

Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Executive Committee Regular Meeting

June 10, 2009 @ 9:00 am
PWSAC Conference Room

APPROVED MINUTES

I hereby certify the accuracy of the attached Minutes of Prince Wm Sound Aquaculture Corp.

Date: 9/10/09

Hap Symmonds
Hap Symmonds, Secretary

Call to Order: Chairman Covell called the meeting to order at 9:14 am

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 10 day of September, 2009.

By Hap Symmonds

Kathleen M. Jager
Notary Public, 3rd Judicial District, State of Alaska

Roll Call:

Present – Mike Glasen, Rod Jensen, David Roemhildt, and George Covell,
(Via Teleconference) - Tim Moore and Scott Seaton
ADF&G – Bert Lewis

Absent- Steve Smith

A quorum was established

Other Board Members Present: None

PWSAC Staff Present: General Manager, Dave Reggiani; Administrative Assistant, Kate Jager; Sr. Accountant/Controller Margie Udani-Calaustro; (via teleconference) Sales Manager, Ray Cesarini.

Public Present: None

Recorder/transcriber: Kate Jager

All Handouts are numbered and available in the meeting file.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA:

Motion, Roemhildt; Second, Jensen to approve the agenda for June 10, 2009 Regular Executive Committee meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:

Motion, Jensen; Second, Roemhildt to approve the minutes of May 8, 2009 regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

Motion passed unanimously

Public Comments: None



MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Chairman's Report – Covell reported Director Steve Smith was in the hospital, and had been for several weeks. He said he would be looking into how Smith was doing and would send an email to update the Board.

General Manager's Report – Reggiani began his report with the plankton watch and an update on outmigration and rearing. The outmigration and rearing project was complete and extremely successful this year. The fish were held at the hatcheries longer than usual due to lower than anticipated saltwater temperature, which allowed them to achieve the size at release goals.

2009 AFK Plankton Watch - Handout #1- Armin F. Koernig Hatchery (AFK) experienced a peak in the phytoplankton in the middle of May. There was a bump in the zooplankton abundance at the end of April which is typically the peak of the bloom for this area.

2009 CCH Plankton Watch - Handout #2- Cannery Creek Hatchery (CCH) did not experience a typical bloom of phytoplankton and zooplankton until the beginning of June.

2009 WNH Plankton Watch – Handout #3 – Wally Noerenberg Hatchery (WNH) had a couple of peaks in zooplankton. The first during the last week in April and another one in mid May.

Reggiani gave a preliminary summary of the number of fry released at each hatchery. At AFK approximately 145 million pink fry were released with the average size range between 0.52 to 0.67 grams. Additionally, AFK released approximately 15.2 million chum salmon at an average size of 1.3 grams.

CCH released approximately 141 million pink fry, with the average size range of 0.44 to 0.72 grams. This facility has the shortest rearing season because of the extremely cold lake water during the winter months. The rearing period is typically only 15 to 17 days.

WNH released approximately 128 million pink fry, with an average size range of 0.39 to 0.75 grams along with approximately 72 million chum salmon with an average size range of 2.0 to 2.5 grams.

Main Bay Hatchery (MBH) released approximately 8.4 million sockeye smolt. The sockeye salmon from the raceway averaged 8.7 grams, while the sockeye salmon from the saltwater net pens were 13.4 grams.

Gulkana Hatchery (GH) released 10 million sockeye salmon to Crosswinds Lake, 6 million to Paxson Lake, and 6 million to Summit Lake. This was another good year for fry survival.

Port Chalmers (PC) released approximately 38 million chum salmon, with an average size range of 1.4 to 2 grams.

WNH released approximately 100,000 coho salmon smolt at WNH, 20,000 in Whittier, 80,000 in Cordova and 20,000 in Chenega.

The commercial common property fishery targeting WNH chum salmon WNH chum salmon began on May 25th. As of June 3, approximately 66,000 fish have been harvested which is slightly above projections. We have scheduled the barrier seine to be installed at Main Bay on June 17 and WNH will have theirs delivered today. We will try to have a catcher boat looking around for an additional assessment. The morning estimate in the WNH Special Harvest Area (SHA) was 500 to 2,500 fish.

