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Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
 5/13/2020 Meeting Minutes
 Teleconference

I. Call to Order: Chair at 6:35PM

II. Roll Call:

	<u>CHAIR</u> <u>Kirk Schwalm</u>	<u>VICE-CHAIR</u> <u>Mark Richards</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u> <u>Mark Oppe</u>	<u>Jeff Lucas</u>	<u>Gale Vick</u>	<u>Mike Quinn</u>	<u>Mike Tinker</u>	<u>John Wisniewski</u>
<u>Present</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>
<u>Absent</u>								
<u>Abs/Excused</u>								
	<u>Levi Lewellyn</u>	<u>John Siegfried</u>	<u>Richard Doering</u>	<u>Warren Guichici</u>	<u>Mike Bryan</u>	<u>Mike Kramer</u>	<u>Chuck Derrick</u>	<u>Virgil Umphenour (alternate)</u>
<u>Present</u>		<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>	<u>x</u>		<u>x</u>
<u>Absent</u>							<u>x</u>	
<u>Abs/Excused</u>	<u>x</u>							

III. Introduction of Guests: Al Barrette (BOG), Karen Gordon, Jen Yuhas
Fish & Game Staff Present: Nissa Pilcher

IV. Comments

Chair Comments: Would like to address the Copper River dipnet fishery under Old Business tonight. Reiterates importance of patience conducting this meeting by teleconference.

Vice Chair: absent

Trapping: none

Game: none

Fish: none

AC Member Comments: none



Public Comments: Karen Gordon voiced support of FWS attempt to prohibit domestic sheep and llamas from ANWR in order to protect wild ungulate populations.

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: approval of April 8, 2020 minutes by unanimous consent

VI. Approval of Agenda: approved by unanimous consent

VII. Old Business:

Transfer of unused commercial allocation of salmon on the Copper River to personal use fishery: Mike Tinker says first available information from first commercial opener (tomorrow) will be available by this Friday. No sonar counts are available yet. Without sonar data, there is little that can be done at this point other than general recommendations. Virgil Umphenour asked about placing test wheels in the river. Mike Tinker said that due to ice in the river there is no date for putting wheels in. Gale Vick believes that if we delay action on this it will delay any potential emergency order to open personal use fishery. Virgil Umphenour stated that we do not yet know how many commercial fishermen will be fishing, so we do not have sufficient information to base a request for an emergency order on. The commercial fishery is scheduled to open as usual, but there is no way to predict participation yet. Kirk Schwalm has authority to write a letter on this based on the vote at the last AC meeting. Unless the AC chooses to go a different direction, he can proceed with this if necessary. Virgil Umphenour believes that low fish prices and quarantines reducing restaurant demand will result in lower commercial fishery participation. Gale Vick asks that action on this be deferred to the Fish Subcommittee. Kirk Schwalm suggested that this would be possible but that the subcommittee meeting would need to be properly noticed. AC concurs that Kirk Schwalm should proceed based on guidance from last month's meeting.

VIII. New Business:

F&G Staff Reports: none

Comment on BOG Special Meeting Regarding Spring Bear Hunts Proposals: BOG has proposed alternate year opening in Unit 9 and transfer of permits to a future year in remaining affected units. Kirk Schwalm supports both proposals if biologists support the alternate year opening and to mitigate economic impact on guides of cancelled hunts this year. Al Barrette states that the Department comments indicate that they believe the changes are sustainable. Statements in support from AC members as long as they are sustainable. AC supports both proposals by unanimous consent.

Excerpt of Fairbanks AC Meeting minutes. For a full set of minutes, please go to <http://notice.alaska.gov/197770>

Kodiak Advisory Committee

**May 19, 2020
Teleconference and ADF&G Building**

I. Call to Order: 5:10 pm by Paul Chervenak, Chair

II. Roll Call

Members Present: All by phone

Paul Chervenak, Chair	Conrad Peterson
Julie Kavanaugh, Vice Chair	Melissa Berns
Theresa Peterson, Secretary	Nathan Rose
Andrew Finke	Kevin Adkins
Patrick O'Donnell	Oliver Holm

Members Absent (Excused):

Roland Ruoss

Members Absent (Unexcused):

Randy Swain	George Weaver
Albert Tyler Shcmeil	Ronald Kavanaugh
Danny Clarion	Alexus Kwachka
Duncan Fields	

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present:

Big Game/guide	Concerned Citizen
Southend Setnet	Small Boat/Herring/Crab
Trawl	Subsistence
Port Lions	Old Harbor

Fish and Game Staff Present:

Jackie Keating, Biologist
Nate Svoboda, Biologist
John Crye, Biologist

Guests Present:

Ted Spraker – Board of Game
Al Barrette – Board of Game
Larry Van Daele – Board of Game

