

NORTHERN



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Minutes from November 12 & 13 NSRAA Board of Directors Meeting pertinent to Troll Allocation, Crawfish Inlet and quid pro quo board of fish proposal #176. Full sections pulled from November minutes, non relevant section not included but available. Most pertinent sections highlights for ease of board of fisheries members.

Status of New Projects and Loans – SE Cove, Crawfish and Crawfish Operating

Steve reviewed NSRAA's debt obligations with the Board. NSRAA has secured two loan obligations through the Alaska Fisheries Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund. One for SE Cove for up to \$1.1 million dollars and one for Crawfish Inlet for up to \$1.9 million dollars. \$700,000 of \$1.1 for SE Cove is spent and \$700,000 of the \$1.9 for Crawfish is spent. NSRAA is also considering an operational loan of \$600,000 for Crawfish Inlet. More will be explained during Scott's presentation.

Scott gave a report on the infrastructure development for SE Cove. Nets, a feed barge, incubators and some other items were purchased from Kake. On the subject of permits: the 55M PAR chum request was approved. It is tied to Gunnuk Creek hatchery but if Gunnuk Creek goes away, NSRAA would have to re-apply to have it transferred to the HF facility. The PAR permit application for 200,000 Chinook for Gunnuk Creek will be reviewed at the Fall Regional Plan Team meeting. The DNR tidelands lease has been issued to NSRAA for SE Cove. The ACOE permit is being transferred to NSRAA. It is currently out for review because the original permit needs to be amended to reflect all the changes that have taken place since 1980. The new construction on the barges is under way in Campbell River B.C. and they will be delivered by American Patriot in January, along with the four new net pens. The fish food has been ordered. We do have 20 M eggs for SE Cove this year, not the 35 million that we had hoped to start with, because of the difficulties obtaining broodstock at Hidden Falls. They will all be raised for 4.0 gram size at release.

For the Crawfish Inlet project, 120 Nopad incubators have been manufactured by Mike Litman (Sitka Precision Boatworks), the Crawfish anchor system, and other stuff has been ordered. Staff is figuring out a way to transfer the crew back and forth. The barge construction and 20 net pens for Crawfish will be in Seattle in January, the same as for HF barge and pens.

The SMC improvements were reviewed. Housing is being provided on site. Medvejie improvements were reviewed. Permits 30 M PAR permit for Crawfish was approved at RPT. The 600,000 Chinook PAR and FTP for Crawfish (Medvejie) are approved. The ACOE and DNR Tidelands permits are done for Crawfish Inlet. Eggs were transferred to SMC on Monday and should be hatching in the next week or so.

More work needs to be done: the Medvejie raceways plan is being tweaked. The Medvejie channel needs to be excavated for 24 hr access. The second half of the incubators needed for CRFSH need to be built. All the ponding equipment needs to be built at SMC for CRFSH. We need the ACOE and DNR tidelands permits for piling at Medvejie so we can have the barge safely on site there. A Board member asked about the size of the fishing area at CRFSH Inlet. Two sites are approved; A rearing site and a storage site. A marine chart of the area was requested to inform the Board.

Steve summarized the RPT meeting for the Board. The fact that NSRAA was able to secure the CRWFSH permit is a credit to the General Manager's ability to rationally discuss and justify NSRAA's request. Sportfish Division and the genetics folks extensively discussed the proposal and finally agreed on 30 M chum eggs to start, and that the Index stream in West Crawfish will be monitored for strays. **Crawfish Inlet is being developed as a troll preference fishing area. A plan for cleaning up the Inlet will be necessary.** Chinook are permitted to be released there but we (NSRAA) haven't decided where they are coming from, they would have to come from an existing program, either Medvejie or Halibut Point freshwater-reared chinook. There is no immediate plan for coho at CRFSH. A map was posted so Board members could see the area in detail. A Board member said, at the RPT the understanding was that the Inlet has to be cleaned up once a week. Board members spent some time speculating about how the fish would behave and what they would do to catch them. The General Manager appreciated the ADFG working with NSRAA to establish the areas.

Motion 11/12/14 (e) M/S Deb /Mike N. To borrow up to \$750,000 for two years of operating loans for Crawfish Inlet program to cover FY '15 March to May 2015 and FY '16 March to May 2016. The terms on this and the other loans mentioned earlier are 5% interest-free the first six years then interest begins to accrue the seventh year. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Break

BOF PROPOSALS

The President said this topic is before us because the General Manager needs direction from the Board on how to represent NSRAA's position (support, oppose, stay neutral) on proposals that affect NSRAA that will be heard before the Board of Fish. Steve said there are two groups of proposals the first group (#176 Northern Enhancement Plan and #188 SE Cove Area Mgt Plan) all concern the SE Enhancement Allocation Plan; whether it should be changed, how it is being implemented. The second group concerns issues from Kootznahoo and the SE RAC (Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee). The Board began to discuss Proposal 176 which directs NSRAA, DIPAC and the NS RPT to develop a plan to rectify the troll imbalance and it provides specific target harvest percentages and timelines. A Board member wondered if we were getting out ahead of individual gear groups who will, no doubt be voting on these proposals. **Two trollers said they are not supportive of 176, not because they are against the general concept of remedying the allocation, but because the language is too specific in instructing what must be done. Motion 11/12/14 (i) Jordan/Moore The NSRAA Board does not support Proposal 176 because the language directing the Board is too restrictive and the specific time frame is unworkable.** <editorial note** Jordan/Moore are chum trollers>

