

Southeast Alaska Sea Otter Stakeholder Working Group – Mission Statement

The recovery of sea otter populations in Southeast Alaska has been successful from the perspective of the conservation and recovery of an extirpated marine mammal population. Yet, sea otter recovery has also been associated with direct and indirect effects in Southeast Alaska ecosystems, including ecological, cultural, social and economic impacts.

To better understand these effects, the Southeast Alaska Sea Otter Stakeholders Group is initiating a working group, the Southeast Sea Otter Stakeholder Working Group (SSOSWG), to continue and expand on work of the original group, which culminated in the Southeast Sea Otter Stakeholder Meeting (SSOSM) in Juneau, AK, on November 6, 2019.

This working group will have input from Federal, State, and other researchers, regional representatives from Native tribes, commercial fishing interests, coastal towns living with sea otters, and other regional stakeholders. The working group will meet quarterly to allow members to work together in an adaptive and iterative manner on a continuing basis.

The goal of the SSOSWG is to address the following topics:

- Continue to remain current with the status of sea otter population in SE Alaska;
- Understand what can and can't be done under current Federal and State regulations;
- Examine the Sitka example for marine mammal management and explore what parts of it could be applied to sea otters in other areas of SE Alaska;
- Address current and potential fisheries conflicts from commercial, subsistence and personnel use perspectives;
- Better understand the short- and long-term ecological effects, both positive and negative from different perspectives, of sea otters in SE Alaska;
- Explore potential management options and identify constructive solutions;
- Set up a meeting schedule for stakeholders to work together on a continuing basis.

Southeast Sea Otter Stakeholder Working Group Quarterly Meeting

June 3, 2021 9:00 am – 12:00 pm AK

DRAFT AGENDA

- Introductions and Greetings
- Stakeholder Status Updates (research, information sharing, subsistence harvest, harvest management planning)
 - ADF&G – Sam: presentation on Dive Fishery GHl's by area
 - Ginny – review of the APECS webinar from April 23rd (20 minutes)
 - Paul & Joe verbal update on survey
 - Other comments, updates or presentations by members of the group
- Follow up on issues brought up from previous meeting
 - Update on the feasibility of a new economic report on effect of sea otters on the dive fisheries or getting previous reports peer reviewed
 - Update on the status of the fur brochure being partnered with Indian Arts Board and FWS
 - Update on IPCOMM efforts to rebuild a co-management structure and how can we help to have sea otters included
- Presentations and or information that we would like arranged for the next meeting (i.e. mariculture – process, planning, restrictions)
- Next Meeting