

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
November 13th – November 15th, 2009
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**Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of September 30, 2009**

*Allen, Scott
Archie, Western
BOF*

Roll Call: Burnett, Dykema, Bucy, Harding, Shadura II, Crawford, Beard, Brandt, Carmichael, Hunt, Payne, Bernecker present. Corr, Lucking, and Mandurano absent.

Crawford asked committee members to give update on their summer.

Acknowledged Jeff Selinger, Jeff Fox, Robert Begich from ADF&G.

Fish and Game Biologists will give update.

Crawford read a letter to support Board of Fisheries Proposal 13.

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Dave Atcheson spoke to the proposal. One of a kind fishery for Chinook salmon. Brought in conjunction with the Pebble Mine Project, to preserve the fishery. Recommendation to protect the habitat in this fishery. Asking the BOF to recommend to the Legislature to protect this fishery.

Shadura II this is an unusual way to request action on this proposal.

Concern regarding the vagueness on this proposal and what the intent of the author.

Discussion by AC members on this proposal.

Carmichael: Use of the word refuge could in the future close this area down to everyone that uses the resource in this area.

Crawford: Dave could you bring specific points on the intent of this proposal back to the AC before we make a decision.

Shadura II asked Selinger to give a report on the DLP's for this year.

Selinger gave a report DLP's this year. 19 to 20 DLP's.

Beard asked if unreported DLP's have increased.

Selinger is not really sure. There are always bears shot and not reported.

More adult female mortality. Settled on 10 female mortalities. 8 Females so far. When they hit 10 the season will close. Explanation of bear season and regulations regarding harvest.

Break at 7:30PM – 7:45PM

Jeff Fox from ADF&G, harvest for this year was 3mil, commercial 2 mil, sport .5 mil. Kasilof went over goal. King season was restricted by the BOF for 2 periods, Regular periods were fished everywhere additional periods in Kasilof, restricted periods for drifters and Northern district. Chinook harvest was 7,000, one of the lowest harvests they've had. Forecast for 2010 for Kenai is worse than this year.

Beard asked to explain how a forecast is done. Fox gave a brief explanation of how they figure a forecast.

Crawford overall how was the commercial catch?

Fox the commercial catch was poor. Estimate on personal use 200,000 fish, sport catch about the same.

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Robert Begich from ADF&G gave an update on Sport fish escapements.

ACR 3, comments from ADF&G are still working on them. Comments from Dept., were not written well.

The comments from ADF&G are supposed to be out October 1, 2009. BOF Workshop is October 13, 2009.

Shadura II made a motion to support ACR 3, Dykema seconded. Questions directed at the Department. Burden of conservation is not being shared. 2/10/0

Board of Game Proposals

Harding moved to support proposal 6, Bucy seconded. No Biological justification, wolf numbers are fine. 0/12/0

Harding moved to support proposal 8, Dykema seconded. Prejudice proposal. 0/12/0

Harding moved to support proposal 19, Payne seconded. Education of pilots for guided hunts. 2/10/0

Harding moved to support proposal 25, Bucy seconded. Discussion on 2 caribou for nonresidents, losing hunts because of lower limit. Economic Impact. Burnett called the question, 10/2/0.

Harding moved to support proposal 29, Carmichael seconded. 0/12/0 Biological justification, wolf numbers are fine.

Harding moved to support proposal 33, Carmichael seconded. No biological justification. 0/12/0

Harding moved to support Proposal 34 regarding diseased or tainted game. Peggy seconded. Discussion that there already regulations that address this issue, this is a redundant proposal asking for special consideration to a certain area. 0/12/0

Carmichael made a motion for Chair Crawford to write a letter in regards to Proposal 34, Harding seconded, motion passes with unanimous consent.

Crawford asked to represent AC in Nome for Board of Game seeing no objection he will represent Kenai/Soldotna AC in Nome.

Alaska Outdoor Council, caribou hunt in GMU 13, violates equal access law.

No meeting date set yet. Waiting for information on Board of Fisheries Proposal 13 from Dave Atcheson, and from the Alaska Outdoor Council regarding caribou hunt in Unit 13.

Brandt moves to adjourn, Burnett seconded.

Attn: Scott BOG-Western/Arctic

Members Present: Marcel Isadore of Alakanuk; Ted Hamilton of Emmonak; Joseph Bell of Hooper Bay; Marvin Okitkun of Kotlik; Nick Andrews Sr of Marshall; Stan Sheppard of Mountain Village; Evan Polty, Sr of Pilot Station; John Riley, Sr of Pitka's Point; Anthony Ulak, Ole Hunter of Scammon Bay.

Public Present: Humphrey Keys of Emmonak, Harry Wilde, Paul Beans of Mountain Village, Ale

Staff Present: Phil Perry, Amy Marsh, Sherry Wright

The teleconference began at 10 am with roll call. A quorum was present. The minutes of the October 7-8, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

Phil Perry led the discussion for the BOG proposals.

Board of Game proposals

Proposal 1

Action: Tabled

Modify the resident season dates for moose in the Goodnews River drainage area

Comments: The people of Goodnews Bay would rather not have a quota. Since this affects the Kuskokwim area, they would prefer what is appropriate for them. Although the area doesn't want a quota, the small size of the population warrants it. We suggested a quota of 25. We would prefer to let that quota fluxuate. Prefer to table it, because it is not in our area. We would prefer to hear from Good News Bay and Platinum before commenting. Motion to table was unanimous.

