

Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee

Sub Committee Meeting for BOF Area M - DRAFT

Minutes were condensed for compliance with BOF late comments requirements. Detailed notes are available on request.

February 20, 2013

Dillingham Office of Alaska Dept. Fish and Game

Minutes

I. Call to Order: 11:11 AM

****NOTE this meeting was for the AC Sub-Committee as established at the Jan 8 meeting.*

Excerpt From Jan 8 minutes:

NEW BUSINESS

AREA M BOF Meeting: "In the interest of time" Robert moved to direct the chair to form a subcommittee to consider and **act on Area M proposals on behalf of the whole AC ASAP** after the WASSIP meeting Jan. 17. **Adopted Unanimous.**

Frank invited Robert H., Tom O, Dan D, Travis B., and will ask Robin S. other AC members & public welcome to attend. Meetings will be advertised to public.

BBEDC WASSIP's work group to meet January 17. **** End Excerpt.*

II. Roll Call: Present in chambers

Subcommittee

Frank Woods - Dlg Chair,
Dan Dunaway - Dlg Secretary
Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor - Dlg
Robert Heyano - Dlg

Absent

Robin Samuelson - Dlg - excused
Travis Ball - Aleknagik - excused snowed in

Others in Attendance:

Mariano Floresta - Clarks Point by conference phone.
Susie Brito ADFG Boards
Matt Jones ADFG Com Fish
Gayla Woods BBNA
Tim Sands ADFG Com Fish
Mike Mason KDLG News

III. Approve Agenda:

Robert H move to adopt Dan D 2nd and asked for unanimous consent. No objections.

IV. Introductions: All present briefly introduced themselves.

V. New Business:

Board of Fish - AK Pen/ Aleutian Is. (Area M) Comment Deadline Feb 12, 2013; meeting is Feb 26- Mar 4, 2013 in Anchorage at the Sheraton Hotel.

Testimony, AC rep allowed 10 min, individuals 3 min.

During the Committee as a Whole the proposals will be read then anyone with new information can stand up and speak, for a length determined by the Chairman.

PROPOSAL DELIBERATIONS

SubCom decided to address proposals according the BOF Tentative Roadmap and to speed the meeting, as much as possible use unanimous consent where there was consensus.

Proposal 250 : Opposed – Unanimous

Board generated proposal Gillnet specifications & operations. Set net "permit stacking" in Ugashik & Egekik:

Nush AC originally supported sunset of this experiment & Opposed to stacking set nets.

Process concerns; request BOF justify this proposal when previous actions in December, Naknek approved the sunset. This issue was thoroughly considered in December. Is there any new info? To revisit the issue out of region and out of cycle defeats purpose of regional board meetings. The AC has concern for adequate public awareness when taken up out of region. We have concerns whether this is an appropriate use of a board generated proposal that is out of cycle and out of region and should have been put in the statewide meeting schedule.

Nush AC refers again to CFEC study showing stacking favors outmigration of permits, elevates costs out of reach of locals. Impacts permit prices bay-wide and permit holders in other districts will bear the brunt of cost inflation.

This amounts to a fishery restructuring proposal. Nushagak AC's proposal (62) that addressed restructuring in a more thorough manner was rejected in December meeting. Restructuring should be addressed broadly with all aspects and impacts considered. The board referenced those tools they already have in place. We feel they haven't come close to the tools referenced by the board.

Proposals 162-164 : No Action - Unanimous

Groundfish Robert Move Dan 2nd

Proposals 173-175 : Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S AK Pen SEDM Robert Move Dan 2nd

These would expand interceptions in mixed stock fisheries and is counter to the Board's Mixed Stock Fishery Policy.

Proposals 179-183 : Support in Concept - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S AK Pen June Mgt. Plan Robert Move Tom 2nd

Nushagak AC supports reducing the intercept of Bristol Bay salmon. At no time in the June S Pen fishery should interceptions exceed 8.3% of the Bristol Bay salmon forecast.

We request the BOF consider restricting this fishery by time and area to reduce sockeye interceptions, particularly in years of expected low returns to Bristol Bay spawning areas.

We understand "chum caps" are unenforceable.

We support terminalizing Area M fisheries by creating fishing district boundaries closer to local stock spawning areas.

Proposals 187-190 : Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S AK Pen Post-June Mgt Plan. Robert Move Dan 2nd

Nushagak AC requests more time and area restrictions. Especially concerned about major B. Bay salmon interceptions in Ikaton Bay as revealed in the WASSIP studies. This is a significant departure from run assumptions made prior to WASSIP. Time & area restrictions should be imposed on S. Pen post June especially when Bristol Bay salmon return forecasts are low to assure the burden of conservation is shared widely.

We request that S. Pen district boundaries expanded in 2007 be restored to pre 2007 sizes. We believe those 2007 expansions likely increased interception of Bristol Bay salmon - and were counter to BOF Mixed Stock Policy 5AAC 39.220(d).

