

**Copper Basin Advisory Committee
November 10, 2014, 6:00 PM
Glennallen School, Glennallen, Alaska**

RC 015

Call to Order

Chairman, Chuck McMahan called the meeting of the Copper Basin Advisory Committee to order on November 10, 2014, at 6:12 p.m.

Roll Call

Chuck McMahan
Dave Bruss
Don Horrell
Alysia White
Dave Sarafin
Chad Gerlach
Brad Henspeter
Jim Odden
Nick Jackson
Christopher Gene
Karen Linnell

Others

Gloria Stickwan
Bruce Cain
Mark Somerville
Scott Maclean

Proposed Rule Changes at National Park Service.

Don Horrell reported to the committee the proposed regulatory changes to the National Parks in Alaska. Discussion was held over several points: leading statements of "formally illegal predator control"

We will write a letter to the Secretary of Interior, with the following points: Violation of ANILCA, leading statements, EA says received comments against black bear baiting, etc. (Ask Becky for help to write).

Fish Proposals

Proposal 33 – 5 AAC 24.361 Copper River Salmon Management Plan. Establishing a biological escapement goal (BEG) of 28,000 king salmon for the Copper River drainage, as follows: Amend the King Salmon Management Plan to achieve a BEG goal of 28,000 kings rather than sustainable escapement goal of 24,000.

Questions on decline in the Kuskokwim and the Copper River. When did the Sport Fishery start and how has that affect the king salmon fishery? KSMP implemented in 1996. Biological EG

Jim Odden moved to approve Proposal 33, seconded by Don Horrell. **Motion Failed. 0-11**

Proposal 34 – 5 AAC 24.361 Copper River Salmon management Plan. Amend the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan to provide additional management measures for king salmon in the Glennallen Sub-district fishery.

Questions on implementation and escapement concerns in the past. Questions on definition of “take”.

Karen Linnell moved to amend the proposal to add:

(e) In the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery, if the commissioner determines that additional conservation measures are necessary to achieve the escapement goals and all other king salmon fisheries have been closed, the commissioner may, by emergency order, close the Glennallen Subdistrict subsistence fishery season and immediately reopen a season during which.

Seconded by Don Horrell, **Motion carried by a vote of 11-0**

Christopher Gene moved to approve the amended proposal 34; seconded by Jim Odden. **Motion carried unanimously. 11-0**

Proposal 36 – 5 AAC 01.647 Copper River Subsistence Fisheries Management Plans and 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. In subsistence and personal use fisheries, prohibit removing a king salmon from the water if it is to be released as follows: A king salmon that is to be released may not be removed from the water prior to release.

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 36, seconded by Jim Odden. **Motion carried, 9-2.**

Sport fishing you are nailed for bringing them out of the water.

Proposal 37 - 5 AAC 01.647 Copper River Salmon Management Plan. Require a department operated check station to monitor subsistence and personal use harvest and permit compliance in the Chitina & Glennallen subdistrict, as follows: A 24-hour checkpoint manned by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) to check fish wheel permits and personal use permits and harvest levels for sockeye and Chinooks.

Discussion on what the concern is, unreported, undocumented fish takes. What counts are done. Radio Telemetry work. Distribution. Discussion on increased sockeye, diminished kings. Is the data received this going to be beneficial. 200,000 in personal use 100,000 in subsistence fishery, wild-west show down there. @ \$10 each, that's a \$3,000,000 fishery. Spending about \$100k to monitor that fishery is a small price to pay. We owe it to the resource. We have never, not met an escapement goal. This fishery is changing; we owe it to ourselves to get ahead of it. It's a good idea to call attention to the concern. Kenai, 30,000 permits, 500,000 fish harvested.

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 37, seconded by Christopher Gene.

Motion carried 7-4

Proposal 38 – 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the date for the Chitina Subdistrict personal use salmon fishery to open as early as June 1, but not later than June 11 as follows.

It seems like we should leave something in place for a while so we can see how it works. There are higher fish counts in Tanada since this has been implemented.

Nick Jackson moved to approve Proposal 38, seconded by Christopher Gene.

Motion failed 0-11

Proposal 39 – 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the Chitina Subdistrict personal use limit to be based on household size.

Increase bag limit, Align with the Kenai fishery. Record harvest in 2014.

Christopher Gene moved to approve Proposal 39, seconded by Jim Odden. **Motion failed 0-11.**

Proposal 40 – 5 AAC 77.XXX New Section. Requiring transporters to keep daily log books.

Chad Gerlach moved to approve, seconded by Nick Jackson. **Motion failed 2-9**

Proposal 42 – 5 AAC 77.591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Change the maximum harvest level for the Chitina Subdistrict Personal use fishery to 100,000 salmon.

As participation in the PUF increases, allocation will have to be adjusted to satisfy harvest satisfy harvest levels. It's been 100-150 since 2000 and has met escapement goals.

Christopher Gene moved to approve Proposal 40, seconded by Karen Linnell.

Motion fails 3-8

Proposal 43 – 5 AAC 77.591 591 Copper River Personal Use Dip Net Salmon Fishery Management Plan. Establish an allocation of 3,000 king salmon to the Chitina personal use fishery.

Currently there is a 1 per permit. There has been an increase in subsistence dip net permits for the Glennallen sub district. This has been closed by EO. River conditions, etc., play into calculations.

Karen Linnell moved to approve proposal 43, seconded by Chad Gerlach. **Motion failed 0-10**

This removes the States ability to manage the resource for sustainability.

