



Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
For Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via Zoom

1. Meeting was called to order by the chair at 6:10 PM
2. Establish a Quorum, Members present: Martin Weiser, Kevin Taylor, Willow Hetrick, Matt Moore, Neil DeWitt, Bryce Eckroth, Ernie Weiss, Rick Rodgers, Georgeanna Heaverly, Lynette Moreno Hinz, Joel Doner

Members Absent Excused: Tyler Loken, JR Gates

Members Absent Unexcused: Phil Calhoun, Shawna Williams-Buchanan, Jim Nabulsi

3. List of User groups present: None
4. Introduce Fish and Game staff present:
Charity Lehman, Tim Spivey
5. Public present: Scott Crowther
6. Approve the Agenda
Agenda approved unanimously
7. Approve January 14, 2021 minutes.
Minutes approved unanimously
8. Public Testimony
None
9. 40 mile caribou herd update from Jeff Gross, area biologist for the 40 mile herd.
Postponed
10. Old Business

1 Update on AC Elections 2021- Do not foresee any elections prior to Fall 2021 when we can have in person meetings. We will have 10 seats open when the next election occurs.

2 Update on BOF/BOG meetings for 2021-2022. Discuss changes to meeting schedules for 2021-2022.

BOG voted to shift their regular meeting cycle forward one year. The proposals/meetings schedule for this year will occur next year. BOF chose



to double up the meetings for the next cycle even though the Governor's budget is inadequate to support this level of meetings. The Anchorage AC is unanimously opposed to this shift and would prefer that the BOG and BOF follow the same model. We are all volunteers and we do not have unlimited time to commit to reviewing proposals. When meetings are doubled up our AC cannot meet 5 days a week to adequately discuss all of the proposals and review the relevant information. When we signed up to be members of the AC we agreed to the scheduled time commitment that it typically takes. We did not agree to double the workload. Most of us have jobs and family commitments. Doubling up on cycles will place an unfair burden on ACs, F & G staff and the stakeholders. It also goes against the goal of not having a region reviewing proposals for both fish and game in the same cycle.

11. New Business

1. Discuss Reauthorizations of the antlerless moose hunts in our unit: the 20 Mile and JBER hunts which are proposals 177 and 178.

The Anchorage AC voted 10-0 in support of proposal 177.

The Anchorage AC voted 10-0 in support of proposal 178.

12. Adjourn 6:34 PM



Bethel Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2021

ADF&G Office, 6:00 p.m.

Teleconference: 1.800.504.8071 Code: 5432709

CALL TO ORDER: 6:27PM

ROLL CALL/ ESTABLISH QUORUM: Present- Jaimie Kassman, Alissa Nadine Rogers, Robert Lekander, Jerry White, Jon La Valle, Lucinda Alexie, Robert Hoffman, Rafe Johnson; Excused- Henry Kohl, Mike Riley Absent- Thad Tikiun; Left Council (moved)- Benjamin Eisen

INVOCATION: Alissa Nadine Rogers

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Boyd, YDNWR; Bobette Dickerson, ADFG George Weir, Aaron Moses- Subsistence Coordinator YDNWR; Janessa Esquible, ONC Natural Resources Director; Nicholas Smith, ADFG Area Management Biologist Comm. Fish; Ben Gray, ADFG Assistant Area Management Bio Comm; Patrick Jones, Area Wildlife Biologist; Karen Brito, BOS;

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approve; Motion- Robert Hoffman 2nd- Jon La Valle, Question Called, Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 10, 2020: Table; Motion- Alissa Rogers- 2nd John La Valle, Question Called, Unanimous

ADF&G/USFWS Reports: Made in attendance- but not limited to discussion until proposals below.

Elections:

Re-Elected June 30, 2023- Jaimie Kassman (M-Alissa Nadine Rogers, 2nd- John La Valle; Unanimous)

Re-Elected June 30, 2023- Thad Tikiun (M-Alissa Nadine Rogers, 2nd- John LaValle; Unanimous)

Table June 30, 2023- VACANT (M-Alissa Nadine Rogers, 2nd- John LaValle; Unanimous)

Re-Elected June 30, 2022- John LaValle (M- AR, 2nd- JL, Unanimous)

Re- Elected June 30, 2022- Alissa Nadine Rogers (M- Lucinda; 2nd-

Re- Elected June 30, 2022- Henry Hunter (M- AR, 2nd- JL, Unanimous)

Re- Elected June 30, 2022- Robert Lekandar (M- AR, 2nd- JL, Unanimous)

Re- Elected June 30, 2022- Rafe Johnson (M-AR, 2nd- Hoffman, Unanimous)

Chair- Jaimie Kassman (M- John La Valle 2nd- Hoffman, Unanimous)

Vice Chair- Henry Kohl (M- John LaValle 2nd- Hoffman, Unanimous)

Secretary- Alissa Nadine Rogers (M- John LaValle 2nd- Hoffman, Unanimous)

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Moose count/ numbers for 19A.** (*Josh Peirce, ADF&G Wildlife Biologist*)

- **Proposal 181:**

**This issue was discussed and voted on as ACR 1 during the Oct. 3, 2017 Bethel AC meeting prior to*



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Meeting Minutes

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ADF&G Office, 6:00 p.m.

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it becoming Proposal 165. Members would like to provide additional information to the Bethel AC to consider and discuss/vote on it as Proposal 165. Discussion/comments will be submitted as a Record Copy (RC) to the BOG Southwest/Central meeting Feb. 16-23, 2018 where Prop. 165 will be taken up.

Alaska Board Of Game- 2021			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal
181	5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose in Unit 18:		
			Jones, Area Manager- Retain current regulations for the antlerless moose hunt. Current survey: Total population count of 17,000-20,000 (or more) Moose as of to date- with more to update as we are still conducting surveys on the Yukon. Note: Need more harvest in the lower river where there is amount of 11,500 moose surveyed. If anyone has options or ideas on how to reduce moose populations, please contact Patrick Jones at 543-2433
	6	0	(M- Robert Hoffman, 2 nd - Alissa Nadine Rogers, unanimous)
190	5 AAC 92.015. Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Unit 18:		
			Joes, Area Manager- This waives the fee and locking tag to go hunting for brown bear in unit 18.
	6	0	(M- Alissa Nadine Rogers, 2 nd - Robert Hoffman, Unanimous)

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- **Support letter for George River Weir** (Bobette Dickerson, ADFG George River)
Bobette Dickerson, ADFG- Proposing to continue for 4 additional years. It is important because the other weir (tetlawitsik) is no longer operational. This location holds value for run escapement and (M-Alissa Nadine Rogers, 2nd- Robert Hoffman, Unanimous)
- **Discussion Changes to Board Meeting Schedules** (*T. Brito*)
 - February 12-16, 2021; Anchorage
 - BOF: Call for Proposals, extended: May 10, 2021

NEXT MEETING DATE: Call of the Chair, recommended mid-April 2021

ADJOURN

Minutes Approved: Jaimie Kassman, Chairman

Minutes Taken By: Alissa Nadine Rogers, Secretary



Copper Basin Advisory Committee

Date: 12/14/20

Location of Meeting: telephonic

- I. Call to Order: 5:00 PM by Alysia Hancock
- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Alysia Hancock, Chuck McMahan, Brad Henspeter, Jim Odden, Dave Sarafin, Don Horrell, Kirk Wilson, James Horrell

Members Absent (Excused): Lee Adler
Members Absent (Unexcused): Mercedes Knighten, Chris Gene, Nick Jackson, Brad Sinyon, Dave Bruss

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8
List of User Groups Present:
- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Heidi Hatcher, Troopers McGinnis and Davil, Mark Somerville, Todd Rinaldi, Tracy Hansen
- IV. Guests Present: Gloria Stickwan
- V. Approval of Agenda
- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- VII. Reports
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. ADF&G
 - c. Others
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business: Federal Subsistence Fish proposals that affect our area, decide to wait to go over Fish proposals, take action on Central/Southwest and Statewide Game proposals



XI. Select representative(s) for board meeting

XII. Set next meeting date

XIII. Other

Adjourn 10:56 pm

Alaska Board of Game Central & Southwest Region Meeting Proposals January 22-29, 2021 Wasilla, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i>			
1	Shift to later moose hunting seasons in Units 13 and 14		
oppose	0	8	Moose are in rut past Sept. 20 th . Moose are more accessible and easier to be seen. Are there any studies showing climate change is shifting the rut?
2	Establish registration archery seasons for Dall sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
3	Open an archery only season for Dall sheep in Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
4	Establish a registration hunt by bow and arrow only for Dall sheep within Units 9, 11, 13A, 13B remainder, 13C remainder, 13D remainder, 14A remainder, 14B, and 16		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
5	Establish three archery registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 where there are general season hunts		
oppose	0	8	We are against any special early seasons based on type of equipment being used. There are already enough opportunities to hunt.
6	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region		
support	8	0	This is a housekeeping proposal. We like allowing residents to be to take a brown bear if they see one without having to make sure they have a tag with them.
7	Increase bag limit for black bear in Units 13D and 16		



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oppose	0	8	The current limit is 3 black bear. We feel this is enough. Most people don't take more than 1 anyways. There are more baits in unit 13D than anywhere else in the unit and we feel 3 black bears is enough.
8	Shorten coyote trapping season in Units 9, 13, 14B, 16 and 17		
support	8	0	When seasons are aligned it is easier for people to understand. It will prevent by catch of lynx. Take animals when fur still good. In April you need to check more often or you will likely get green belly. It can also become hard to get out on the line to check with break up.
9	Extend the wolf trapping season in Units 13 and 16		
oppose	0	8	Wolves are denning in May. Take animals when fur still good. In April you need to check more often or you will likely get green belly. It can also become hard to get out on the line to check with break up.
10	Allow the harvest of beaver by bow and arrow under a trapping license with salvage requirements in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16		
			See 11
11	Add bow and arrow as legal method of take for beaver in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16		
oppose	0	8	This would be a special provision for archery. There is concern if you don't hit it in the head you are likely to not be able to retrieve the animal. Beaver will dive and good chance of losing it. There was discussion of use of Bow Fishing equipment that has a line attached to make for easier retrieval. We don't allow use of a firearm in unit 13 so why would we allow bow and arrow? Beaver are abundant.
51	Expand the DI454 bison hunt area in Unit 11		
	4	4	<p>Some bison have moved south near McCarthy. It seems to be a localized group now, doesn't appear to be growing in size.</p> <p>If a road hunt were opened for this group then they would definitely not grow and become an established group because this hunt would provide good access to them. They would get killed.</p> <p>The current hunt with the boundaries already provided has good hunter success.</p> <p>In the area they want to expand to you would need a Ahtna permit. What would Ahtna Lands department think about this proposal?</p>



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			<p>This proposal would provide access to a group of bison in an area that has access.</p> <p>Years ago the north end boundary was extended north and the bison did also expanded their range.</p>
52	Repeal the “pre-2018” caribou hunting regulations for Unit 13		
support	8	0	This is a housekeeping proposal to remove 2018 language. We were advised that it should have already been taken out by fish and game.
53	Increase the community subsistence caribou hunt allocation in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	<p>In 2018 number went from 300 to 400. The history of the hunt is that there has not been harvest in the community hunt more than 300.</p> <p>In the past, in order to give more opportunity when caribou numbers have been high the state allowed for up to 2 caribou to be taken per household instead of the 1 it normally is.</p> <p>There are 44 communities across Alaska utilizing this hunt. Only 16 “locals” were successful out of the 256 harvested.</p> <p>There is plenty of opportunity, we understand wanting to provide opportunity to people who live in 13 but it won’t do this by increasing the allocation.</p>
54	Increase the youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	There is plenty of opportunity already. We do not agree to extend the hunt for 4 more days or any other amount. We acknowledge that a winter hunt has the chance of not opening if quotas are met.
55	Open a registration goat hunt for residents in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	There is not a large enough population to be sustainable. Goats travel over natural range. Sometime goats do travel down into 13a. They are already being managed well.



