

Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Oct 9, 2018
NERRS Building

RC 22

Call to Order: 6:03 by Dave Lyon (chair)

Roll Call:

Members Present: Dave Lyon (chair), Tom Young (vice chair), George Matz (secretary), Michael Craig, Thomas Hagberg, Lee Martin, Doug Malone, Dan Anderson, Marvin Peters, Dennis Wade, Wes Humbyrd, Jim Meesis, Gary Sinnhuber, Joey Allred

Members Absent: Phillip Jones, Ty Gates, Robert Finom

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: None

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: NA

Fish and Game Staff Present: Jason Herreman, Jeff Selinger.

Guests Present: Doug Reid, Penelope Haas, Jason Okuly (State Parks), Alisha Beach (AST).

ACR 2: Cap statewide private non-profit salmon hatchery egg take capacity (Virgil Umphenour)

Committee Discussion: There was considerable discussion about the increasing release of private non-profit hatchery fish, particularly pinks, and their impact on the marine environment (especially the overall carrying capacity) and how this might be impacting other species of salmon. The general tone was that rather than continue this trend towards more and more hatchery fish, the brakes need to be applied and we need to more clearly assess conditions. It was felt that the best way of achieving this, with minimal disruption to the fisheries, was to put a cap of the release of salmon based what it was several years ago when the hatchery fish weren't as intrusive. This would provide a more certain base of information for more critical review.

Committee Position: The first motion was "Reduce the current number of hatchery produced fish released to what it was in 2013." This would go back two pink salmon life cycles. This passed with 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstaining.

Further discussion on the issue was based on the need to go back even a bit more to be able to assess impacts on reds and kings, which have a longer life cycle. An amendment was proposed to base the cap on what private non-profit hatcheries releases were 10 years ago. The amendment passed with 12 in favor, 1 opposing, and 1 abstaining. A vote on the amended motion was 12 in favor, 0 opposing, and 2 abstaining.

ACR 5: Prohibit fishing in the waters of the Homer Spit Marine Terminal barge basin (Homer Spit Properties LLC)

Committee Discussion: There was general agreement that fisherman in boats that enter and fish the tidal basin can create a hazard to barge traffic. However, some did think that those fishing from the shore outside the basin and within the intertidal area not as much of a hazard and have a legal right to fish there. There was also some discussion as to whether or not the proposal seeks to claim navigable rights of public waters with several stating opposition to that. There was

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considerable discussion as to how the hazard might be reduced by relocating the markers, signage, etc.

Committee Position: The motion “Close the barge basin to all fishing” was passed with 13 in favor and 1 opposing. This motion is essentially the same as the solution preferred by the proposer.

The opposing vote was based on opposition to restrictions being placed on public access and ceding public navigable rights to private land owners. While the motion passed by the AC doesn’t do that, it was felt that the proposal treads too close to infringing on public rights.

New Business: We discussed the recently released draft of an updated Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Area Management Plan.

The first issue we discussed was “DPOR has received new applications to authorize helicopter use in support of heli-skiing operations. Landing within the park is currently prohibited unless authorized.” The AC discussed this issue which mostly centered on the impact this would have on prime winter goat habitat in the Tutka-Sadie Cove area. We also considered input from Jason Herreman who handed out ADF&G’s position which expressed similar concerns. This led to a motion to “Oppose helicopter skiing in winter based on the negative impact this activity would have to local goat populations.” It was passed with 13 in favor and 1 abstaining. Chair Dave Lyon will present this issue at the upcoming public meeting.

Another issue we took up is the impact that would likely occur to ducks, gulls, and terns that nest in the Glacier Spit beach as well as foraging Kittlitz’s and Marbled Murrelets just off shore because of heavier human use proposed for this area, including more trails. This area provides critical habitat for birds, especially murrelets. A recent journal publication said “Our surveys consistently found the southeastern side of LCI and inner Kachemak Bay to be high-use “hotspots” for both Kittlitz’s and Marbled murrelets... Within Kachemak Bay, the most consistent foraging area for both murrelet species in summer lies between Glacier Spit and Bear Cove... Kachemak Bay is also unique in the relatively high number of Kittlitz’s Murrelet juveniles observed at sea in late summer.” There was discussion whether a motion should oppose new trails in the Grewingk Glacier Management Unit or designate the unit as a Natural Zone. Some felt that this wasn’t the only area that had too many proposed trails, so the consensus was to focus on no new trails. This motion passed unanimously with 14 in favor. Chair Dave Lyon will present this issue at the upcoming public meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Next meeting will be Nov. 13, 2018, KBRR building 6 pm.

Minutes taken by: George Matz

Approved by: Chair Dave Lyon

Date Approved: October 10, 2018