A representative of the Chum Trollers Association (CTA) explained that she felt there must be oversight from the Board of Fish to ensure NSRAA will act to correct the imbalance and that 176 applies to any gear group below their range, not just trollers. Board members discussed why NSRAA would not remain neutral on the proposal and it was thought a statement needed to be made so the General Manager could be clear on the Board position. Board members discussed the Sawmill Creek coho and Crawfish Inlet projects that are being developed to address the allocation imbalance and to provide more opportunity to the chum trollers. A representative of the chum trollers was allowed to speak. Her point of view was that the NSRAA Board was not doing enough to address the imbalance and needed to be educated on how to better manage

projects so they would be more productive for chum trollers especially by providing for blocks of time. A Board member stated 46% of the budget is being spent on coho and king salmon production, primarily to benefit the troll group. The CTA representative stated she thought SSRAA was a more successful example and she wanted the NSRAA Board to work more like the SSRAA Board. The Vice President spoke and said, "The NSRAA Board is working exactly like the SSRAA Board because each project to address the allocation imbalance has the full support of all the gear group members of the Board. In the case of SSRAA at Neets Bay, those chums and the opportunity to fish on them, was given to the trollers because SSRAA did not need the area for cost recovery as much, and those fish were not being caught by any group. The NSRAA Board has not supported the chum troller's previous requests for a block of time in the Deep Inlet area because it would have taken existing fishing opportunities away." The President stated that he wanted a complete discussion of the topic but we are at the end of the day. He invited the chum trollers to stay later if they want to discuss the opportunity that will be provided by the Crawfish Inlet project. Personally, he does not support 176 because he thinks the NSRAA Board will find the best solution to the allocation issue, one that all the Board will support.

Motion 11/12/14 (j) M/S Richie/John To Table the motion (i) under discussion. The motion carried unanimously <editorial note** we spent 3 hours the evening of November 12 in discussion with three chum trollers, one on the NSRAA board, two on the Chum Troller board>

Board of Fisheries Proposals – Return to Discussion

After a discussion of the proper parliamentary procedure the following motion was offered: **Motion 11/12/14 (o) M/S Richie/Mike. The NSRAA Board is opposed to Board of Fish Proposals #175 and #176.** The General Manager is to present that position to the Board of Fish and to convey the sentiments as previously expressed by the Board; that the best decisions on how to bring folks back into the allocation range is made on a program-by-program, case-by-case basis, with the full participation of all the affected groups. The Board expressed confidence that the General Manager would be able to represent the Board's position and answer any questions from the Board of Fisheries members. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Proposal 188 was discussed. It has to do with the SE Cove terminal harvest area and would provide blocks of time for chum trolling in the THA. This is NSRAA's cost recovery area and usurps our ability to manage for NSRAA programs and for rotational fisheries as determined by the Board. Under the current terms with Commerce this is a cost recovery-only area for the next four years, so there is no option for fisheries in the terminal area in the next four years. **Motion 11/12/14 (p) M/S Ritchie/William The NSRAA Board opposes 188. The motion passed unanimously.**

Kootznahoo Proposals #192 Requires the recording of sockeye. Personal use and subsistence use are already required on fish tickets, so Board action is not required.

Discussion of proposals that change the Seine Management Plan: **Motion 11/12/14 (q) Richie/George. NSRAA opposes all the proposals that limit the ability of the ADF&G to make science-based management decisions.** NSRAA supports the management of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Discussion began specific to #193 and #200 but was broadened in application. **Passed Unanimously.**

Motion 11/12/14 (r) M/S Barry/Justin Proposals #198 and #201. NSRAA is in support of the proposals that put into regulation the current closed areas in front Basket Bay and Angoon. The motion carried with 19 in favor 1 opposed.

Crawfish Inlet Discussion

Motion 11/12/14 (s) M/S James Moore and Zach. Crawfish Inlet will be managed for troll and cost recovery only the first two years of returning production, unless cost recovery in year one exceeds \$1,000,000. This is based on the first year of the four year old return (2018). This troll/cost recovery designation will then be subject to annual evaluation and review by the Board. Motion passed unanimously. The proposal was offered after extensive discussion between the gear groups that had been occurring outside the Board meeting, ever since the Spring meeting and was meant to reassure the trollers that the most opportunity that could be, would be provided and that if the effort was not adequate to harvest the return and cost recovery reaches unwanted levels then the Board will be required to act to provide for common property fisheries. The 2015 fish will return as 3 year olds in 2017 and the four year olds in 2018.