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56	Extend the general season for moose by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11, remainder		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. There is enough opportunity now. Moose are still in the rut past Sept. 20.
57	Establish a registration hunt for bull moose open to certified bowhunters only within Unit 11, remainder		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. There is enough opportunity now. Moose are still in the rut past Sept. 20.
58	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13		
support	8	0	This is a important management tool for biologists to use when they need to use it.
59	Increase the community subsistence any bull moose hunt allocation in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	The bull cow ratio is dropping in most sub units. Biologically we should not be doing this right now. Out of the bulls harvested in this hunt 37 were taken by locals out of the 180 harvested of all bulls. For any bulls 28 were taken by locals out of 94 total harvested.
60	Create a registration archery only hunt for bull moose in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. Late hunts go into the rut. Any bull is out of the question biologically right now, can't support adding another hunt.
61	Establish a drawing permit hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 13E		
oppose	0	8	We are against special seasons for special types of equipment. Late hunts go into the rut. Any bull is out of the question biologically right now, can't support adding another hunt.
62	Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 13E		
support	8	0	Unit 13 E is above objective now. 3 years ave. of abundance is up. Harvest is also up. It would be a management tool if needed to be used by biologists. If we don't do something the population will be less productive.



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			Only up to 1 percent if needed, gradually do it, it has to be re authorized every year.
63	Eliminate the restrictions of one harvest report per household and one bag limit per household in the community subsistence caribou hunt for Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	Tier 1 and community hunts are for subsistence. The cap for caribou at 400 won't change, so some households might still not get any caribou if other households take more than one caribou, it will just get to the 400 animal quota sooner. This might increase the number of communities that would want to join this hunt. Same reasons as proposal 53.
64	Eliminate the salvage requirement for hide of moose for Alaska residents aged 60 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional		
oppose	0	8	The community hunt was developed originally by using tradition criteria. We don't want to lessen the requirements that were originally set in place to make this hunt happen. Elders that used to use hides aren't around anymore. Hides are usually cut up so bad you can't use. It was brought up that maybe make this optional for 60+ hunting by themselves, as it is hard to bring out. It was also brought up that age shouldn't be a factor in determining salvage requirements.
65	Eliminate the moose hide salvage requirement for hunters aged 62 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional		
oppose	0	8	The community hunt was developed originally by using tradition criteria. We don't want to lessen the requirements that were originally set in place to make this hunt happen. Elders that used to use hides aren't around anymore. Hides are usually cut up so bad you can't use. It was brought up that maybe make this optional for 60+ hunting by themselves, as it is hard to bring out. It was also brought up that age shouldn't be a factor in determining salvage requirements.



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Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
66	Clarify the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit condition that members of a household may not hunt caribou or moose in any other state hunts in other locations		
support	8	0	<p>2020 Proposal to BOG, Unit 13 Tier I Caribou Hunt, Interpretation of Conditions</p> <p>1. Alaska Administrative Code Number: 5 AAC 92.050 (a)(4)(I)</p> <p>2. What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is ambiguity in regulatory wording that leads to a lack of agreement and understanding of the regulation. The current interpretation by the department of fish and game (as found in their Subsistence Permit Hunt Supplement) seems to exceed the rule making authority of the board. A regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit states, in part: “any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.” This condition should only apply to state hunts, which are under the authority of the board.</p> <p>The department has interpreted this to include limitations on federal subsistence hunts. Their hunt supplement states: “If you apply for this hunt, you and your household cannot participate in federal hunts for caribou or moose outside of Unit 13”. As the board’s regulatory authority covers state authorized hunts, there is questionable legal validity for the board to place limits on federal subsistence hunt opportunities for which they have no legal control. It would be beyond “the scope of authority conferred” (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.020, Authority to adopt, administer, or enforce regulations). For the department’s interpretation to be valid and enforceable, it seems that the board would need the authority to regulate federal subsistence hunt opportunities; this authority would need to be delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board.</p> <p>The current interpretation by the department leads to confusion, may lead to unwarranted citations, legal liability, and future law suits, and also seems arbitrary in nature. The purpose of the regulation was to reduce overcrowding and excessive pressure on the resources. Currently, a limited number of federal subsistence hunters do not apply for the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou hunt because they may want to hunt moose outside of Unit 13, perhaps to avoid the crowds that still persist. This</p>



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			<p>relatively low number of additional federal subsistence hunters that could participate in the Unit 13 Tier I hunt would likely have no significant impact to the purpose of reducing excessive crowding and pressure. It is not “reasonably necessary to carry out the purpose of the statute” (Chapter 62. Administrative Procedures Act, Sec. 44.62.030, Consistency between regulation and statute.).</p> <p>In addition, there is inconsistent application by the department of regulations between game and fish. In a very similar manner of regulatory language, 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan states, in part: “A household may not be issued both a Copper River subsistence salmon fishing permit and a Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon permit.” Historically, the department has not interpreted this to mean that if one gets a state Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishing permit, then that person would be ineligible for a federal subsistence fishing permit in the Copper River. It is implicit that this condition applies only to the fisheries under the authority of the department.</p> <p>What solution do you recommend? The regulatory condition of the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit should read: “No more than one Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit for caribou may be issued per household every regulatory year, the head of the household, as defined in 5 AAC 92.071 (b), and any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any state authorized hunt in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.”</p>
67	Change the salvage requirements for sheep taken in Unit 11		
oppose	0	8	<p>No other area requires bone in for sheep.</p> <p>It is an expedition to do the hunt to begin with, you are limited in gear you can bring with you knowing you need to save room to bring a sheep out (would take even more room if you had to leave bone in)</p>



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			<p>There is a lot of really remote hunting in unit 11, sometimes up to 10 miles round trip hiking taking days to pack an animal out.</p> <p>Front ends on sheep can be skinny on meat and then if you factor a shot up bloody front shoulder, there is often even less edible meat.</p> <p>Even a boned out sheep pack is a very large pack to hike out.</p> <p>Unit 11 hunting pressure is increasing, this may allow for a decrease in hunt pressure with less people wanting to keep sheep bone in for pack out.</p> <p>Pounds = miles</p> <p>It might take a day or two of leaving meat in field until you can get back to bring rest out.</p> <p>We understand that it is difficult to hold people to salvage requirements without bone in requirements, but just because this area has increased hunt pressure shouldn't be the reason to make a bone in requirement.</p>
68	Extend the general season for brown bear by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11		
oppose	0	8	We are against special hunts for special equipment. There is no need for this.
69	Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	One brown bear per person is enough. The population has been slowly declining
70	Open a fall baiting season in Unit 13 for brown and black bear		
oppose	0	8	We are very against this. Major user conflict. We don't want baits out while others are hunting. This is a safety issue. There is plenty of opportunity to bait in unit 13 as it is.
71	Lengthen the wolverine hunting season in Unit 13		



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support	8	0	There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to the end of Feb. It just provides more opportunity to get a wolverine if you are out. Unit 12 is open to shoot till end of March. There is not a lot of wolverine taken in Sept and one would rather take in winter when fur is better.
72	Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13		
			See our proposal 73
73	Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13		
support	8	0	We would like to extend the season to match other trapping seasons in unit 13. Federal Subsistence trapping season ends on Feb. 28 and we would like to match that (but go to end of Feb due to leap years. There is a good chance of incidental catch with other sets out that wolverines could get into. Many rivers are not freezing up until later into Jan/Feb now, so access to some areas is much later. You can shoot wolverine in unit 12 until the end of March. There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to end of Feb.
74	Limit motorized access during the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13		
oppose	0	8	This is restrictive, and limits access. The proposal is confusing. In the write up for it says: "Contingent for the success of these regulations the elimination of the community hunt in its entirety." What does that actually mean? Are they wanting to get rid of the hunt all together?
75	Close the Tokositna State Recreation Area in Units 13E and 16A to the use of airboats for hunting		
			We are not familiar with this area to have discussion or vote.
76	Extend the ptarmigan season and the lower bag limit in Unit 13B and 13E		
oppose	0	8	We have a good happy median now to manage the population. If you take into March you take birds who will provide for the population next year. The management now is working fine.
77	Open a youth only hunt for ptarmigan in Unit 13, August 10-24		
oppose	0	8	We are against special hunts. Youth definitions are not consistent. There is plenty of opportunity now.



Adjournment:

Minutes Recorded By: Alysia Hancock _____
Minutes Approved By: ___Chuck McMahan___
Date: _____1/26/21_____



**Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee
February 25, 2021
Teleconference**

I. Call to Order: 6:06

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Dave Creighton, Mike Kampnich, Chuck Haydu, Kirk Agnitsch, Joel Steenstra,
Mike Douville, Brian Castle, Ellen Hannan

Members Absent (Excused): Kurt Whitehead, Fred Hamilton, Raymond Douville,

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6

List of User Groups Present:

III. Approval of Agenda:

IV.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From February 24, 2020 meeting

VI. Fish and Game Staff Present: Ross Dorendorf, Craig Schwanke

VII. Guests Present:

VIII. Old Business:

Comments on 2/24 meeting.

Follow up on rockfish data that might be easier to interpret.

Follow up on subsistence fishing options for Port St. Nicholas and Port Asumcion

IX. New Business:

Wolf sealing AR for the Board of Game meeting March 18.

One of which is an agenda change request proposal 194 (A&R) that Fish & Game proposed for the sealing period of wolves harvested in Unit 2. The A&R would establish a 7-day sealing period for all wolves harvested within Unit 2.

