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BOARDS

November 20, 2019
Mr. Ted Spraker
Chairman Alaska Board of Game

Dear Sir,

My name is David Loring, and I am the president of the Alaska Falconers Association (AFA). AFA is an organized group who represents the interests of the approximately 50 currently licensed Alaska resident falconers.

The Alaska Falconers Association is requesting the Alaska Board of Game to amend the State-wide regulatory cycle which currently reviews falconry regulations every three years during the Statewide Cycle for Chapter 92 (Permits). Our request is to change the regulation review from a three-year cycle to two three-year cycles. In other words, we request the Board of Game to address falconry regulations every six years.

The Alaska Falconers Association has spoken to ADFG's leading raptor scientist and Regional Falconry Coordinator about a possible switch that would address falconry regulations every two Statewide Board cycles. ADFG's official position would be neutral on this proposed change. ADFG is not opposed to addressing falconry regulations on a two-cycle rotation. They feel that the current falconry regulations are very comprehensive and fully address the needs of both the Department and the licensed falconers. The Department is very comfortable with the health and viability of the statewide raptor populations, and the number of raptors that are removed from that population by licensed falconers.

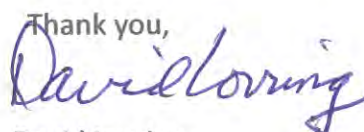
The reasons for this request are:

- Falconry regulations only pertain to a very small number of resource users. There are approximately 50 currently licensed Alaska falconers, and an average of 20 nonresident falconers who apply for a nonresident raptor capture permit each year. Falconers comprise a tiny fraction of the total number resource users that the Board of Game represents.
- Alaska falconers are highly regulated by both the State of Alaska and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These regulations are summarized within the "Alaska Falconry Manual #10". As Alaska falconers, we are very pleased with the regulations implemented by the Board that govern the way we practice our sport. We have the best set of regulations of any state in the union.



- The Alaska falconry community works very hard to maintain a positive working relationship with ADFG managers. We believe that it is our job to assist the Department, with the expertise we possess, in the management of the raptor population. Our utmost desire is to work towards the best interests of the birds we obtain from the wild, train, live with daily, and hunt with. As of this date, there have been no Alaska resident falconers cited by law enforcement for violations of the falconry regulations.
- Falconry regulations and the sport of practicing falconry are very specific to this non-consumptive use of wild raptors. This specificity is foreign to most members of the public and to new Board members. The time needed to fully understand the concepts of falconry can be significant for such a small segment of the resource users. AFA feels that the Board, ADFG, and the falconry community will clean up the few regulatory issues remaining at the 2020 Statewide meeting.
- At the 2020 State-wide meeting on falconry, AFA will be submitting several house-cleaning proposals. AFA will also submit a proposal for an increased allocation of raptors for non-resident falconers. There is an average of 20 non-residents falconers who apply each year for the current 5 permits. AFA feels that doubling the allocation to 10 non-resident permits will give the applicants a 50% chance of drawing a permit.
- Once this higher allocation is granted by the BOG, there will be very few if any proposals presented to the BOG for falconry related issues. There were no nonresident generated proposals during the previous Statewide cycle and AFA is not aware of any pressing issues by the nonresident community that will generate proposals by them in the future.
- Prior to the change to a three-year Board cycle for Statewide proposals, falconry was placed on a two-cycle (four year) schedule by a prior Board at the request of AFA.
- We do not anticipate any, but if for some remote reason a significant issue with the falconry regulations arise, then the Alaska Falconers Association, and/or the Department will seek an Agenda Change Request to address that specific emergency.

AFA feels that the current favorable climate for falconry by resident falconers, an increased allocation for non-resident falconers, a very close relationship with ADFG managers, a reduced work load for board members to learn or relearn the intricacies of falconry, and the ability to reallocate those hours needed to learn falconry to other pressing matters that affect hundreds or thousands of resource users, would be great reasons to change falconry to a two cycle schedule.