Reggiani informed the committee he will be meeting with ADF&G on June 24 in Anchorage to discuss the detail points regarding the CCH Contract Renewal. He said it is now to the point where the Department and PWSAC need to sit, face-to-face and finalize the agreement.

Covel asked Reggiani, to share the preliminary information and give an update on the issues raised at the spring RPT meeting, with regards to the otolith samplings done on the Gulkana Sockeye.

Reggiani began by saying the otolith samples from GH broodstock had been re-ran at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. They had almost 100% verification on the first reading. There were only two samples they disagreed with. There is no summary available yet. Reggiani said he had no status update on the vouchers at this time. Bill Smoker and Gary Martinek were collecting outmigrating smolt from Crosswinds for otolith samples. These samples should have data within a couple of months.

Covel explained for the committee, at the close of the RPT this spring, PWSAC had three areas of concern with the Gulkana sockeye salmon otoliths to concentrate on. He explained this spring PWSAC received some preliminary information on the otolith marks from the sockeye salmon at Gulkana that raised questions. There were high proportions, almost half in some instances, of unmarked fish from the GH samples of harvest and brood. At the Prince William Sound/Copper River Regional Planning Team (RPT) meeting in April, there were three areas of concern with the Gulkana sockeye salmon. It was decided there was a need to look at the brood and otolith, add smolt samples to the mix, and finally to find out the status of the vouchers.

Sales Manager Report – Cesarini reported all the chum salmon and pink salmon contracts were complete. The barrier seine will be going into WNH today, June 10th. The only thing left to do is wait for the fish. The dedicated seiner for WNH will be Tim Cabana.

Cesarini said it has been a good run for being so early with the boats averaging 1,500 to 2,500 lbs on a daily basis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Glasen said he and many other fishermen have noticed a particular line in the announcements coming from Fish and Game. The announcements that come out on Wednesdays and Saturdays, allude to unusual timing that may introduce uncertainty into the fishery for processors and the commercial fishermen alike. The uncertainty is making it difficult for the processors to manage their fleet, and for the fishermen to make sure they are consistently on the right side of the line and not losing fishing opportunities. There is enough information that we should be able to plan ahead and stay in front of the curve. If we should fall behind, we can make up for it with regular announcements. He said he would like to see PWSAC and the Department putting effort into it on behalf of the commercial fishing fleet. Glasen said he had spoken to a number of commercial fishermen, every time they have agreed that adding that line to the mix will cause more confusion than help.

Cesarini said the processors are having difficulty with the long openers and scheduling tenders. It would be much simpler having 48 hour openers twice weekly. The processors say their crews are not really getting enough rest and that is raising safety issues.

Covel said these were concerns that would be appropriate to take to the Department. The line in the announcement was included mainly for the fishing on the Copper River Flats that requires more flexibility.

Lewis advised Glasen to contact the Department to make sure they understand that perspective. PWSAC could make a request that the line no longer be in there. Sometimes these things get in a lot of the announcements because they are cut and pasted from the previous one, so a sentence gets left in there. It is appropriate at certain times with the early Copper, where it is reactionary management according to what is going on. Otherwise you can expect regular scheduling. The announcements are based on communication with the processors, PWSAC and the fleet. Management is adapting these reports; it is a new thing in the last couple of years. Give them input on how effective it is in getting information out. He told Glasen that a trip to the office would be worth his time.

Jensen asked what the IRS status was. Several meetings ago, the Chairman made mention that there would be some big decisions on PWSAC's non-profit status or perhaps change the makeup of the board.

Covel replied at the moment there is no new information from the IRS to trigger any action or any further discussion. We will do what sustains the Corporation and allows it to continue its mission. We won't know what form that will be until some things get closer to conclusion.

Reggiani said it may seem like it has been a long time but PWSAC is just starting the administrative appeal process. With the IRS, it could take some time before they get in touch with us. As we get more information, we will bring it to the Board's attention.