The rationale for a 7-day sealing period is to obtain more precise information on when wolves are removed from the population to improve accuracy and precision of the population estimate. Removing the 14-day sealing period in 2019 had the unforeseen consequence of eliminating that source of information for the estimate.



Ross Dorendorf presented on the background of the sealing period. It used to be a 14 day sealing time period with an Emergency Order to close the season. When the wolf season changed to a set season, the sealing period went to within 30 days of the end of the season. If there is a 7 day sealing time, then the data will be more accurate for the wolf population estimate using the hairboards, since the hairboards are checked every 7 days. Then any wolf that is harvested can be accurately determined when it was taken and be reflected in the data used for the population estimate. This would put our best foot forward on the population estimate. This will also demonstrate that ADFG is doing all it can to accurately determine the wolf population and prevent a ESA (Endangered Species Act) determination.

Mike Douville asked when hairboard samples are sent in. At the conclusion of the season, usually in January. He also questioned then why is 7 day sealing needed. Hairboard season is usually October 1- December 15, to avoid bears and snow.

Dave Creighton asked about a call in option for trappers who might be out longer than 7 days. That is not an option in this AR but it has been done with Douglas Island wolves. (Call in reporting is required within 48 hours and sealing within 5 days.)

Mike Douville supports sealing within 7 days of the end of the season.

Brian Castle asked about a 14 day sealing period.

Dave Creighton asked if this is way going to lead to misinformation on sealing. He sees the 7 day sealing as the lesser of two evils, rather than ESA listing

Ross Dorendorf stated USFWS 90 day finding is due this spring and there will probably be a full assessment for the ESA. The full assessment takes about a year.

Brian Castle asked if the threat of a ESA will stay with us forever.

Ross Dorendorf said he is not sure of that but there has not been a ESA listing in three tries.

Ellen Hannan would support a 7 day sealing period with an option to call in the take of a wolf harvest if out of town trapping and unable to get in.

Ross Dorendorf suggested we have someone call into the meeting.

Brian Castle asked if wolf season could start later so there is less conflict with deer and hair boards. He said our support was for wolf trapping season to align for all lands but not start on November 15.

Mike Douville said that there is better trapping earlier than later and not using snares reduces deer conflict.

Mike Douville made the motion to accept the ADFG AR proposal 194 as written with Mike Kampnich second. Mike Douville does not support the proposal.

Roll call vote:

Dave Creighton- Yes

Mike Kampnich- No

Chuck Haydu- Yes, with comments

Kirk Agnitsch- Yes, with comments

Joel Stenstra- No

Brian Castle- Yes, with comments

Ellen Hannan- Yes, with comments

5 Yes, 3 No. Motion carries. Comments are the option to call in a wolf harvest if out of the sealing area.



Mike Douville stated he does not see the value of a 7 day sealing from time of harvest but does support sealing 7 days after the season closes. (With all the samples going in at the end of the season.)

Ellen Hannan volunteered to call in for the March 18 meeting.

Follow up on Saint Nicholas and Port Asumcion subsistence.

Brian Castle asked Ross Dorendorf about preference points for the Big Game Hunt Permit Draws. Chuck Haydu supported the question. Ross will follow up with information on the draw permits. Concern over non residents have equal or more opportunities to draw. Questions about non resident success on draws. Of the three Ketchikan Goat Hunts there were only 2-3 non residents.

7:13pm Motion to adjourn seconded and accepted.

Adjournment: 7:13pm

Minutes Recorded By: Ellen Hannan

Minutes Approved By:

Date: _____



**Delta Junction Fish & Game Advisory Committee
January 20, 2021
Teleconference**

I. Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Carl Taylor

II. Roll Call:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Taylor – Chair

Rusty Craig – Vice Chair

Paul Dudgeon - Secretary

Jacob White

Alan Waldo

Earl McNabb

Vern Aiton - Absent

Ross Baker - Absent

Robert Mathews

Tisha Kennel - Absent

Jeff Lipscomb

ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Don Bunselmeier

Tim Webb

Don Quarberg

Tony Williams

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 6 needed, 11 present

List of User Groups Present: None

III. Approval of Agenda: Approved

IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the Nov 2020 meeting were approved

V. Comments from the public. None

VI. Correspondence None



- VII. Fish and Game Staff Present: Brandy Baker, Bob Schmidt , Clint Cooper, Tony Hollis, Mark Nelson, and Nissa Pilcher
- VIII. Guests Present: None
- IX. Old Business:
- X. New Business:
 - a. ADF&G Staff Update
 - Brandy Baker: Public Stocking Plans are out, Public comments are welcome
 - b. Bob Schmidt: emailed stats out, discussed the Moose Survey, moose bull to cow ratio is down, plan to increase number of antlerless tags
Caribou survey complete for Macomb Plateau herd.
Sheep harvest lower than normal.
Bison Range roller chopping completed looking at plans to burn Spruce islands.
Bison Harvest total: 55 (31 Bulls/24 Cows)
 - c. Tony Hollis: discussed moose surveys in 20 A/B
Sheep survey down this year



d. Board of Game Proposal discussion

183	Oppose	AYE: 4 NAY: 6 ABST: 1	Opposed due to the amount of antlerless tags issued in 20A east.
184	Support	AYE: 7 NAY: 2 ABST: 2	
185	Support	AYE: 10 NAY:1 ABST: 0	
189	Support	AYE: 11 NAY: 0 ABST: 0	

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Date: _____

Minutes Recorded By Paul Dudgeon
Minutes Approved By: _____



Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
2/10/2021 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference/Zoom meeting

I. Call to Order: Chair at 6:35PM

II. Roll Call:

	<u>CHAIR</u> Kirk Schwalm	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u> Mark Richards	<u>SECRETARY</u> Mark Oppe	Jeff Lucas	Gale Vick	Mike Quinn	Mike Tinker	John Wisniewski
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Absent							x	
Abs/Excused								
	Levi Lewellyn	John Siegfried	Richard Doering	Warren Guichici	Mike Bryan	Mike Kramer	Chuck Derrick	Virgil Umphenour (alternate)
Present	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Absent								
Abs/Excused								

III. Introduction of Guests: Pat McGraw, Jen Wing, Tim La Mar, Amy Wiita, Karen Brewster, Danny Caudill, AJ Wait (DNR), Nikki Potter, Erin Julianus, Chuck Pinckney (BLM), Heather Scannell, Al Barrette (BOG), Sue Magee, Dave Kilbourn, Mike Brase, Larry Van Daele (BOG)

Fish & Game Staff Present: Jessalynn Rintala, Klaus Wuttig, Tony Hollis, Chrissy Gleason, Trooper Eyester, Deena Jallen

IV. Comments

Chair Comments: After January meeting there were some concerns regarding decorum and civility. Just a reminder to keep this in mind.

Vice Chair: none

Trapping: none

Game: need to determine a date for subcommittee meeting

Fish: subcommittee meeting 2/25 at 6PM. Motion to have BOF take up hatchery proposals this year rather than putting off to next year will be discussed.



AC Member Comments: none

Public Comments: none

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: approval of Jan. 13, 2021 minutes by unanimous consent

VI. Approval of Agenda: approved as amended by unanimous consent

VII. Old Business: none

VIII. New Business:

F&G Staff Reports: Trooper Eyester reports Steese Fortymile hunt calm right now. Few animals present. Two pending cases regarding interference with tracking wounded animals. Klaus Wuttig reports that BOF will double up proposal cycles next year. Only proposals that have sunset clauses will be addressed this year.

Chrissy Gleason reports that 2020 Yukon & Tanana salmon runs for all species were among lowest on record. 4 year old summer chum age class seemed to be missing. 4 year old coho numbers were also very low. Norton Sound/Nome/Kotzebue numbers were all low. Dillingham numbers were near average. No escapement goals for fall chum except Delta River were met. Whitefish run was very good, and helped with subsistence needs in Yukon and Tanana drainages. Mike Kramer would like to know if there are theories on causes of 4 year old chum and coho declines. This may have been marine causes, but has not yet been determined. Preliminary data shows chum numbers should increase over next two years. 2016 river conditions (temperature and high water) do not seem to have been a factor in 2020 4 year old return. Mike Kramer asked if the department will look at effects of hatchery fish and overgrazing on return numbers. There is some research being conducted on this, but no results yet.

Deena Jallen reports that summer season Yukon chum and chinook were late, but king numbers at Pilot Station initially showed numbers in line with pre-season forecasts. Some subsistence fishing was allowed. By mid-season numbers were very low and escapement to Canada was not met. Various projects to determine causes for this are under way. Aerial surveys also did not get completed due to COVID restrictions. Chum numbers were also below 10 year average, but within escapement goal. Pre-season meeting will take place in April to discuss management strategies for 2021 season. Mark Richards would like to know estimates on unreported harvest for upper Yukon fish. Estimates are approximately 30,000 missing fish at Eagle. Reported harvests were in line with department expectations, with difficult water conditions. Enforcement trips during 2020 season did not find significant illegal harvest. Al Barrette would like to know depth that water temperature is measured at. This varies by location but is likely mostly surface temperature. Mike Kramer would like to know how department identifies upper Yukon kings at Pilot Station and confidence in this number. Nets at Pilot Station are various mesh sizes and has been refined over the years. Gale Vick wants to clarify that 30,000 missing fish are Canadian stock and would like to know about American stocks. Deena Jallen says there isn't enough precision in genetic profiles to determine many Alaska stocks. Mike Kramer would like to know Chena and Salcha chinook escapement. Salcha count was not done in 2020 due to funding.



Chena only had 17 days of counts due to flooding.