Thank you,


David Lorring
President, Alaska Falconers Association



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce,
Community,
and Economic Development**

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

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January 8, 2020

Ted Spraker
Chairman
State of Alaska, Board of Game

Dear Chairman Spraker,

I hope this letter finds you well in our New Year and looking forward to the upcoming Board of Game meeting. I wanted to take a moment to thank you, personally and on behalf of the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB), for your tireless commitment, dedication and sound stewardship as chairman of the State of Alaska Board of Game (BOG). While generally a thankless job, I want you to know that your time and effort towards the sound management of our states wildlife resources is noticed and greatly appreciated.

I also wanted to share with you what a valuable BGCSB member Mr. Larry Van Daele has become in his time serving on our board, as the designated BOG member to serve on the BGCSB. Larry has proven to be a very engaged, knowledgeable, insightful and greatly appreciated member of the BGCSB. I believe, based upon a conversation I had with him in December, that he would be willing to be reappointed to serve on the BGCSB as the BOG representative and I would like to strongly recommend that you consider him for that appointment.

Should you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime and thank you again for your continued time and effort.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Chairman, BGCSB

January 10, 2019

Comment to the Board of Game meeting in Nome, January 2020.

Submitted by Dan Dunaway
PO Box 1490
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Regarding the Mulchatna Caribou herd.

Dear Board of Game members,

While I am the secretary for the Nushagak Advisory Committee I offer these comments strictly as my personal testimony. I am a 30 year resident of Dillingham and have hunted the area the entire time. My Bristol Bay residency began in 1989 when the Mulchatna was about 80K- 100K animals and ramping up exponentially. I loved the harvest opportunities. It has been hard to watch the population drop ever downward and now resists recovery for many years.

The Nushagak AC discussed this issue and took no action. However we agreed to submit our meeting minutes to this same meeting to provide the BOG access to the AC's discussion on this topic. I encourage you to read the minutes.

In my own opinion, I am deeply concerned for the population of the Mulchatna caribou herd and believe more restrictive action is warranted; including closure by the end of January or mid February. The reasons form my position:

1) The 2019 population estimate resulted from a very high quality survey and extensive pre-survey preparation work. The estimate shows 13,500 animals +/- approx 2000. From my own experience estimating fish populations, this is an extremely "tight" estimate - and I do appreciate the challenges of statistics and estimators. Please note the point estimate is **less than half the 30,000 minimal population goal**. I believe the Nushagak AC supported this goal when it was established.

As provided to me by ADFG, calf cow ratios dropped very significantly across the herd from 2018 (34/100) to 2019 (24/100) **yet the goal is 35/100** . Unaccountably, the bull to cow ratio improved to 42/100 in 2019 - but does this point to a problem? Could cows be suffering poor survival for some reason? At one time this herd was thought to be burdened by excess numbers of reduced productivity old cows, competing for food, not making as many calves, and "artificially" depressing the bull cow ratio. Now we need young highly productive cows and where are they? Has ADFG collected age data from the cows they sampled recently? What are they seeing?

2) Erratic weather of the last several years. The extremely hot and dry weather in 2019 may have degraded the nutritional quality of the range, animals may have headed into what is now a real winter in reduced condition. Additionally the wet winters of for several years, and 2019 fall rains into November may be hard on young animals. The



wet winters may be icing over the winter feed and making it hard on animals that may be weakened already.

Now we have truly cold weather and forecasts of snow. More snow, especially if we get a lot of it, may push animals closer to villages and make them much more vulnerable to harvest. Adequate snow making good travel conditions will result in much heavier hunting pressure. **Note:** even with the "protection" of relatively poor travel conditions in recent years apparently reducing harvest pressure, the herd has declined significantly.

ADFG provided recent historic Mulchatna recorded harvests:

2019 reported to date (1-7-20) 85

2018 240

2017 448 reflects best winter travel in years

2016 358

2015 246

We could be headed into the prime hunting time and could have a serious negative impact on the herd.

