

**UNALASKA FISH & GAME LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER:

11:02 AM in the Unalaska Library Conference Room by Chairman Frank Kelty

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Goodfellow
Tim Mahoney
Steven Gregory
Kristian Laxfoss
Jennifer Shockley
Margaret "Augie" Kochuten
Frank Kelty
Mike Holman

ABSENT:

Roger Rowland

Dustan Dickerson
Melissa Goode

GUESTS PRESENT: Heather Fitch (ADF&G), Miranda Westphal (ADF&G), Hal Lewis (public)

Additional guests appeared telephonically: Taryn Oconnor-Brito.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Agenda was reviewed and adopted 7-0.

APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for September 20, 2014 were reviewed and adopted 7-0.

ADF&G UPDATE:

Update prepared by ADF&G Staff.

ADF&G Heather Fitch- Crab:

1. Eastern Golden KC – 3.3 million pounds 100% of the IFQ taken. High CPUE
2. Bristol Bay Red KC – 63 vessels 100% of IFQ of 10 million pounds
3. St. Matthews Blue KC – IFQ of 600,000 lbs. half harvested by four vessels.
4. Western Aleutian Golden KC – 2 vessels fishing 1.5 million harvested 50% of the IFQ.
5. Eastern Bering Sea Tanner – 8.25 million harvested 98% of the IFQ
6. Western Bering Sea Tanner – 3.1 million lbs harvested 48% of IFQ

ADF&G Miranda Westphal - Ground fish:

1. Dutch Harbor P-cod – GHL 18.5 million lbs. 14 vessels registered 42% of TAC caught
2. Aleutian Island P-Cod – getting ready to open ~12 million
3. Black Rock Fish – no one fishing

LEGISLATIVE:

1. Currently have vacant alternate seat. No one expressed interest as of yet.
 - a. Will advertise locally
 - b. Re-address in June meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal 236 – 5AAC 32.41- Fishing seasons for Registration Area J. Establishes and earlier season closure for Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts commercial Dungeness crab season. Motion to support Proposal 236 made by Shockley and seconded by Goodfellow.

Discussion: Proposal sponsored by ADF&G and comments from local staff supported proposal. AC members pointed out that proposal will not have much impact on our local area, but the earlier closure would prevent small vessels from trying to fish during seasonally inclement weather. Additional discussion included the study completed in Kodiak about the amount of gear lost during late season fishing that resulted in ‘ghost fishing’.

Motion to support passed 8/0

Proposal 266 – 5AAC 39.645 Shellfish onboard observer program. Modify procedures for assigning observer coverage in king and tanner crab fisheries.

This proposal was determined to be out of cycle – no action taken.

Proposal 268 – 5AAC 35.508 – Bering Sea District bairdi Tanner crab harvest strategy. Reduce size of exploitable legal male Tanner crab from carapace width of 5.5 inches to 5.0 inches for calculating the total allowable catch (TAC) in waters east of 166 W Longitude in the Bering Sea District.

Motion to support proposal 268 made by Goodfellow and seconded by Gregory.

Discussion: ADF&G staff indicated they were neutral on subject but provided a cautionary comment that by reducing the size used for GHJ that it could impact the resource long term. AC members were divided on the subject, with comments including concern about the resource and potential marketing issues. Supportive comments included the increase in allocations during the past two years and the potential economic benefit of increased allocation by using a smaller size when calculating GHJ.

Motion to support proposal 268 failed 4/3/1 (one abstention)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposals - Chairman Kelty reviewed process for proposals and reminded AC members that proposals for finfish were due by April 10, 2015.

House Bill 103. Holman asked if the AC members were interested in supporting this bill that was proposed by Representative Tammy Wilson. The bill was discussed and it was decided that Holman would email the bill to all AC members for review and they would indicate if they wanted to support, oppose or take no action on this bill.

Local Subsistence Salmon fishing on ‘Front Beach’ – The committee discussed their concerns about the increased number of people using “Front Beach” to set subsistence nets for sockeye salmon. Chairman Kelty indicated he would contact the ADF&G subsistence salmon biologist in Kodiak (Matt Keyes) to see what type of restrictions could be enacted. Other comments included partnering with Unalaska Native Fishermen Association to draft some type of proposal that would restrict either gear type or fishing periods.


PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting is expected to be held on April 4, 2015 to review locally generated Board of Fisheries proposals.

ADJOURNMENT: 12:18PM

	3/19/15		3/19/15
Frank Kelty, Chairman	Date Approved	Mike Holman, Secretary	Date Approved