- **DNR Quartz Lake Trail Issue:** AJ Wait (DNR) addressed concerns over trail easements at Quartz Lake. These would not be non-motorized, but would prohibit highway vehicles. Trails were constructed by parks in early 2000s. Al Barrette would like to know about firearm discharge restrictions along the trails. DNR does not typically deal with weapons restrictions, but this may be done by parks. There has been no request for restrictions at this time. If the trails are put under jurisdiction of state parks, Al Barrette is concerned that they could restrict weapons. AJ Wait states that trails will remain as general state land and will only be maintained by parks. Amending trail easements to restrict weapons would require additional public notice if it would even be allowable.
- **Discuss BLM Central Yukon RMP Follow-up Discussion**

Mike Kramer expressed concern over access issues if Dalton Hwy corridor is turned over to DNR. Mark Richards would like to know if there is a plan for top-filed 5150 lands if they are returned to the state. Sue Magee (state ANILCA coordinator) states that BLM is considering lifting PLO on lands in question. DNR would need to reassess which parcels they want and let BLM know in order for them to become valid state selections. The main change would be in subsistence priority. Restrictions on corridor access, firearms, etc. would remain in place. Chuck Pinckney clarified that state selections would be prioritized for conveyance after lifting of PLO. It appears most likely that this would be the existing corridor. On state land, federal subsistence priority would no longer apply. Kirk Schwalm would like to know how the change in administrations will affect this process. This is not yet clear. It is possible that the Biden administration will have a new/different preferred alternative. Al Barrette also questions likelihood of new Interior Secretary conveying land to the state. Tim La Marr (BLM) states that there have been 7 public meetings on the proposed RMP over the last 2 weeks. He concurs with Sue Magee's and Chuck Pinckney's assessment of the status of this plan. BLM has not yet received any direction from the new administration, but it would not be unusual for new direction to come within the next month or two. Mark Richards believes that the Biden administration will definitely change direction. He would also like to know what the state's current plan for the lands in question are. Sue Magee clarifies that the state only has 5 million acres of remaining land selections. All of the 5150 lands have been top-filed, but it is too early to say what the state's priorities will be. Mark Richards believes that it is impossible for the public to comment on this plan without knowing what the state will do if the lands are conveyed. Amy Wiita (ADF&G) states that F&G would manage land on conveyed lands based on sustained yield, the same as all other state lands. Chuck Pinckney states that these lands are the highest priority lands the state has remaining for selection. New North Slope Area Plan will cover part of this area and includes management intent for sheep habitat. Other state land management plans have similar provisions. Mark Richards would like to know when state comments on the BLM plan will be available to the public and if it will be before the comment deadline. Sue Magee does not know if it will be public before comment deadline, but the state will definitely be commenting on the plan. Tim La Marr states that BLM is looking for comments that contain new information and concerns to be addressed in an appendix or supplemental report.



- **WACH working group update from Dave Kilbourn:** Meeting took place by conference call in December. Caribou count has not changed based on census in 2019. No census was completed in 2020. There is a census planned for 2021. After several years of decline, the herd appears to be holding steady and management will continue to be conservative. Harvest goal will remain 10-14,000 animals. There was discussion of changes in herd migration patterns. Very few animals south of the Kobuk or on Seward Peninsula. No significant discussion of the Ambler road or other development projects. There was discussion of increased federal subsistence designation on North Slope/Point Lay area due to local concerns about out of state hunters. No decision was reached on this, but Dave Kilbourn stated that he was not in favor of new federal subsistence areas. Kirk Schwalm asked about RC907. Dave Kilbourn stated that in 2019 85% of animals harvested on this permit were local. 724 animals were reported, but compliance is questionable. Mark Richards asked for clarification of current herd size. It is estimated at 244,000 +/- 30,000 animals. Mark Richards states that RHAK will not support a wildlife special action request for the WACH to create a new federal subsistence area. Al Barrette states that reported harvest indicates continued low compliance and wonders why this was not a concern for the working group. This is a known issue and should be an enforcement priority. Dave Kilbourn states that there seemed to be little interest in this. Mike Quinn asked for clarification on federal vs. state permits for WACH hunts. There is not generally a separate permit for federal hunts. Motion by Mike Quinn for the AC to write a letter in opposition to wildlife special action request for creation of federal subsistence priority in absence of biological need covering the WACH. Seconded by Mike Bryan. Motion passed by unanimous consent.
- **Board Appointment Discussion:** Gale Vick believes that the AC has already made a decision on the pending appointments. Mark Richards does not support additional guides being appointed to the BOG. Chuck Derrick believes commercial interests will oppose appointment of Mackenzie Mitchell to BOF. He has been waiting for the House to organize before contacting legislators. The AC voted to support Mackenzie Mitchell's appointment in May; motion to support John Jensen at the May meeting failed. Mike Kramer states that historically the AC has taken a limited approach to supporting board members, and suggests that we continue that approach. Gale Vick concurs with Mike Kramer on this question. Virgil Umphenour also agrees with Mike Kramer. Mark Richards states that he would like the AC to have a discussion about balance on the BOG & makes a motion to support Stosh Hoffman's reappointment; seconded by Gale Vick. Al Barrette reminds the AC that Lynn Keogh has a voting record on the BOG that can be referred to in order to judge his support for Fairbanks AC proposals. Chuck Derrick states that John Jensen has consistently opposed the Fairbanks AC. Motion to support Hoffman nomination passed by unanimous consent.
- **GMU 20 Antlerless Moose & Tag Fee Exemption (RE)Authorization vote:** Tony Hollis reports that 2021 20A antlerless moose hunts will be the same as last year. Twinning rates remain under 20%. Would like to limit cow harvest to 1% or less of 20A moose population. 20B will also remain the same as last year. 50 of 62 cows harvested in 20B were in the Fairbanks Management Area and Richardson Highway; 11 in Minto



Flats. Mark Richards would like to know what other ACs plan to do regarding antlerless moose plans. Delta opposes antlerless hunts in 20A. Al Barrette would like to know if potlatch hunts are factored into antlerless harvest allowances. Tony Hollis states that he factors in a buffer for potlatch harvest. Mark Richards makes motion to support 20A and 20B antlerless reauthorization proposals 183 & 184; seconded by Virgil Umphenour.

Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Proposal 189 & 190 brown bear tag exemptions have historically been supported by Fairbanks AC. Virgil Umphenour makes a motion to support the proposals; seconded by Mike Quinn. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

- **Discuss Relevant Pending Legislation:** Mark Richards would like to suggest the AC support repeal of termination date of the IM surcharge. Al Barrette states that IM surcharge was intended to cover department costs not eligible for Pittman-Robertson funds, but has been used for other types of projects. This is not what the legislature intended it for. Mark Richards disagrees; surcharge was intended to cover surveys, population data, etc. These are eligible for PR matching funds. Al Barrette states that the 2016 license fee increases were intended to increase PR matching funds. This is a separate issue from killing wolves and bears for intensive management. Kirk Schwalm states that the surcharge money is there if/when the department needs to conduct IM and can be reallocated if IM is not being conducted. Al Barrette suggests that the surcharge could be handled like tag fee exemption, with annual reauthorizations. Mark Richards makes motion to support SB 22; seconded by Mike Quinn. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

SB 44 (establishing personal use fish priority). Motion by Virgil Umphenour to support SB 44; seconded by Gale Vick. Kirk Schwalm states that Fairbanks AC has always supported this concept. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

HB 50 (allow municipalities to regulate trapping within their boundaries). Kirk Schwalm states that the state has always held that this is regulated by the BOG and cannot be regulated by municipalities. Al Barrette states that this died in the previous legislature and has been reintroduced. In theory, municipalities would be able to regulate who can trap and might prohibit non-local trappers within their boundaries. This could affect huge areas of the state given the size of some municipalities. Motion by Mark Richards to oppose HB 50; seconded by Mike Quinn. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Gale Vick states that she has concerns over shellfish bill and that it needs a lot of discussion. She could not support it as it stands at this time and would like to defer it to the subcommittee for discussion.

BOG/BOF Decisions and further discussion: Mark Richards would like to ask if the BOG plans to double up proposal cycle next year like the BOF. Larry Van Daele (BOG) states that they will shift the entire cycle to next year and will not double up. They will decide at March 18th meeting whether or not to consider new proposals before meetings next year. The BOG will consider all antlerless hunts and tag exemptions, along with Prince of Wales island wolf sealing and Kenai moose ACRs in March.

Based on BOG shifting cycle to next year, Mark Richards suggests game subcommittee does not need to schedule a meeting at this time. Jeff Lucas agrees.

Mike Kramer is disappointed that the BOG will shift their cycle to next year and hopes that the



BOF will not do the same.

Mike Kramer makes a motion for BOF to consider hatchery proposals and impact on wild salmon stocks in 2021. Virgil Umphenour states that there are several hatchery proposals have been submitted. Gale Vick states that there needs to be an update on the science of what is happening in Prince William Sound before the BOF addresses hatchery proposals. Mike Kramer clarifies that we should support hatchery protocol meetings before the BOF takes action on hatchery proposals. Motion seconded by Gale Vick. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Other: none

IX. Adjourn: Chair at 9:57PM

Minutes Recorded by Mark Oppe



Grayling Anvik Shagaluk Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory Committee Meeting

February 4, 2021

Teleconference

Members Present Shirly Clark & Rich Freireich, Grayling
 Ken Chase & Nathan Elswick, Anvik
 Chevie Roach, Shageluk
 David Walker & Eugen Paul Holy Cross
 Bruce Werba, Undesignated

Members Absent; Roger Hamilton Jr

Guests Present

Serena Fitka (YRDFA), Bruce Irvine (TCC), Jeff Demientieff (Holy Cross), Alfred Demientieff (Holy Cross), Kathy Chase (Holy Cross), Jeremy Havner (FWS)

ADF&G Staff Present; Josh Peirce, DWC; Deena Jallen & Christy Gleason, DCF; Nissa Pilcher, BDS

Meeting called to order 6:05

Proposed agenda addition – Eugene would like to add to election of undesignated seat and officer election to the agenda. Boards noted that if the AC wanted to discuss officer elections, no notice was needed but elections could not be held for the undesignated seats at this meeting due to lack of notice, and that the intent of the AC was to hold elections for this seat at the next face to face meeting. Further discussion was held on the election process, how community involvement at AC meetings and elections can be very different depending on the community and the agenda topics. AC members would like a clear, laid out election process in place when the elections are held at the next face to face meeting, and that the current seat holder, Bruce, was not appointed to the seat, but elected.

It was noted that for the undesignated seat that any resident over 18 who attends the meeting can vote for the undesignated seat at the next face to face election meeting.

There was no formal motion to add officer elections to the agenda during this discussion.

Minutes approved.

Chair Report/AC Members Questions and Concerns

Western Interior RAC is seeking nominations, and there is no voice for this area on that committee any longer. The chair requested that anyone that was interested should apply to serve on the council, and that the deadline to apply is February 15th.



Ken also noted that he would like to receive a Bison Report, which the Department gave;

Josh Peirce was given a brief update by Tom Seaton to present to the AC. Slight decrease of animals in the herd last two years, but this winter has been much better. Deep snow and freezing rain were factors in the last two years, but this winter is mild and less snow, so hopeful that this weather will stay mild and the bison will have a good calving year. Seems like the herd is getting established and comfortable with the landscape and the bison really have started to figure out where they need to be in the winters to survive better.

Chair report cont – Concerned about the lampreys; noted that for the last couple years we haven't gotten them, and the commercial harvest seemed really large and it was alarming in the past. Would really like to see more studies on their behavior and population since there are still subsistence uses of this fish so we don't eliminate them with commercial use.

Christy Gleason noted that UAF and FWS are working on tagging study on lampreys, so there may be some more information coming.