3) Unreported harvest: My discussions with State and Federal biologists and even discussed in public meetings, suggest there is considerable unreported harvest. In some Federal teleconferences this fall I heard very strong comments, including from Kuskokwim area Tribal agencies, that there is considerable non-reported harvests from this herd. Comments by biologists during and after the January 7 AC meeting indicate that every time they fly this fall, they are seeing apparent multiple harvests of caribou that subsequently have not been reported.

4) Look how long its taken for our neighbors and the NAP Herd attempt to recover. The herd seems to be making very slow progress. We've been waiting a long time now too for the Mulchatna herd as well.

5) Subsistence: Yes this herd is a very important subsistence resource. However I believe the most needy and subsistence dependent portions of has had the some of the best salmon runs ever recently and there was ample subsistence opportunity as well as the best economic opportunities in the commercial fishery in years with very good prices. I believe there is a strong safety net for much of Bristol Bay as well as alternative resources if this hunt were to be closed.

While I greatly cherish and respect subsistence use of this herd, is it wise to risk further damage and an even longer delayed recovery by allowing a hunt in the spring of 2020?

If another season and another survey find the herd is more populous and in better condition, I believe a few months of inconvenience is not an unbearable price to pay.

Please consider closing the remainder of the 2019-2020 Mulchatna caribou hunt soon.

Thank you for your attention to my concern.

Nushagak Fish & Game Advisory Committee
January 7, 2020
Meeting Minutes

I. Call To Order: 9:02

II. Roll Call:

present

Frank Woods Dlg chair	Joe Chythlook vice chair by phone
Todd Fritze Dlg	Gayla Hoseth Dlg
Tom O'Connor Dlg	Dan Dunaway Dlg Secretary
Steve Perkins Dlg	Gust Tungiung Koliganek by phone
Travis Ball Aleknagik	Richard King Ekwok by phone
Curt Armstrong Dlg	Peter Christopher New Stuyahok by phone until noon
Susie Brito Dlg arrive 9:32	

Absent excused:

Chris Carr Portage Creek too cold for plane
Joe Wassily Clarks Pt. power plant failure
Walter Kanulie Togiak alt training conflict

Absent no contact, not excused:

Barbara Moore Manokotak
Moses Kritz Togiak

It should be noted that temperatures were below zero, down to -20 or colder and this deterred some members.

Additionally, Jan 7 is Russian Christmas and is observed extensively in most Bristol Bay villages. The AC members expressed regret for the conflict and will seek to avoid this in future meetings.

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: total seats 15, quorum 8
quorum met. 13 present at start of the meeting.

List of User Groups Present:

Subsistence fishing and hunting
Commercial Salmon drift net

Commercial Salmon set net
Sport fishing and guiding.
Trapping

III. Approval of Agenda:

Todd moved and Gayla 2nd to adopt the agenda. Dan asked to add a discussion of Mulchatna Caribou hunt under IX New Business as item IV. Motion maker and 2nd agree to add Mulchatna Caribou. Agenda approved Unanimously.

Frank Woods, chair announced his resignation from as chair and from the AC for personal reasons. Frank departed the meeting immediately. Several members expressed thanks for Franks hard work and regret he had to resign.

There was a discussion how to conduct the rest of the meeting since vice chair, now chair Joe Chythlook was attending by phone and it is so difficult to run a meeting over the phone. Several names brought up. Dan and Taryn worked through first items of the agenda.

IV. Introductions:

ADFG and Enforcement Staff present:

Lee Borden Sport Fish
Lauren Watine Wildlife Conservation
Tim Sands Commercial Fish
Jordan Head Com Fish by phone
James VanLanen ADFG Subsistence by phone
Joe Wittkop AWT

Guests and other Agencies

Togiak Refuge
Kenton Moos Patrick Walsh
Andy Aderman
Gary Cline BBEDC
Cody Larson BBNA
Isabel Ross KDLG
Pete Heyano commercial fisherman
Greg Marxmiller set netter
Lindsay Layland set netter
John Bennett drift netter

V. Election of AC Members:

1. Designated Dillingham Seat

Gayla moved to open nominations Tom 2nd.