Proposal 45 – 5 AAC 24.361 Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Repeal mandatory inside-waters closure in Copper-Rive King Salmon Management Plan.

The decision by the Board to adopt this regulation has proven that it works, data from NPS fish weirs shows that salmon migrating up to the Northern Copper River has increased since 2009.

Chad Gerlach moved to approve Proposal 45, seconded by Brad Henspeter. **Motion failed 0-10**

Proposal 46 – 5 AAC 24.3XX New Section. Restrict retention of commercially caught king salmon for a person’s own use to not exceed the king salmon sport bag limit in area caught

Basically the commercial fishermen will be buying fish from themselves.

No action

Proposal 48 – 5 AAC 24.3XX New Section. Mark District Boundaries Re-establish the installation and maintenance of markers for commercial fishing boundaries on the Copper River Flats during commercial fishing season.

No action

Proposal 49 – 5 AAC 52.023 Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area.

This increases the season length from 40 to 70 days. There are concerns for the fish population at this time, increasing the season is not in the interest of maintaining healthy populations.

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 49, seconded by Alysia White. **Motion failed 0-10**

Proposal 50 – 5 AAC 52.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Prohibit use of barbed hooks, multiple hooks and bait when fishing for king salmon in the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area.

Barbless hook. Mortality is more about hook placement vs. Barbs, education of hooking fish, that affect mortality.

No Action

Proposal 51 – 5 AAC 52.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. prohibit barbed hooks after limit reached.

Chad Gerlach moved to approve proposal 51, seconded by Karen Linnell. **Motion failed 4-5-1**

Proposal 52- 5 AAC 24.361 Copper River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit use of barbed and multiple hooks with or without bait if the sport fishery is restricted to catch-and-release, as follows: proposed barbed or multiple hooks with/without bait.

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 52, seconded by Brad Henspeter. **Motion fails. 1-9**

Proposal 53 – 5 AAC 52.022 General provisions for seasons, bag, possession and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area, and 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Clarify that a single-hook artificial lure is an artificial lure with one single-hook or one fly

This is a single hook is one hook on a line.

Housekeeping proposal. Questions on language.

Dave Saraphin moved to amend for clarification as follows.

Paragraph 1 and 2 (a)

One Single hook or artificial lure equipped with one single hook

Seconded by Karen Linnell. Motion passed 9-1

Dave Saraphin moved to approve as amended, seconded by Karen Linnell. **Motion carried. 8-2**

Proposal 54 – 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area increase bag limit for grayling from 10/per day & 10 possession and only 5 of which may be 14 inch or longer.

This is a significant increase. that's what it used to be. More fishermen for Salmon fishery.

Nick Jackson moved to approve Proposal 54, seconded by Don Horrell. **Motion fails 2-8**

Proposal 55 – AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Amend special provisions for rainbow trout in Tebay River drainage.

Tebay drainage, to correct an unintended omission by adding Bridge Creek to the regulations to keep rainbow/steelhead trout

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 55, seconded by Don Horrell. **Motion carried 10-0**

Proposal 56 – 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Update the Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Area stocked waters regulation,

This is removing lakes from Statewide Stocking Plan

Jim Odden moved to approve Proposal 56, seconded by Don Horrell. **Motion carried 10-0**

Proposal 57 – 5 AAC 52.023. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Upper Copper River and Upper Susitna River Area. Amend methods and means for burbot in a portion of the Copper River drainage to reference statewide regulations,

This has special provisions for season, bag, possession and size limit.

Jim Odden moved to approve Proposal 57, seconded by Brad Henspeter. **Motion carried 10-0**

Proposal 261 – 5 AAC 41.070. Prohibitions on importation and release of live fish. Modify prohibitions on importation and release of live fish to specifically address amphibians in Alaska,

This prohibits the release of live amphibians released to stocking or rearing in the waters or land of the state.

Karen Linnell moved to approve Proposal 261, seconded by Brad Henspeter. **Motion carried 10-0**

Proposal 262 – 5 AAC 41.005 Permit required. Modify permitting requirements to specifically address the collection, transport, and possession of amphibians in Alaska,

Permitting required for transport of live fish and amphibians.

Karen moved to approve Proposal 262, seconded by Nick Jackson. **Motion carried 9-0-1.**

Proposal 265 – 5 AAC 75.XXX Use of earthworms as bait. Ban the use of live earthworms as bait in freshwater sport fishing, Earth worms,

Live worms cannot be used as bait.

No Action

Proposal 267 – 5 AAC 75.023 Freshwater sport fishing. Repeal exception for use of footwear with felt soles while sport fishing in fresh water, Felt soles transport, algae, invasive plant species.

People are allowed to use felt bottom boots for hunting and travel into many of the same bodies of water that the fishermen go into. It is safer for the individual to walk with felt bottom boots.

Karen moved to approve Proposal 267, seconded by Jim Odden. **Motion carried 7-3**

Board of Fish Meeting

Chairman Chuck McMahan asked if anyone was going to go to the Board of Fish meeting on December 3-8, 2014 that could speak on behalf of the Advisory Committee. Nick Jackson volunteered. This was met with no objection. Nick Jackson will represent the Copper Basin Advisory Committee at the December 3-8, 2014 meeting.

Adjournment

Karen Linnell moved to adjourn, seconded by Don Horrell. Motion carried. The meeting of the Copper Basin Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:55 p.m. on November 10, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Linnell
Secretary.