It was noted that last year there was an odd year, the ice was bad and weather was warm so unsure if the lampreys were missed or if they didn't show up in the numbers that the communities are used to seeing.

Members requested information on the male/female ratio of the commercially harvested lampreys to see if the harvest has done any damage to the population

Bruce – interested in muskox information

Josh Peirce noted that there is now a resident herd near Kalskag, the herd is established and hopefully growing, and the herd is in 21E and 19A both. Diet of the musk ox asked about- they are not competing for food with the bison which was the concern of the members.

Ken asked Department about the registration permits in 21A. Department noted that there has been good reporting in the past but this year there has not been; the reports documents the GASH communities subsistence needs for moose, and this effects allocation at future Board of Game meetings. Also, if you don't report you can't get the permit next year so it is really important to report on the permit even if you don't end up using it. If you can help spread the word in the communities to please get in your reports.

Chevie noted that there is not a postmaster in Shageluk and hasn't been for quite some time, so people aren't getting their mail and aren't able to send any either, except once a month when someone comes in from Aniak. Was interested to see what other technological advances there could be to make reporting easier.

Josh replied that if you can call the McGrath office and we will gladly take your report, and you are also able to report online (it was noted that due to the mail issue that the overlays for Shageluk got lost in the mail and never made it to be entered so this was not an option for those residents)



Board of Game and Fisheries Cycle Update

Nissa gave an overview of what the BOG/BOF had decided to do with the 2020-2021 Cycle. The antlerless moose proposal and the brown bear tag exemption fee would be taken up, but not any of the other proposals including the ones submitted by this AC to the Statewide meeting. They would be taken up next year. The Board of Fisheries were also currently accepting fisheries proposals and would hold double meetings depending on double funding being given.

Staff Update - Wildlife

Josh noted that quite a bit of the planned update was already gone over with earlier questions, but gave an update on moose. There is a new winter antlerless hunt on the books that the GASH AC voted to support last year. There are two permits currently- residents can get either the state or the federal permit but the federal permit limits you to only utilizing federal lands, and that it was only open for those that had not successfully harvested a moose in the fall season.

The AC asked about the FTR list; reporting is required, or you wouldn't not be eligible the next year for the hunt, and there is a short reporting window since the hunt is operated on a quota. Additional questions were on who was eligible for the hunt – it was noted that all Alaska residents were eligible for the state hunt but that since the hunt area is well off of the road system, nonlocals were not expected to participate much in this hunt, and Ken noted that private and federal lands were also closed to nonlocals. Question asked about the corridor along the river still being off limits – Department noted that the AC decided to not request that corridor closure because there are a lot of moose on the islands and that is exactly where the animals need to be taken – over browsing the islands is a concern, and it was clarified what the bag limit was for the hunt, that you cannot take a cow with a calf.

This is the first year so we will see how it goes and if it needs to be changed we can go from there.

Proposal 187 – Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 21E

Members noted it would be nice if they could vote on this after this winter hunt was done so that they could see how this hunt went, but there isn't time to that, and Josh noted that the Department has a lot of ability to change the hunt as needed and if it doesn't go well at all then have a lot of leeway to make changes in order that the hunt, which alleviated concerns.

Members asked about being able to take more bulls in the fall to help with the population since they seem to be eating themselves out of house and home, including potentially upping the nonresident drawing hunt amount. Josh noted that there is already a pretty liberal state season, could extend the season dates (resident hunt) or increase drawing hunt numbers, but could run into crowding issues as we heard at the last meeting.

Rich – would like to commend you for your efforts on the moose, and thank you for clarifying the regulations, also noted that the boats coming down from Fairbanks were nearly nonexistent with the pandemic this year



Unanimous Support (8-0)

Proposal 189 – Reauthorize resident Brown Bear tag fee exemptions in the Interior

Shirly noted that bear skins make really good leather

Unanimous Support (8-0)

There are other proposals that the AC was planning on taking up at this meeting, but since the Board of Game has deferred them we would like to take them up in person when we meet next during the next cycle.

Staff Update – Fisheries

Summer Season Update given

AC Comment – would like to see more patrolling on the river, there was large mesh being used at night (Department noted that if you can let us know about that in season then we can get enforcement there to help)

YR DFA Serena Fitka introduced herself and let everyone know about YRDFAs schedule and let the AC know who was at the last meeting to represent the area. Question asked about how the next meeting would be held – potentially in person, or potentially teleconference. If teleconference, then having ‘district’ meetings will be considered to help with that. Fishery disaster request was submitted for last year, it is in the Governors office and we are waiting to hear back from him.

Fall Season Update given

Rich – fishing was pretty bad for salmon, the fall chum we did get seemed like they were inferior quality, sort of like they were cooked. Did anyone else on the river note that?

Department note that should have caught more 5yo, which would have been larger fish, but noted that others had said the opposite that the fish looked better later in the season than normal

David – any studies being done on the Fukushima nuclear accident

Department – CDC does tests on this annually, and there has not been any concerning results in the last 5 years. Will get the most recent results and email them to you.

Federal Issues

Fisheries – Currently fisheries proposals are out, nothing in your area.

AC asked about federal enforcement – FWS noted that due to the Sturgeon case that the federal enforcement had been asked to stand down they believed so they wouldn’t be able to offer state enforcement any assistance, but to be sure federal enforcement would need to be asked specifically that.



Game – noted that with the change in administration that unsure of when the call for proposals for game will happen, but should be this fall.

Discussion of the potential to joint the federal and state winter moose hunt into a shared permit.

With the individual permit right now hunters need to have one permit for state lands and a different permit for federal lands. Both need to be reported on. There would be a joint quota, and overall goal for winter hunt for both state and federal would be for 40 moose and the current federal season isn't coming close to that quota which is why the state season was opened, to allow people to hunt on both federal and state land.

Concerns talked about would be if nonlocals started utilizing the hunt, that the hunts could have different dates. It was noted that GMU has a bag limit of 2 moose so it will probably be unlikely that many from that unit will come over here for the winter hunt since their needs are being met there.

It was noted that the state and the federal system have different proxy hunting regulations, and that the federal system is easier for most to use.

The AC clarified that this move would take an action of the FSB, and that while the call for proposals was expected this spring, it had yet to come out, and they didn't want to see anyone from any of the 4 communities not be able to participate if they still had yet to get a moose.

The AC did not choose to take action on this potential proposal idea at this time.

Meeting Adjourned after 8 pm

Minutes approved by Ken Chase

Minutes
Icy Straits Advisory Committee Reactivation Meeting
5:00 p.m. January 11, 2021
Teleconference

Phone Number: 1-800-504-8071
Access Code: 4654046

I. Call to Order: 5:07

II. Attendance:

AC Members:

- Casey McConnell, Chair (Hoonah)
- Bob Hughes, Vice Chair (Hoonah)
- Jeff Skaflestad (Hoonah)
- Faith Grant (Hoonah)
- Bill Miller (Hoonah)
- Aaron StClair (Hoonah)
- Calvin Casipit (Gustavus)
- Fagan Skaflestad (Hoonah)
- Andy Savland (Hoonah)
- Bill Mills (Hoonah)
- Ken Meserve (Hoonah)
- Mark Ortega (Gustavus)
- Elected: Ian Johnson (Hoonah)

Voting eligible persons with primary residence of Hoonah:

- Ian Johnson (Hoonah)

Non-voting members of public:

Fish and Game Staff Present:

- Daniel Teske, ADF&G Sport Fish biologist
- Steve Bethune, ADF&G Sitka
- Roy Churchwell, ADF&G Juneau

III. Approval of Agenda (Moved Ken Meserve)

IV. Approval of November 18, 2020 minutes (Moved Ken Meserve)

V. Election of Hoonah-designated Seat (expiring June 2021)

- a. Ian Johnson nominated
- b. Passes with unanimous consent



- VI. **Officer Elections for Secretary/Scribe** (Only AC Members can nominate and vote in officer elections)
- a. Secretary/Scribe
 - i. Ian Johnson nominated as secretary
 - ii. Ian Johnson voted secretary with unanimous consent
 - b. Minutes approver
 - c. Casey Nominates self – Jeff 2nds
- VII. **Board of Game Proposal 174 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C**
- a. Presentation (Roy Churchwell)
 - b. Motion to support Proposal (Calvin Casipit)
 - c. Fails 7-6
- VIII. **Develop plan for submitting AC comments for 2020-2021 Board of Fisheries cycle proposals**
- a. **Committees/Groups:**
 - i. King Salmon
 - ii. Enhancement and Special Harvest Areas -
 - iii. Commercial Salmon
 - iv. Personal Use/Sport/Subsistence
 - v. Herring
 - vi. Shrimp and Miscellaneous
 - vii. Crab
 - viii. Groundfish
 - b. David K Harris will send “Handy Dandies” to Icy Straits AC Members
 - c. Members will decide which groups to review proposals by next meeting
- IX. **HR 8828 Public Safety & Wildlife Protection Act (Mark Ortega)**
- a. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8828/text>
 - b. Motion for Mark Ortega to draft letter for Feb 15th meeting. No opposition.
- X. **Other Business**
- a. Next meeting date : Feb 15th 5:00 p.m. – moved by Fagan
- XI. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 7:00

Minutes Recorded By: Annie Bartholomew, DFG Boards Support

Minutes Approved By: Icy Straits AC

Date: 2/15/2020



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee
2/3/20 – 5:30 pm
Virtual – Zoom Teleconference
Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order: 5:35 pm by Chairman Kevin Maier

II. Roll Call

Members Present:

Kevin Maier (Charter Fishing – Freshwater), Peter Robertson (Non-Consumptive Commercial), Ed Buyarski (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Thatcher Brouwer (Commercial Fishing), Jason Kolhase (Processor), Melanie Brown (Alternate), Michael Bethers (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Jesse Walker (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use), Atlin Daugherty (Hunting Guide), Richard Yamada (Charter Fishing – Saltwater) Terry White (Charter Fishing -Saltwater), Forest Wagner (Commercial Fishing), Chris Miller (Commercial Fishing), Kristine Trott (Non-Consumptive Personal), Nicholas Orr (Sport Fish, Hunting and Personal Use) and Jesse Ross (Trapping).

Members Absent Michael Cole (Alternate), Chris Miller (Commercial Fishing)

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: See above.

Fish and Game Staff Present:

Dave Harris (ADFG Commercial Fish),
Annie Bartholomew (ADFG Board Support),
Roy Churchwell (ADFG)

III. Guests Present:

Chris Zimmer, Rivers Without Borders
Don Habenger Member of the public
Zach Decker, Hunting Representative
Heather Brandon: Recreational user in Southeast

IV. Approval of Agenda

By Unanimous Consent

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Delayed until next meeting.