Proposals 198, 199, 201-208 : Support in concept - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon N AK Pen Northern Dist. / Area T overlap. Tom Move Robert 2nd

Nushagak AC supports harvesting of salmon stocks close to their drainage of origin - to "terminalize" the harvest to reduce interception of Bristol Bay salmon stocks and promote local stock management.

Proposal 200 : Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon N AK Pen Northern Dist. Area T overlap Establish a sockeye fishery in Cinder River Section. Robert Move Tom 2nd

Nushagak AC opposes creating this fishery until stock composition data is available.

Proposal 196 : Strongly Oppose - Unanimous

Gear Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M. Allow monofilament gillnets. Tom Move Robert 2nd

Nushagak AC expects monofilament net would substantially increase efficiency in the area. Opposed to any gear modifications that increase efficiency and interceptions in mixed stock fisheries.

This is contrary to the Mixed Stock Policy and essentially would amount to an expansion of a mixed stock fishery as well as potentially change allocations among areas.

Proposal 209 : Strongly Support - Unanimous

Genetics Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M. Create terminal harvest areas in Area M Robert Move Dan 2nd

Nushagak AC STRONGLY supports using the WASSIP data to reduce interception of sockeye bound for Bristol Bay spawning areas by requiring Area M harvests to occur closer to local Area M terminal salmon streams.

In times of low Bristol Bay sockeye forecasts or runs WASSIP data could be used to focus time and area restrictions to reduce interception.

Proposal 210, 211 : No Action - Unanimous

Genetics Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M. Place holders Robert Move Tom 2nd

Proposal 176, 177 : Opposed - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen SEDM. Robert Move Tom 2nd

Nushagak AC supports Chignik's concerns for increased harvest on mixed stocks and prefer terminal harvests.

Proposal 178 : No Action - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen SEDM Modify Robert Move Tom 2nd

Pending more information whereupon Nushagak AC may take a position.

Proposal 184 : No Action Consensus – Housekeeping

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen Post June Mgt Plan. Robert Move Tom 2nd

Proposal 185 : Strongly Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen Post June Mgt Plan Robert Move Dan 2nd

Nushagak AC strongly opposes any interception of juvenile salmon.

In addition we are concerned these mixed stock fisheries are potentially harvesting small but marketable sockeye salmon one season prematurely as 2 ocean fish that ultimately would be larger, 3 ocean fish, diminishing the value of the harvest to all fisheries and possibly confounding run forecasts.

Proposals 186, 191, 194 : No Action - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen Post June, Gear. Robert Move Tom 2nd

Proposal 15 : No Action - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen Running lines & anchor
Robert Move Tom 2nd - Out of Area

Proposal 195 : Strongly Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon S. AK Pen Gear - Allow drift gear in SW District June 1-August 31. Robert Move Tom 2nd

WASSIP data shows the SW District is where there is a major intercept of Bristol Bay bound sockeye salmon. WASSIP data shows this would amount to expanding a fishery on mixed stock intercept fishery.

Proposal 242 : Oppose - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M Gear - measurement of seines. Robert Move Tom 2nd

This amounts to changing long standing regulations for a few individuals. We have concerns regarding accurately measuring a net in this manner.

Proposal 197 : Support in concept. - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M Gear - Reduce depth of gillnets in Northern District. Tom Move Robert 2nd

Nushagak AC believes shallower nets would be more effective closer to shore in shallow water and could result in a more "terminal" harvest and reduce interception of Bristol Bay bound salmon. This could be element in Nushagak AC's desire to terminalize Area M fisheries.

We support the Nelson Lagoon AC's efforts to improve and protect their fishery and we respect their assessment for what would be most effective.

Proposal 192 : No Action - Unanimous

Commercial Salmon AK Pen Area M - Close waters in Christianson Lagoon. Tom Move Robert 2nd

Proposal 212 : No Action - Unanimous

Sport Fish AK Pen/Aleutians - Sapsuk R. king salmon. Tom Move Robert 2nd

Proposal 213 : No Action - Unanimous

Sport Fish Ugashik, Dog Salmon, King Salmon Rivers. Robert Move Tom 2nd

This proposal failed at the December Bristol Bay meeting.

Proposal 214 : No Action - Unanimous

AK Pen. / Aleutians Is. Salmon - Subsistence, Sport & PU Robert Move Tom 2nd

OTHER BUSINESS

Authorize Representation at Board of Fish meetings; Area M Feb 26- Mar 4, and Statewide Mar 19-24.

Robert moved and Tom 2nd to grant the Nushagak AC Representative the discretion to act, adjust, and compromise before the Board of Fisheries on regulatory recommendations as needed in the interest of the whole Nushagak Advisory Committee.

Supported by Consensus

We need to give our rep flexibility to operate in the committee process used by the BOF.

*****Meeting Continued with Statewide Fisheries Proposal Discussions that will be Submitted for the Upcoming March 2013 Meeting.**