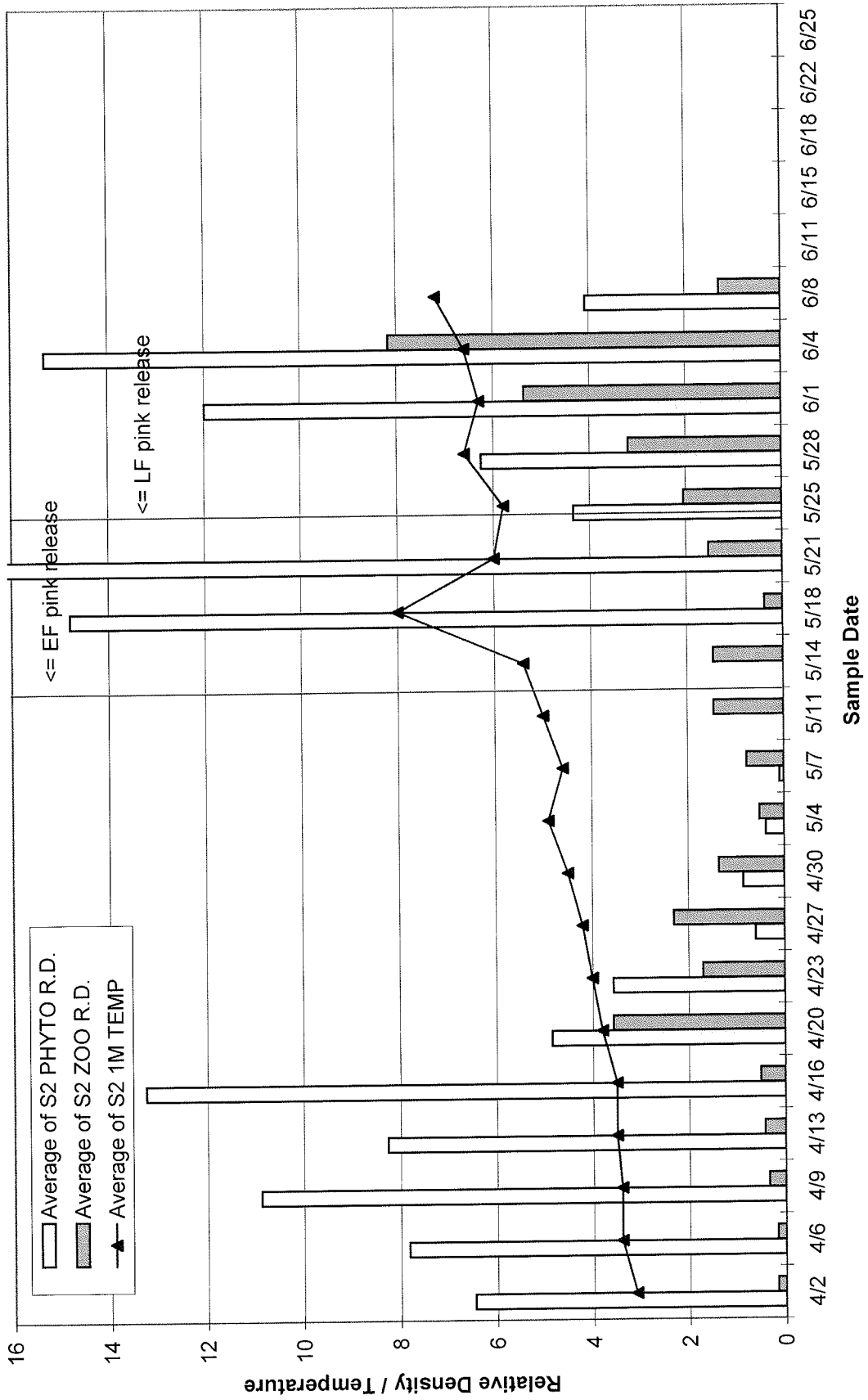
NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion, Jensen; Second, Roemhildt to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 am.