VI. Reports



- a. Chair's report
- b. ADF&G
- c. Others

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

ELECTIONS:

Motion:

Ed Buyarski moved and Melanie Brown 2nd "Officers will remain in place for one year because of COVID. We will hold elections next year."

Passed by unanimous consent.

MEETING CYCLE

The AC did not take a position on the meeting cycle.

Discussion:

Annie Bartholomew reported Board of Game decided that they will postpone everything by year.

Board of Fish decided to postpone everything this year until next year and try to combine meetings that were previously scheduled for next year with the meetings that are being postponed.

Southeast Meeting could be early as the fall and as late as winter 2022. The Boards of Fish and Game will decide on March 8th. The deadline for comments on proposals will be two weeks prior to what they occur.

Nicholas Orr and Jesse Walker: We need to get through proposals. We should do it as soon as possible rather than weigh in on the deadline. This is out of our control.

The AC did not take a position on the comment deadline.

TULESQUAH CHIEF MINE UPDATE/DISCUSSION



Motion:

Thatcher: "I move that a small working group puts together a letter or resolution and brings it forward to the next JDAC meeting for approval." Ed 2nd.

Passed by unanimous consent.

Atlin, Forest, Kevin, Terry will be on the subcommittee to draft the letter.

Discussion:

Chris Zimmer: BC government realized that the Tulsequah Chief mine was not viable. Let's clean it up and be done with it. Last year BC offered a cleanup plan.

Bankruptcy of the last mine owner will be settled in 2022. No one is interest in buying it. Huge liability.

BC is working on getting some clean up done. This season studies. Next year they will likely clean up.

We need to make sure BC is doing the correct thing if we want a plan with a timeline and to see more transparency. The Alaska Governor, Legislature and delegation needs to keep the pressure on BC and there is an opportunity for the Juneau Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee to ask for this.

Terry W: Should Alaska be willing to pay for cleanup.

Chris Z: The company is on the hook for the cleanup. Polluter pays and tax funds from BC could help. Do not want to offer that Alaska pays for the cleanup.

Melanie B: Is there language in resolution regarding need for regulatory overall?

Chris Z: I think it make sense to keep Tulsequah chief separate and not to involve other entities.

Chris M: Do we want to put pressure on the BC government to use the existing water treatment plant?

Chris Z: I know it is on the table, but not sure where that stands. It could be operated.

Chris Z: There are water quality standards and we need to force BC to follow its own laws. Not easy to do. The Tulsequah river is above water quality standards.

Jesse W: Are the pollutants reaching the Taku river?



Chris Z: They are getting into the Taku, but are diluted. Taku is not above water quality standards. Where do the heavy metals go? Track down the left side of the river?

Kevin M: How has the JDAC weighed in the past?

Chris Z: The AC has been very helpful in the past with resolutions, meetings, ect.

Chris Z: We need to keep up the pressure on the BC government.

Mike B: I support something, but since we do not know the extent of the impact, I do not know how much we want to put to it.

Chris Z: There are a lot of unknowns.

Chris M: Can you discuss what is going on with the Polaris mine?

Chris Z: There are a number of projects in the area. There is the Big Bull mine on the Taku. The cleanup could include both mines. Tulsequah first and Big Bull next. New Polaris mine is complicating factor. It would have arsenic in it. They would need 100 barge loads up the river in the season to make it viable. No way they are going to get that many barges up there. It does look like New Polaris is making a new go out of it. Planning to refine on site.

Thatcher B: What can we do as an AC?

Chris Z: You can write a letter or resolution that would be addressed to Governor, Congressional Delegation, and State Representatives.

Mike B: Have you contacted sport and personal use fishermen?

Chris Z: Yes.

Forest B: I think we should continue to push federal angle.

Chris Z: Yes. Federal angle is important.

Chris Z: I can send you the generic resolution and that will be a good starting point.



Alaska Board of Game Special Meeting Proposals

March 18, 2021 Web-conference

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
174	Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C		
Support	15	0	<p>Roy C: We use these hunts in areas that have populations near carrying capacity. Not as productive as populations just below carrying capacity. This is not something that we would expect to use this year or in the near future. Since it is in regulation we need have an authorization every year.</p> <p>Since the Icy Strait AC voted down the antlerless moose hunt the process will be more involved regardless of how we vote.</p> <p>We were able to fly the Gustavus area. Estimate 231 moose and will likely up the limit next year from 8 to 10 or 12.</p> <p>Flew Berners. Not great conditions, but we did see 40 and think some were not visible. Winter kill last year. Also think that they will be able to up the draw for Berners Bay moose hunt.</p> <p>Ed B: Would the Icy Strait AC action impact other hunts? What about Haines?</p> <p>Roy C: Just in the area of the AC. Haines does not have any antlerless moose hunt. Hoping to fly Haines in the next weather window.</p> <p>Jesse R: The feds give permits from the Gustavus under the federal subsistence guidelines. Would they be able to get a quota from a cow hunt?</p> <p>Roy C: Unsure. They probably could do it.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Special Meeting Proposals

March 18, 2021 Web-conference

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Atlin D: Did the RCAC members get moose? What communities does the Icy Strait AC come from?</p> <p>Roy C: Yes. Icy Strait AC has representatives from Hoonah and Gustavus.</p> <p>Peter R: What was Icy Strait ACs opposition? Roy C: Someone from Gustavus felt that the cows were productive. Studies do not show that this is true. Someone also felt that moose in poor condition would find better food. Not necessarily true.</p> <p>Zach: Concerned that they overharvest the cow population.</p> <p>Roy C: At that time population was above 500 moose. Above carrying capacity based on fish and game measurements.</p> <p>Kristine T: How will this late season snow impact the hunt? Roy C: We will wait and see. Not there yet.</p> <p>Kevin M: What would it take to authorize? Roy C: At this time, I do not see us needed this in the near future. If we need it we will go through the process then. In theory we may not even need to vote on this next year.</p>
194	Establish a requirement for all wolves taken in Unit 2 to be sealed within 7 days of harvest.		
Support as Amended	12 ?	3 ?	<p>Motion to Amend:</p> <p>Ed B: "I move we amend the proposal to allow 15 day deadline for sealing after harvest for Prince of Wales wolves." Mike B: 2nd motion.</p> <p>Vote on Motion to Amend Passed 9 to 5.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Special Meeting Proposals

March 18, 2021 Web-conference

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Discussion on proposal</p> <p>Roy C: Previously it was 30 days after season. Now the request is for 7 days. We are asking for this change because there is a petition to list southeast wolves as endangered species. In hands of Fish and Wildlife. It would improve data. We have found trappers have made mistakes. We are hoping that we can cleanup data by having data turned in more quickly. The change came quickly because we are trying to respond to a fire and put it out.</p> <p>Chris M: Current population estimate and historical numbers?</p> <p>Roy: The locals are trying to have the population between a 150 and 200 wolves so that they will not impact deer population. We had an estimate of 180, but they trapped 160 wolves in a season two years prior. Currently we believe we are in the population bounds.</p> <p>Jesse R: I understand the importance of getting the data. Wolves have never been close to being endangered. I clearly see this going to a lawsuit. Certain groups want protect this species. I am not saying that fish and game is doing a bad job. Lets look at the science. Southeast wolves are not endangered.</p> <p>Roy C: The center for biological diversity is trying to shut down the trapping.</p> <p>Jesse R: In season reporting is difficult.</p> <p>Zach: This year Fish and Game shortened it down to a 3 week season from a 3 month season.</p> <p>Roy: Correct. The goal was to harvest 50 and we harvest 60.</p>



Alaska Board of Game Special Meeting Proposals

March 18, 2021 Web-conference

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>Zach: Difficult to meet deadline given the requirements.</p> <p>Jesse R: I am not going support any in season sealing requirement.</p> <p>Atlin D: I second that. Against any in season sealing.</p> <p>Atlin D: There is a lot of uncertainty about the numbers of wolves on prince of wales.</p> <p>Roy C: The numbers are changing. Mark recapture program and we use hair to see if we caught them in other hair snares. Complicated and hard to understand over zoom. The numbers are accurate and make sense biologically.</p> <p>Zach: What do you need?</p> <p>Roy C: It is the information we get from the sealing that is important.</p> <p>Zach: Is the data you get from field reporting sufficient?</p> <p>Roy C: We need the skin sample and that cannot be provided remotely or electronically.</p> <p>Jess R: Safety issue for getting it done in seven days</p> <p>Kristin T: What is sealing?</p> <p>Roy C: Collecting biological data and putting a marking tag through animal. Wolf pelt or part of animal can be transported across borders. Allows the trapper to sell hide.</p>



Adjournment:

Kevin M: I would like to send a doodle poll for 3 meetings in the next couple of months.

Kristine T: I move to adjourn. Passed unanimous consent

Minutes Recorded By: Thatcher Brouwer

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT



Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 2/25/2021

Location: Zoom

Call to Order: 5:33 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present	Interests/Representation
John Scoblic	Chair	Present	Commercial Seafood Processing
Sue Doherty	Vice Chair	Present	SEAS President, Salmon Enhancement (retired)
Russell Miller	Secretary	Present	Commercial Seafood Processing
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present	Salmon Enhancement, hunting, sport fishing, trapping
Beau Dale		Present	4 th generation Alaskan, hunter, fisherman, local locksmith
Clay Bezenek	Alternate	Present	Comm/sport fisherman, all around concerned citizen
Daryle James	Saxman	Present	Was a commercial fisherman, fisherman, hunter
Don Westlund		Absent	
Ginger Fox	Saxman	Present	Community of Saxman
Joe Roth		Absent	
Chris Foster	Alternate	Absent	Hunter, Fisherman
Kenny Shaw		Absent	
Nick Martin	Alternate	Absent	
Perry Leach		Absent	
Randy Williams		Absent	
Rudy Franulovich		Present	SEAK Gillnet
Devin Dalin		Absent	

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Nick Hashagan, Bob Jahnke, Joe Berry



Department Present:

Jessalynn Rintala (Board Support), Tessa Hasbrouck (ADFG, Wildlife), Ross Dorendorf (ADFG, Wildlife), Glenn Haight (Executive Director BOF)

Meeting Agenda:

Old business items:

1. BOF Meeting Schedule

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fishesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/mar/notice.pdf>

2. BOF Prop 276

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fishesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/proposals/276.pdf>

3. BOG Prop 194

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gamesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/proposals/194.pdf>

New business:

1.) Discussion and Voting on Old Business

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Doherty, move to adopt

Miller, second

Passes Unanimously 9-0

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Miller, move to adopt

Doherty, second



Passes Unanimously 9-0

Chairman's Report:

Scoblic, thank you everyone for your engagement. Regardless of how BOF goes forward we have 154 proposals to review. We should continue forward with this process with particular attention to King Salmon and Rockfish, there is a lot of interest in those areas. I would like to go to Glenn Haight. Glenn is going to address the issue of BOF scheduling. Thank you for being with us.