Jason Bunch – bear guide
Tom Kirstein – bear guide
Susan Alexander – Fish and Wildlife, King Salmon
Bill Pyle – Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Mike Brady-Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

III. **Approval of Agenda**

Move to approve: Oliver Holm, 2nd Julie Kavanaugh
Passes 10-0

IV. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

None

V. **Report -N/A**

VI. **Public Comment -N/A**

VII. **Old Business- N/A**

VIII. **New Business**

Proposal 1 - (Unit 9 Brown Bear Season change)

Move to adopt Julie Kavanaugh, 2nd Oliver Holm
Passes 10/0

- Unit 9 is a registration hunt primarily sought by trophy hunters.
- At present, there are approximately 78 guides registered.
- The proposal seeks to mitigate financial impacts from COVID-19 related travel restrictions and provide opportunity to recoup a portion of lost revenue. Bear hunts are of great economic value to the State of Alaska through the permitting process as well as critical income for guide services and support industries such as air charters.
- The proposal seeks to provide opportunity for hunters to reschedule their lost hunt due to pandemic circumstances beyond their control.
- The committee recommends not providing additional guiding opportunity for guides not registered for the area for the spring of 2020, only those guides who were registered for the spring of 2020 would be able to participate in the spring of 2021.
- As the Spring season is an every other year hunt, it may work to move lost opportunity to 2021. This would mean a hunt in the Fall of 2021 as well as a Spring hunt in 2022 to get back on the current hunting cycle.
- The committee deems it necessary to look at biological ramifications, if any, of having three seasons in 13 months.



- Probably a very low resident harvest this spring. (harvest data will be available by BOG meeting) Bears not harvested by non-residents this spring will be available.
- It is difficult to gauge how many hunters will be able to reschedule and effort may be less than anticipated for a 2021 Spring season.
- The sows that are not harvested this Spring may contribute to the bear population with cubs this year.
- It is important to factor in biological and conservation concerns, if there are no identified concerns, members of the Kodiak AC support the proposal moving forward to provide economic opportunity which was lost due to the pandemic.
- This is a one-time action in response to a crisis situation and the proposal process seeking relief to address an extreme situation is not expected to continue nor set a precedence for subsequent actions.

Proposal 2: (Transfer of Brown Bear drawing permits)

Move to adopt Theresa Peterson, 2nd Kevin Adkins

Passes 10/0

- The units under discussion in the proposal include unit 8 and other units, Kodiak AC comments are focused on unit 8.
- This is a drawing hunt with a minimum of 60% of tags drawn going to Alaskan residents. The drawing odds are low for this hunt, sometimes just a 1% chance and the trip may be a trip of a lifetime.
- The proposal seeks to mitigate the tremendous loss, due to COV 19, of hunter opportunity to those having successfully drawn a tag. Additionally, some potential opportunity to the State of Alaska and bear guide services to make up foregone income.
- There are several methods to consider providing bear harvest opportunity to partially make up for the loss:
 - May allow foregone hunts to be added back each year over the course of 3 years. If this is done, the Committee recommends no more than 1/3 in any one year.
 - There is a concern with moving additional hunters into the field on top of subsequent hunts as this could result in a lower quality of hunt with potential overcrowding which also would probably result in a higher sow harvest.
 - Could allow all unused 2020 drawing permits to go into a single year.
 - May work to roll successful non-resident permit drawees to 2021. For those not able to participate in 2021, waive the inability to hold the same drawing permit in 2 consecutive years, so that they may reapply for 2022.
 - Could move this year's resident spring hunt winners, who did not pick up their permit, to 2022. This would prevent any winners from 2021, which



have already been drawn, from being displaced. You could also have a limited draw for those 38 drawing permits that were picked up.

- Could move this year's resident spring hunt winners, who did not pick up their permit, to 2021. Then move successful 2021 resident hunt permit winners to 2022. This would reduce the time waiting to hunt for the 2020 permit holders but eliminate the chance for a limited draw of used 2020 permits.
- Any action should only include a Spring harvest, there are concerns with increase in sow harvest if any foregone hunts were moved to a Fall season.
- It will be difficult to make up all lost hunts and biological concerns of increased sow harvest must be factored in.
- This is a one-time action in response to a crisis situation and the proposal process seeking relief to address an extreme situation is not expected to continue nor set a precedence for subsequent actions

IX. Select representative(s) for board meeting
N/A

X. Set next meeting date
N/A

XI. Other
Move to allow Chair to approve minutes
Julie Kavanaugh, 2nd Oliver Holm
Vote 10/0 Support

XII. Adjourn 6:04 pm
Move to adjourn Oliver Holm, 2nd Julie Kavanaugh

Minutes Recorded By: Theresa Peterson
Minutes Approved By: Paul Chervenak
Date: 5-26-2020