Proposal 2

Action: Tabled

Lengthen the season dates for resident moose hunting in GMU 18

Comments: This is in the Kuskokwim closed area. Ages of the moose was discussed and the bull cow ratio that was used in the Lower Yukon 5-year moratorium. Prefer to table rather than discuss Kuskokwim proposals. 1000 plus permits for a very small number of moose, then increasing the season is pretty detrimental to the moose. Deferred to the Lower Kuskokwim AC. Motion to table was unanimous.

Proposal 3

Action: Tabled

Open a winter moose season for residents of Kuskokwim area in GMU 18

Comments: It is believed the people are asking for help with this additional hunt. There is opportunity for a winter hunt on the Yukon. Some travel in order to participate. Biologically, it may be somewhat premature as the population is not quite there yet. Weather is a huge factor, as well as higher fuel prices. More pressure on the Lower Yukon if this area remains closed was expressed. If there is an open season, the mortuary/funeral harvest must be allowed. There will be a requirement that the harvest be a bull for the next few years, in an effort to build up the population of moose. Prefer to table and defer to Kuskokwim area residents. Motion to table approved unanimously.

Proposal 4

Action: Support

Change the boundary for the Kuskokwim River moose permit hunt area

Comments: This would allow people to travel up the Johnson River to harvest moose. This is a housekeeping proposal, with an intention to clarify that boundary line to benefit hunters. Motion was supported unanimously.

Proposal 5:

Action: Support 8-2

Change the boundary and extend moose hunting season for residents of the Lower Yukon

Amendment 1: Fall resident season August 20 – October 10 – Support 10-0

Amendment 2: Fall resident season October 1 – 10 any moose - Support 10-0

Comments: This will benefit hunters in the field trying to determine the legal area. The weather fluxuates and extending the season to February 28 will allow more opportunity. In the fall hunt, it was preferred for dates of Aug 25 – Oct 10. In some areas in the end of September, the bulls are getting really strong. The coastal areas tend to be more controlled by ocean weather and don't start smelling until early October. Further upriver – they are smelling near the end of September.

Proposal 35:

Action: Support 11-0

Revisit the ANS for moose in GMU 18, 19, and 21

Comments: Amy Marsh of Subsistence Division provided a report on ANS for moose in GMU 18.

The committee then discussed the proposal. Low water affects the number of moose seen. The current number does not accurately reflect the amount that is needed for people, particularly in years of low salmon returns like this past summer. Emmonak alone harvested 135 moose in 2008. That is just one community in Unit 18. The opportunity to get moose more locally, the opportunity to harvest and the need to limit other users in order to meet our subsistence needs are important considerations. If people are coming on tribal land, it is important to get some compensation. As the planes fly over, they are driving the moose further away, making local harvest more difficult. One of the most important tools you have when you go hunting is your paper and pen. If you don't recognize them, go up to them find out who they are, why are they there and why are they trespassing on our tribal lands? Wildlife enforcement needs to be sensitive to the fact people are camping waiting for the moose to come and even their planes are landing, driving the moose away. We are only given a few days to hunt and don't need the harassment. Moose populations seem to be rising. If this year is like last year, we'll have lots of snow and difficulty in harvest. Prefer that sport hunters work with Native Corporations. The proposal needs a lot of thought. GMU 18 is a very large area. Perhaps dividing up the ANS below Mountain Village having one number, above Mountain Village another number, letting the Kuskokwim figure out their own number. 80 – 100 moose is just a "cup of soup". Harvest on the Lower Yukon was reported last year as between 350 – 460 moose, with 90 – 95 % of that number consisting of local harvest (at the October 20, 2009 meeting). The requirements and length of time to become a guide don't benefit the local hunters. I see lots of moose experts that couldn't even become a guide, but would be much better guides than the ones I see on TV. Bigger bull moose around Marshall are further back. If we eliminate those younger bull calves, we'll have nothing but females who won't produce any calves. Changes on the moose hunting harvest need to be made. It took almost 13 days to get a moose and most he saw was young bulls with their Momma's. Nothing is easy that you want – it takes effort. Young bulls are easier to catch because they are not educated yet. It's sad to hear about opening up young bull season. This proposal was discussed primarily at the October 7-8, 2009 meeting.

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Of October 20, 2009 teleconference

Agenda will also include discussion on the draft letter to send NPFMC, who is willing and available to attend the upcoming board meetings and where and when we will hold the next LYAC meeting. Ted will mail the letter to the AC members for their input and send the letter to NPFMC in December.

The Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee approved to send Marvin Okitkun as 1st choice, John Riley as 2nd choice, Evan Polty, Sr as 3rd choice to represent them at the Board of Game meeting November 13 – 16 in Nome.

The Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee approved to send Ted Hamilton as 1st choice, Stanislaus Sheppard as 2nd choice to represent them at the Board of Fisheries AYK meeting January 26 – 31 in Fairbanks.

The next teleconference will be held April 7 at 10 am to get an update from the representatives who attended the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries meetings. We will also see if there are any Agenda Change Requests (due in August) for the Board of Fisheries.

The next meeting will be held in Emmonak to take up BOG Arctic Western Region in Fall 2011 with officer elections.

YRFDA will be having a meeting in Anchorage October 27th. There are no representatives from the Lower Yukon AC for that group. Ted will contact them to see about travel assistance and/or teleconference capability.

The Lower Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee have several members whose terms have expired. Suggestions on ways to get updated membership was to continue to work with the Tribal Councils included representatives reporting back to the council the activity of the Advisory Committee.

There is a desire of the Advisory Committee to restart the Moose Management Working Group. There were limited funds when this was discussed from the Russian Mission meeting. When the harvesters and managers are working together, it seems to benefit everyone. Stan will draft a letter to Phil Perry and/or Tim Andrew of AVCP. Harvesting the moose is desired, but with caution.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.