Haight, we have gone through an exercise to see how we could make the scheduling work. We have posted a memo on the meeting page for BOF. What drives a lot of the schedule is facility availability and Ted Ferry is the obvious place to do it. They did have a slot in available in November but for many reasons we are recommending the first few weeks in January. The timing they have available will give us 12 days, possibly 13 days. If the BOF agreed to have it, it would be between the 4th and the 15th.

We were unable to get a budget amendment in the Governor's amended budget. Normally the Governor will forward his budget to the Legislature on December 15th. Thirty days after the legislative session starts the Governor is able to amend that budget. That would have had to have happened last week and it did not include an adjustment. The BOF has the ability to lobby the Legislature to allow for a revision. I am not sure how they will do that but we will find out during the March 8th meeting.

Doherty, thank you for being here. Is there not a concern that we do not have a full Board to conduct business for the rest of the year? Is that correct?



Haight, the court decision was really between December 16th and January 18th. The statute says the governor will appoint members and a joint meeting of the legislature will come together to approve those and if they don't do that they are rejected. There are no provisions for the circumstance where a global pandemic prevents a session from occurring. The Legislature developed language that would allow them to postpone that decision. That time was December 15th. The Governor extended that time and that was what the Legislature was challenged with. Those nominations are good for a two year period. If you are rejected you can't serve again. After those two years you can be nominated and serve. We have several recent examples of that. The Governor reappointed those 4 members in questions. Mr. Woods, Jensen, Williams, Ms. Mackenzie. Their work should be considered good to go unless a judge says otherwise. Long story short, we think they are good to go.

Scoblic, we really appreciate the report and we appreciate your support, that's what we needed to hear.

I would like to take some liberty and discuss Proposal 194. I understand Ross and Tessa may have to depart to attend another AC meeting for a group that has not had an opportunity to meet with them.

Dorendorf, we are going to divide and conquer. I will attend the other meeting and Tessa will remain.

Scoblic, thank you we appreciate that.

Bezenek, we tend to kick stuff to committee when we need to discuss stuff. This is a contentious issue and I would like to see what others have to say. I would like to be on a wolf committee. It would be tremendous to educate everyone and it needs to be addressed now.

Scoblic, I would support that. We should do that.



Committee Reports:

No committee reports.

Public Comment:

Jahnke, I like the idea of a wolf management committee. The public is invited into that. One of my biggest concerns is, that what goes on in Unit 2 slides into Unit 1a. I think that puts an overburden on hunters and trappers in Unit 2. It's not just POW, there are many islands, a lot of roadless areas. This may really put a burden on trappers. I think seven days is a little too short. I understand the State is a little under the gun from those suing. Trappers in Unit 2 shouldn't be burdened anymore.

Berry, I think a wolf committee is a good idea and I would like to be a part of it. I think the seven day sealing period might burden some trappers not wanting to travel into some of the bigger communities to seal every week. I'm all for any sort of progressive movement on the management of these wolves as long as we can keep it positive.

Scoblic, the goal of the committee would be to do a deeper dive into the issue and report back to the AC.

Old Business:

Youth Outreach

Dale, I talked to Bob and was informed that his granddaughter moved to Petersburg.

Scoblic, that's good information. She attended a lot of meetings and participated. I hope she's doing well in Petersburg.

Proposal 194



Doherty, move to adopt.

Miller, second

Scoblic, the proposal is changing the sealing period to seven days. Do committee members have any questions for the Department.

Dale, it is my understanding that this proposal would allow animals in the study area to be removed for a more accurate count in-season.

Hasbrouck, we check our hair boards once a week. Its information so we can adjust our model so it isn't looking for that wolf on the landscape. It helps the robust design. This proposal lines up sealing with our hair boards checks. Ideally we want to know the exact day the wolf is removed from the landscape. More frequent sealing provides more accurate reporting.

Dale, my problem is that the proposal would include all of Unit 2 and the hair boards are only located in a fraction of the unit. For that reason I will be a no.

Hasbrouck, good point. Maybe some of those wolves on the south end haven't rubbed on a board, maybe they have. Wolves move around a lot, especially certain times of year. It would get tricky if we had different sealing requirements for different areas in Unit 2. Our goal is to get accurate data so we can maintain sustainable harvest over time.

Our goal is to work with people that are harvesting these resources and do it in a way that is beneficial for them. We worked with our Biometrician and when we remove wolves from the model due to harvest its valuable information that improves model accuracy. This wasn't a consideration when we switched to a 30 day sealing period.



Franulovich, I'm not a trapper, what is involved in the sealing process. Why can't a trapper just call in? I can understand accurate data, I am a gillnetter. We have to call in every day.

Hasbrouck, a wolf is brought in to Fish & Game or a state appointed sealer. They get information from the trapper and are given a locking tag. A genetic sample is taken.

Franulovich, what difference does it make if you get the genetic information later if you get the information phoned in.

Hasbrouck, as long as the date is recorded and the wolf marked then that would be the information we need.

Franulovich, I would recommend a 20 day situation, where they don't have to come in every 7 days as long as they have accurate information.

Allen, how quickly is the genetic sample read so it can be removed from the model?

Hasbrouck, this is one of our biggest issues. This process is very slow, it takes many months. It's not so much that we need the sample now, it's that we need accurate data. It's more burdensome for some of our bigger trappers compared to smaller ones to log all the information to provide at a later date. Earlier reporting equals better data.

Allen, would it be possible to have tags or a hunt report document they could fill out as they go. Also, I would hope the Department would reach out to sealers and attempt to make their own sealers be available as much as possible to lessen the burden on trappers.

Hasbrouck, we get this out to AC's as soon as possible. We want feedback. Later on down the road we can make changes.

Scoblic, is there any kind of logbook requirement.

Hasbrouck, no.



Doherty, there should be an easier, less burdensome way for the trappers. Use numbered color coded chin straps with harvest information that can be submitted later. I understand the necessity of the information. It's not that the 7 days is important, it's that the information is accurately recorded.

Hasbrouck, the 7 days is our fallback in case trappers forget or can't accurately record harvest data.

Daryl James leaves the meeting. Chris Foster joins.

Bezenek, I feel for all involved. I know the Department is trying to do what's best for the resource and you are under scrutiny from all sides. I can't support the 7 day sealing requirement because you are putting undue pressure on the trappers. I believe there are other ways to go about this and I would hope the BOG would make some changes. Whatever the trappers want, maybe a 14 day sealing period with the ability to call in.

Allen, question for Tessa. Do you know the history and the management strategy behind the late start to the hunting season for wolves? There is an opportunity, especially on some of the lakes on the south end to harvest in August and September. This harvest could provide information on wolves that might not be in your study area.

Hasbrouck, I can look into it but it hasn't come up in any of the conversations I've been a part of.

Miller, coming into this meeting and after hearing from Ross I was really into keeping this out of the Feds hands, keeping it in-house and managed by the state. After hearing from the public, the users, I've changed my opinion. Something that Rudy mentioned, a reporting system where the trappers can call in would be good.



Jahnke, resident hunters keep a registration ticket on their bears and turn that in, same thing with deer. Does the Department have faith in those? When you have a 5 month deer season and you don't turn that in until after the season do they have faith in that data? If they do, I don't see why they couldn't put out some type of registration card, at least in Unit 2. If you were going to be trapping in Unit 2 you could pick up a card or it could be included with your license. That to me makes a lot of sense, kinda like a logbook. Just like the personal use shrimp logbook. I've promoted logbooks in my store and recommended it to trappers since 1978. Logbooks are not that hard to do. You gotta trust the trapper. I think we lost ground on this over the years but I think we're a good road to regain that trust.

Doherty, is there a timeline for the genetic data not to be valid from harvest to collection? Is there a timeline for you?

Hasbrouck, I'm sure there is, I don't know what it is. We haven't run into any issue so far.

Scoblic, similar to Russel, I came into this thinking it was a simple ask. I wanted to support the Department. After reviewing information and listening to conversation around the table I'm going to have a hard time supporting this. I am all for State's rights and I don't want to see federal oversight but this is a difficult situation with competing interests. In summary, we have heard creative ways of collecting this data and I'm in support of the data. If I was a trapper on Long Island and I have to get into Hydaburg, potentially contending with weather, 7 days could be tough. We could be putting some honest people in a criminal situation if they can't comply with the sealing requirement. I think I am going to have to be a no.

Dale, call the question.



Fails Unanimously 0-8

Scoblic, I think we should try to have a couple more meetings before herring happens and people get busy, as early as a few weeks from now. We should prioritize King Salmon, Rockfish and other proposals the Ketchikan AC has put forward.

Fox, we should have shorter meetings but more of them.

Scoblic, I would encourage us to get out and get input from the community.

Meeting Date:

No meeting scheduled.

Adjourn: 7:18pm



Ketchikan Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 2/22/2021

Location: Zoom

Call to Order: 5:31 pm

Roll Call:

Name	Seat	Check if present
John Scoblic	Chair	Present
Sue Doherty	Vice Chair	Present
Russell Miller	Secretary	Present
Matt Allen	Secretary	Present
Beau Dale		Present
Clay Bezenek	Alternate	Excused
Daryle James	Saxman	Excused
Don Westlund		Absent
Ginger Fox	Saxman	Present
Joe Roth		Present
Chris Foster	Alternate	Absent
Kenny Shaw		Absent
Nick Martin	Alternate	Absent
Perry Leach		Absent
Randy Williams		Absent
Rudy Franulovich		Present
Devin Dalin		Present

Introductions:

Ketchikan AC members, ADFG Department Staff, Public in attendance

Public Present:

Norm Arriola, Frank James Sr., Walter Brinkman (UAS Fairbanks), Nick Hashagan



Department Present:

Annie Barthalomew (Board Support), Tessa Hasbrouck (ADFG, Wildlife), Ross Dorendorf (ADFG, Wildlife)

Meeting Agenda:

Old business items:

1. Youth Outreach

New business:

1. BOF Meeting Schedule

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fishesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/mar/notice.pdf>

2. BOF Prop 276

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/fishesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/proposals/276.pdf>

3. BOG Prop 194

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gamesboard/pdfs/2020-2021/proposals/194.pdf>

Allen, move to adopt

Doherty, second.

Fox, calls the question

Passes Unanimously 10-0

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Scoblic, we were able to meet before Covid really gripped Alaska on March 3rd, 2020. We discussed youth outreach, shrimp proposals and King salmon stocks of concern on the Unuk river. Business included proposals we wrote and submitted, the recognition of the stepping



down of Norm Skan and promotion of Randy Williams from Alternate to full voting member of the AC.