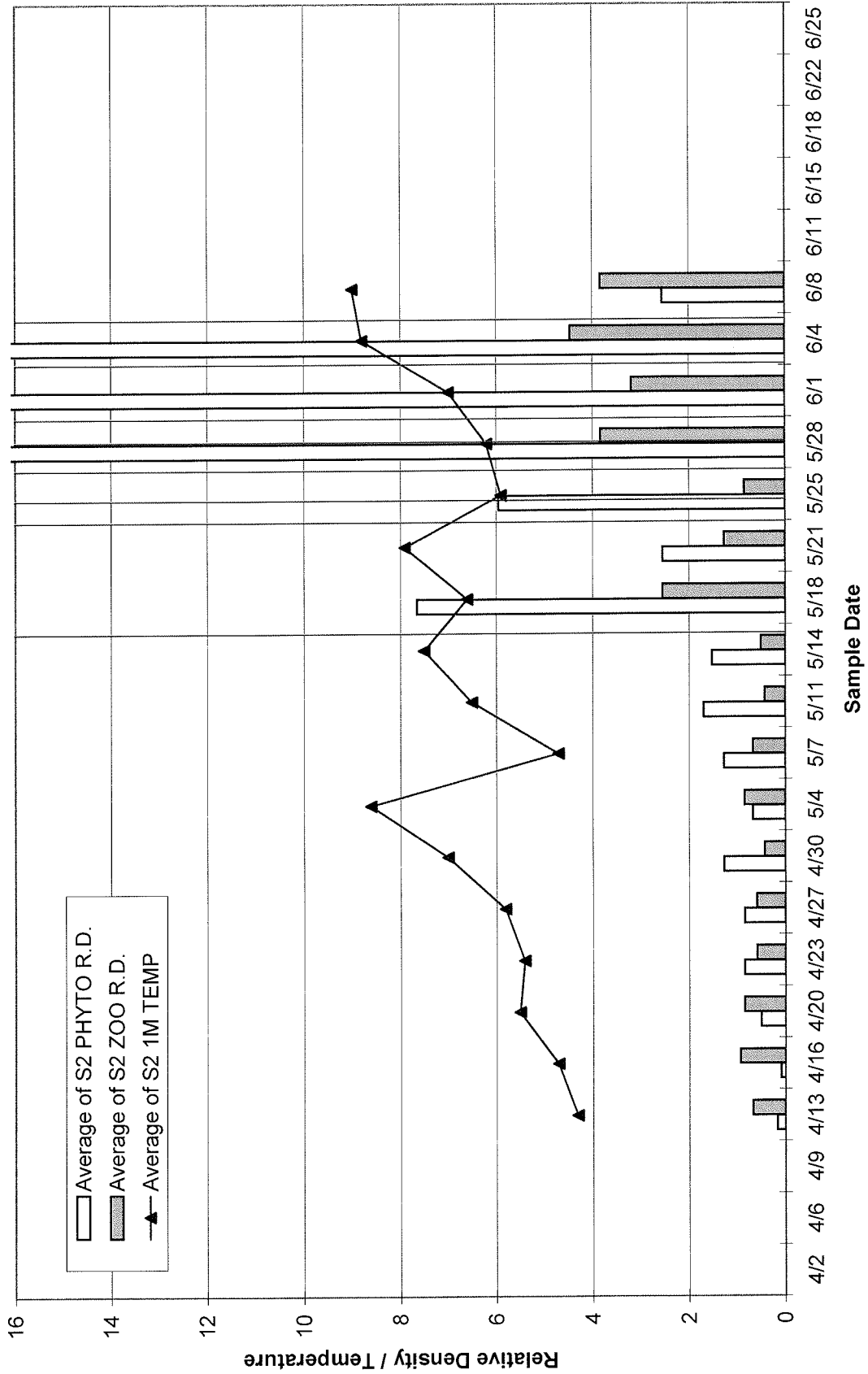
Handout #1

2009 AFK Plankton Watch

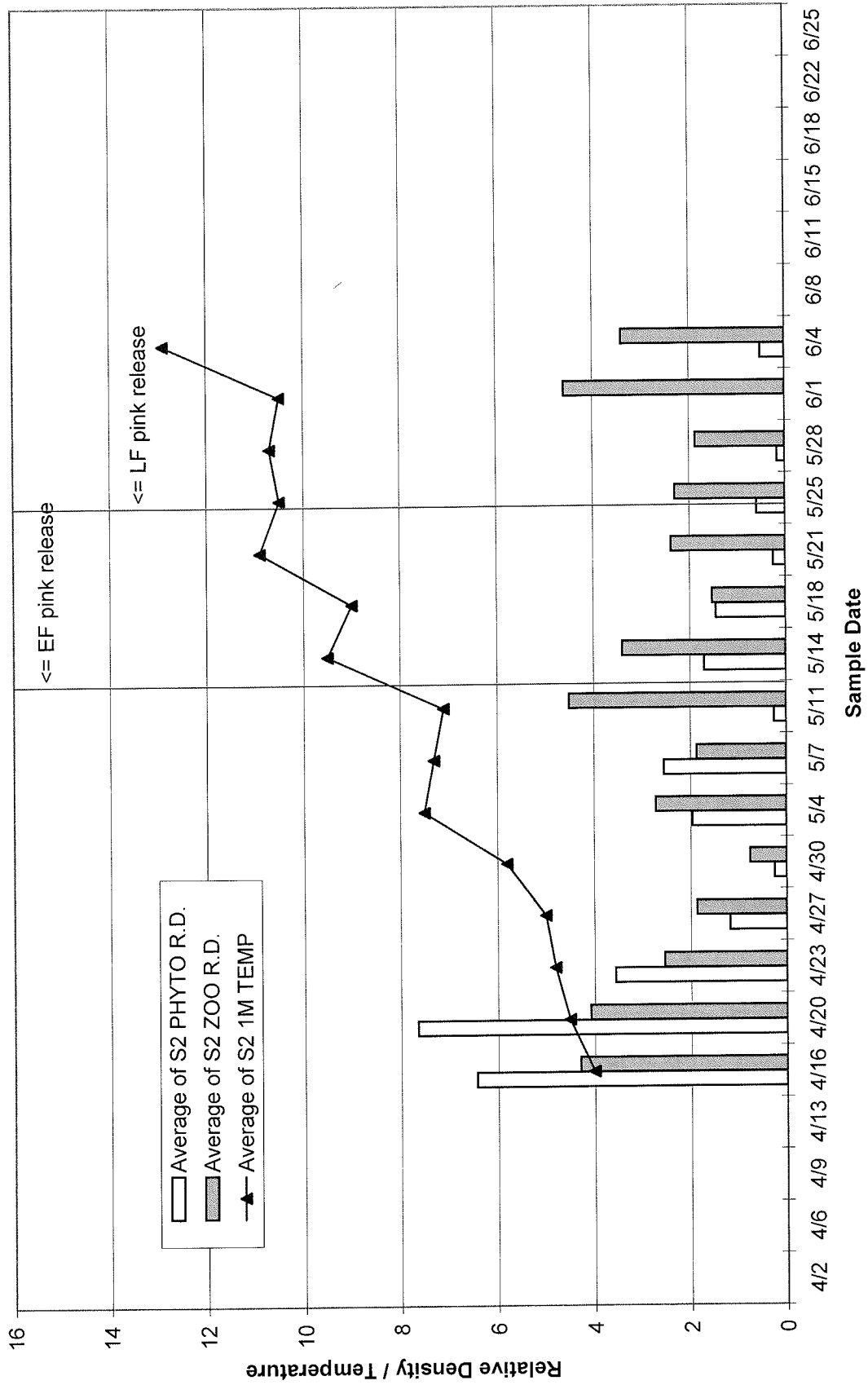


Appendix #2

2009 CCH Plankton Watch



2009 WNH Plankton Watch



Handwritten note: #23

2009 WNH Chum Salmon Return

Handout # 4

