Wischer reported that the Roths had excellent results when sharing information about the chemicals/antibiotics/etc. in farmed salmon. Also, the Roths had worked primarily with retail outfits and had found restaurants too difficult to service.

**Global Seafood Processing Request**

Adams reported that George Ascott from the Governor's Office contacted USA on the afternoon of April 18 to ask the Association's opinion on Global Seafood's new application to process in Cook Inlet and the Alaskan Peninsula.

Keplinger expressed opinion that additional volume of pink salmon on the market is not good for the longterm health of the salmon industry. He said processors have expressed an interest in cutting production by 30 to 40% statewide

Keplinger offered a motion:

I move to direct the State USA Board to support the Governor's previous decision regarding Global Seafood.

Myrick Seconded.

Discussion:

Keplinger noted that there are no more markets for pink salmon, and that entering the season with 2 million cases of pinks left on the shelf is not good for the market. He also said that more salmon coming out of Russia to compete for existing markets in Europe and elsewhere would be bad.

Harrington asked if the people in Cook Inlet or Area M would support such a decision.

Wischer said that he hoped people from those areas would also see the drawbacks to allowing Global to process in their areas.

Wischer said it may be good for USA to be putting some hard line views, such as this one on Global, out into the public and make USA and its views visible.

Adams reported that Herb Jensen, statewide Board Member, agrees with Matt's motion (she called him while everyone was discussing the motion).

Motion carried 6-0.

### **Statewide Meeting**

Wischer reported that he, Adams, Keplinger, Kendall, and Harrington attended the Statewide Board of Directors meeting in Anchorage last weekend. He said the meetings were very positive, and that the attendees made an effort to bring the Association into compliance with the bylaws.

Wischer reported that:

Directors are:

Wischer, Adams (Kodiak)  
Bill Lindow, Bill Webber (CRSPA)  
Herb Jensen, Steve Riedel (PWS)

Elected Officers are:

President: Bruce Schactler  
Vice President: Herb Jensen  
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Lindow

Several Committees were formed:

- 1) Bylaw committee
- 2) Finance Committee (Thea Thomas, Barb Jensen, Adams, Lindow, Jack Hopkins, Harrington and Liz Senear as staff)
- 3) Budget Committee (Wischer, Lindow, Harrington as staff)

Wischer reported that the second day was spent entirely on negotiations.

Adams said she felt the meetings went well, with everyone walking away from them with an equal sense of ownership, and without the feeling that Kodiak was trying to dominate the meetings, which has been problematic in the past.

Keplinger reported Kodiak shared some of their ideas on negotiations strategy.

Adams reported that the state office expenses and Harrington's salary will be state expenses, with the statewide Budget Committee working to set those percentages.

Adams also reported that there will be an effort to get a letter or piece into the Alaska Fishermen's Journal on a monthly basis.

**Salmon Task Force:**

Wischer reported that the number of public members on the Salmon Task Force has been reduced to 7, with most of those people being non-harvesters. There will also be 4 legislators on the Task Force.

Wischer also noted that UFA had asked for votes from USA regarding who should sit on the panel. Wischer said the Exec. Committee had prioritized a list of 11 possible UFA recommended people, with 4 identified as most desirable. People still must apply independently.

The top four recommended people from UFA are

1. Bobby Thorstenson
2. Sue Aspelund
3. Duncan Fields
4. Gary Slaven

**UFA Alternate:**

Wischer reported that Herb Jensen wanted Tom Gemmell to put him on the Board email list, but it can't be done unless Jensen is a USA alternate. Currently the representatives are

1. Wischer
2. Schactler (primary alternate)
3. empty (secondary alternate)

Steering Committee agreed to recommend that Herb be identified as alternate, and that a person from CRSPA should likely be the third person.

**Foraker Training:**

Lacey Berns had emailed to see if USA wanted to split a Foraker Group training. The Steering Committee decided not to do it at this time.

**Chamber Luncheon:**

Wischer reported that the topic was the future of finances in Alaska. Wischer and Adams had thought it would be an opportunity to present some thoughts about the key role that the fisheries must play, but it was not in fact the appropriate time. However, they met with the presenter afterward and asked that he include a discussion of fisheries in his future presentations. (n.b. He was in the news on KMXT the next morning and talked almost entirely about fisheries!! Way to go guys!)

Wischer noted that people who are not directly involved in fisheries tend to forget it exists. The Steering Committee discussed the possibility of holding a fisheries forum in the future.

Kendall asked about the effects the CIP plant closure has had on the processing community.

Keplinger estimated that about 70 or 80 of the 150 plant workers likely had families in the community.

Wischer reported that he had heard that many of those people were leaving town.

**Local Negotiations:**

Confidential

Negotiations Committee will meet Monday, April 22 at 3:30

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:20**