Doherty, moves to adopt

Allen, second.

Fox, calls the question

Passes Unanimously

Chairman's Report:

Scoblic, I'm meeting virtually today from Kodiak where I will be for the next few weeks. We've had some interest from a member of the community in joining the AC. We will continue to pursue that interest. Tonight I'm hoping for a brief meeting to provide the context for our next meeting in the next few days. I'd like to thank the Department for being here and would like to ask Ross if he would like to speak now or wait until we get to the wolf proposal.

Dorendorf, I'll wait until we get to the proposal.

Committee Reports:

No committee reports.

Public Comment:

Arriola, good evening, I am from Ketchikan. As we are all aware our fisheries were devastated by global warming and a two year drought in SE, AK. Sockeye have been decimated from out of state fishermen who come up to fish every summer. Our King salmon are very low. It won't be long to where there will no longer be any King salmon. Neets Bay Chum salmon and pink salmon were low. Coho are next. My



recommendation is to close herring fishing for the next four years. Thousands of tons of herring have been shipped out of Alaska since I was a youngster. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

James Sr., Fish and Game is really going to have to open their eyes and ears to what is going on, what is happening with our salmon. I'm not attempting to push blame. I've been a Fisher for 49yrs. A prominent BC scientist told me that hatchery fish are going to wipe out wild stocks. Too many fish are going out to the ocean. If you look at South America, Russia, Central Alaska, what is being put out there is going to kill off wild stock and themselves. Someone has to look into this.

I agree with Norman, we have to bring the herring back.

Old Business:

Scoblic, I reached out to Emily Ramsey about her interest in becoming an AC member. Hopefully we will see her at the next meeting. I talked with Jessalynn Rintala, it is entirely up to us how we appoint a youth AC member. The other person who may have interest is Rose Jahnke.

New Business:

Scoblic, BOF should have met in Ketchikan this January. It was postponed until April, in the meantime there was a Joint Board meeting where they talked about postponing for one year. BOF met and decided they would try to not only catchup PWS, SEAK meetings but would continue on with what was already on the schedule. In other words, they want to take up two Board cycles in one year. We have the opportunity to provide comment. If there is an in-person meeting it will be held in Ketchikan. This meeting could happen in November or January. Both of those things could benefit our community. One of



those could benefit our community and our fisheries the best. I will yield to Sue.

Doherty, the Board meeting on March 8th will be via Zoom. There will be no public comment and they will definitively decide when the SE meeting in Ketchikan will be. Board Support staff is responsible for determining the feasibility of the meeting. The November date is available in Ketchikan. The overwhelming response of the stakeholders who provided testimony in the January meeting was to shift the meeting back a year. We can comment about whether it makes sense to double up. Some things to consider, there is no current budget. Board Support staff is limited. We barely get information or finalized information by the time we have normal meetings. We have 154 proposals for our area in which we will have to comment on and we don't meet in the summer. These meetings will have to occur over Zoom. It will be difficult to get input from the community. We will end up with diminished community input.

I have some points I have articulated in writing. If we have a November meeting a lot of onerous will be placed upon the AC's to digest and comment on all these proposals.

Scoblic, my personal opinion, as one committee member, I think putting 2 cycles into one year is going to be fraught with problems.

- 1.) Budgetary constraints with the AK State Budget.
- 2.) Lack of Data. We are not going to have the data we need by November. We barely get the information we need by January.

Why would the Board want to do twice the amount of work rather than the normal amount of work? I'm a strong advocate of having the BOF in Ketchikan, of having the meeting in Ketchikan in 2022. I believe it will be safe at that time.



Doherty, ACR's are still available as an avenue to pursue new, urgent issues. It is going to be difficult for the BOF to do a good job. I would like to see the AC put ideas to paper for the next meeting.

Roth, I'm up for pushing BOF off a year.

Scoblic, we have been accused in the past of not being very mindful of the Game side of things. I worry that we may relapse if the BOF follows through with some of its schedule proposals. We have a strong Game presence on our AC and I worry those voices won't be able to inform the BOG. In the past it took several meetings to go through proposals. I'm looking around and people are going to have to make a decision in October if they are going to go to work to feed their families or are they going to attend meetings. It's just a real poor time in November.

Between Sue, Russell, Matt and myself we can come up with some bullet points to present to the committee for the next meeting.

Proposal 276 bundles up three issues with sunset dates. If BOF doesn't act they will lapse. I feel it is important that they be renewed.

Doherty, there are three regulations that will sunset in SE if they are not renewed.

- 1.) 5AAC.33.366 Northern Southeast Seine Salmon Fishery Management Plan.
- 2.) 5AAC.33.376 Deep Inlet Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan
- 3.) 5AAC.33.383 District 7: Anita Bay Terminal Harvest Area Salmon Management Plan

There is broad industry support for renewing or extending these plans for 2021.



If allowed to sunset they will revert to previous regulations. The current regulations were determined by interested gear groups based on enhanced allocation and data. In Anita Bay and Deep Inlet, instead of rotations of 1 to 1 it will revert back to 2 to 1 gillnet vs. seine. If the Northern Southeast plan lapses there will be no plan, no cap on sockeye harvest.

This is a Board generated proposal that extends the plans into 2021.

Scoblic, this keeps things the same until they are able to have a full Board meeting whether that occurs in November of 2021 or January 2022.

Franulovich, am correct in assuming that the Point Marsden, Hawk Inlet sockeye cap would remain at 15,000.

Scoblic, correct.

Franulovich, if this were to lapse would Deep Inlet revert back to 2 to 1 from 1 to 1.

Doherty, yes.

Franulovich, I think this should be allowed to lapse because Crawfish Inlet is an exclusive seine area with a large amount of chums in there.

Doherty, the industry, the United Southeast Gillnetters, the Seiners the Trollers, SEAGO, ALPHA, SEAFA all signed on that, in lieu of being able to present the allocation picture to the Board we should agree to what was agreed upon previously. It's a contentious issue every three years. Under the circumstances this is our best option.

Franulovich, what are the allocation numbers for 2020. Are they out.

Doherty, Gillnetters are up over allocation, Seiners are within allocation, Trollers below. Gillnetters are down a peg or two but are still over.



Franulovich, what are the percentages?

Doherty, I don't know, it's a 5yr rolling average, one year shouldn't make a difference.

Franulovich, we just don't know what is going to happen in Lynn Canal and Deep Inlet and I really think Gillnetters need the opportunity to go 2 to 1.

Doherty, SSRAA has decided that they are going to take the bulk of Anita for cost recovery. They are also taking the two peak weeks out of Kendrick and Nakat. The amount they are going to take out of Kendrick is going to be more than Nakat. We can go back and forth over who is over and under but that is almost beside the point. We need to determine whether we support this Board proposal.

Franulovich, I will support the idea but I also want to put forward that the Gillnetters are getting short changed in Deep Inlet.

Scoblic, we are going to go forward with the Board of Game wolf Proposal 194.

Dorendorf, prior to 2018 we managed by Emergency Order. We had a set amount of animals we were looking to harvest and would shut down by EO. This was put into place due to potential listing of the Alaska Archipelago wolf as an endangered species. It wasn't a very popular management strategy. We had a rebound in the population and we decided we could go to a time based management strategy in Unit 2. That would give trappers a set season length.

Board of Game set up a population objective. We want to have between 150-200 wolves. We also decided we did not need the 14 day sealing period and it was relaxed to 30 days post season. Unforeseen was that our model works better when we know when wolves are removed from the landscape.



There has been another petition to list the wolf. This is a little bit different than previous petitions. Instead of the entirety of their range it's focused on just SEAK. It wants to make the wolves of Unit 2 a distinct population segment and they couldn't do it when considering their entire range. A listing could mean no hunting or trapping season. We are trying to collect the best information we can. A seven day sealing period would allow us to do that.

Roth, would changing the sealing period and shortening it allow you to shut the season by EO.

Dorendorf, this is specifically targeted at trapping. We are trying to avoid closure by EO, we want to manage by season length. It's predictable and easier to plan around for trappers. If something catastrophic happens I could close by EO but I don't want to do that.

Scoblic, is this trying to get at the best data in a more timely and effective manner?

Dorendorf, we want the best possible data. We are trying to work with all groups to show we can manage these animals rather than the Fish and Wildlife Service through a listing. That is the main thing we are trying to avoid. We want a hunting and trapping season for wolves to continue and we are confident we can do so. This is a piece of the puzzle.

Allen, have you had an opportunity to receive any information or input from residents of Unit 2.

Dorendorf, this is our first opportunity outside of email. Some AC's will be having meetings shortly.

Allen, I had the opportunity to listen into a teleconference last October/November put on by ADFG and the USFS regarding wolf management in Unit 2. The overwhelming public comment was one of



frustration regarding the current management. I would anticipate that there would be some further frustration with this proposal even though I believe it is a relatively simple ask.

Dorendorf, avoiding an ESA listing is paramount. It will impact all residents of SE AK.

Doherty, I am worried that we are going to start drawing lines at borders. Is the Department finding any evidence they are genetically diverse and a separate population.

Dorendorf, it was determined that the Alexander Archipelago wolf is genetically distinct when compared to mainland and interior wolves. We can detect an individual which allows us to model and provide a population estimate. That's why we are putting forward this sealing proposal.

Dalin, are the boards located on the road system or off the road system?

Dorendorf, all of our hair boards are essentially on the road system. We have had help from the Nature Conservancy and Hydaburg, a little bit on the Kasaan peninsula and Sukkwan Island. We have to check the boards every 7 days and it is logistically difficult and expensive to do much off the road system. For our samples we generate a density estimate that we extrapolate out to the areas we don't cover. We typically cover 60-70% of Unit 2.

Dalin, with all your boards on the road system, what is to say the wolves aren't being pushed off the road system due to hunting and trapping pressure?

Dorendorf, we don't have a way to estimate in those areas we aren't sampling. We extrapolate out from where we are sampling. I don't



have any evidence to say the wolves are being pushed. Wolves are highly territorial and they will kill one another.

Allen, I would like to recommend a presentation at a more opportune time regarding this issue. I have a lot of questions but want to stick to the intent of this proposal. I think a more well informed AC and community would certainly be beneficial.

Dorendorf, of course.

Scoblic, we have our next meeting scheduled. I hope our next meeting will go smoothly. I do not want to stifle debate. Susan, Russell, Matt and I will come up with some bullet points to share with the AC regarding the proposals we discussed tonight. I'd like to thank everyone for their time.

Meeting Date:

February 25th, 2021 via Zoom

Adjourn: 7:08pm