Todd Fritze & Robert Heyano nominated

There was some question whether a non Dillingham resident could make nominations, and nomination for Mr. Heyano was withdrawn. Others present noted that Mr. Heyano has declined nominations in previous meetings.

Dan move to close and Tom 2nd.

Todd Fritze elected to the open designated seat. Term to expire 6-30-20

Chair Joe Chythlook asked attendees to postpone remaining elections until next meeting given the low attendance at this meeting. After discussion, it was decided there was adequate notice and we should proceed with elections.

2. One Undesignated Seat and Two Alternate seats.

Consensus to take nominations, top vote to be seated as undesignated member, second and third most votes to be assigned alternate seats.

Nominations: Gayla Hoseth, Steve Perkins, Caleb Westfall. Gary Cline declined nomination.

Travis moved to close Susie second.

Boards distributed, collected, and counted votes including text votes from phone attendees.

Gayla Hoseth won top votes and was seated in the Undesignated Seat.

Steve Perkins and Caleb Westfall elected as alternates.

VI Election of Officers:

By general consensus and given the limited availability of the meeting room, the interim nature of several seats, and soon to end terms of several other members, AC agreed to postpone election of officers until a fall meeting. We have enough officers to get this meeting done.

Discussion: As vice chair Joe Chythlook became interim chair. After some discussion Joe moved to have Susie Brito to run the rest of the meeting, Tom 2nd. Approved by unanimous consent. Its too hard to do by phone. With support of the AC members, Susie agreed to run the rest of the meeting.

VII ADFG Staff Updates:

Tim Sands Commercial Fish

Tim presented and handed out copies of the 2020 salmon forecast, 48.0 million Bay wide, 12.63 total run for Nushagak District. Kvichak is projects to have 19.97 million, and Egegik 10.75.

Herring 202 forecast, 215,000 tons total with 38,749 allocated to Togiak sac roe fishery. Tim discussed how the model for 2020 forecast was revised and produced a higher



guideline harvest than in 2019. Fewer buyers may be present in 2020 and its not likely the whole allocation will be taken.

2019 Salmon run discussion: Nushagak King run was poor, sockeye run extremely good. However high water temps low water levels caused some mortality, worst case was Igushik river where its possible 100,000 fish died. The Igushik is highly exposed to the sun, between tides the mudflats heat up; at the lake outlet temperatures as high as 23 C were observed - salmon don't like above 17C. High temps, low dissolved oxygen kill fish. Even some observations of very lethargic fish in other systems.

King Salmon: problems counting fish with a sonar not designed to count kings, exacerbated by low water high temps, resulted in a count of 46,000 kings, well below desired levels. ADFG will operate the 2020 commercial fishery with extreme caution to protect kings including: waiting as long as possible before opening commercial (possibly let more than 100,000 reds up Wood River before opening) shorter fishing periods for both set and drift gear, possibly keeping fishery closed for entire tide. Depends on fish behavior, conditions, fish passage. BOF Nushagak King Working Group had one meeting in the fall and another scheduled for March - other than a list of considerations no action on the plan.

Other Salmon Mgt Plans. Tim says there are 10 salmon plans that have been addressed piecemeal over the years, He asked AC to consider setting a process to regularly conduct a comprehensive review of a couple plans each BOF cycle to keep up to date. He suggested starting with the Togiak Herring and Wood River Special Harvest Area. He advocates an open process and that ADFG might not be the one to take the lead.

Brief discussion of AC and ADFG on impact of the sport fishery on Nushagak kings.

Peter Christopher advocated for closed windows in the king sport fishery.

Another person pointed out that some upriver residents illegally "seine" the kings taking more than a 100 at a time.

Lauren Watine ADFG Wildlife:

New area biologist introduced herself.

Moose Fall hunt - RM 583: early season was very hot, harvest was poor. Season improved the last half, wetter cooler. 760 permits issued, 131 harvested, 591 hunted.

Winter moose hunt. Reports still trickling in. 228 total permits issued. As of today 1-7-20, 59 reports are returned and 16 moose taken. Only state residents and mostly GMU 17 residents obtained permits. The Dept was poised to close the season if more that 25 moose were taken.

Discussion about 1/2 mile off Lake Road requirement. Its a condition of the hunt the area biologist can set. Several comments objecting to it as very difficult to observe and enforce. Dunaway tried to recall reasons for the stipulation, most folks have GPS, concern for excess



harvest as many moose congregate along the road, residents along road have been complaining about safety for their houses and residents.

Question regarding GMU 17 moose population. ADFG only surveyed 17A this year and the population considerably exceeds desired levels.

But 17 B& C populations are below or barely at goals and of concern to ADFG.

***** In between discussing proposals in New Business, Lauren brought in more data and discussion.

Moose for GMU 17 populations: ADFG can't do annual survey of whole GMU so must rotate by sub unit by year. 17A moose in 2017 biologists estimated ideal population is 800 to 1,200 and estimate is 2,370 - greatly exceeding range capacity.

17B moose preferred population is 4,900 to 6,000 or about 1 per square mile; current estimate is 1,699 or .37 per sq mile and below desired levels.

17C desired population is 2,800 to 3,500 or about .5 per sq mile. 2018 estimate 3,438 or .48 per sq mile - almost at desired level. Barely.

2019 RM 583 harvest was 131 bulls, 118 by GMU 17 residents. This winter hunt 16 bulls reported to date all GMU 17 residents.

There was a discussion about going to intensive management - ADFG is discussing internally.

Beaver: Todd asked about beaver survey former biologist had planned. Lauren hopes to do a cache survey. Todd mentioned the rivers have changed a lot and old surveys might be marginally helpful.

Caribou: Lauren discussed summer 2019 survey, extensive pre-survey work and very good dispersal of collars, mixing of animals. This was one of the most precise surveys on this herd with an estimate of 13,500 animals plus or minus about 2,000 animals. Far below expected population and below the 30,000 desired population. Last survey was in 2016 when about 27,000 were estimated. Surveyors noted no animals in places they normally expect to find some.

Therefore, the State reduced the bag limit to 1 per hunter.

The Federal lands closure effective December 31 was noted.

Currently no state lands closure as ADFG knows many depend on this herd for food.

Fall adult survival surveys have been conducted.

The situation of this herd is scheduled to be discussed January 16 at the Nome BOG meeting.

The state is considering what to do next - the season is subject to change in the future.

Harvest as of 1-7-20: 85 animals, 53 males, 32 females some reports of illegal unreported take. There is evidence of harvests every time surveys are flown and no corresponding reports appear to be filed. People still aren't reporting during the 5 day window after harvest.



Fall 2019 composition survey (Oct 7-9): Herd wide estimate 24 calves /100 cows; east 30.7/100, west 18.2. Goal is to have 30 calves/100 cows. Eastern area is subject to the wolf removal program. West & East groups calve in the east area.

Fall 2018 survey found whole herd 34calves/100 cow; east 39/100 and west 29/100 shows 2019 calf survival dropped from 2018 in both sections.

Discussion, one person asked if any nonresidents take Mulchatna caribou [NO - ADFG] also much of December poor travel conditions and wished for a cow moose season in the winter up the Nushagak River. Complaints of poor winter travel conditions for moose.

USFWS Togiak Refuge:

Nushagak Peninsula Caribou. 2018-19 season had poor travel conditions and only 14 animals taken. Population in 2019 (minimum of 710 and point est 822) and about the same as 2018. Biologists have become very concerned for quality of range and food supply - observing degradation in lichens and bare dirt patches. Refuge presented concerns to the caribou committee and now advocate for much lower abundance on the peninsula of only 400 animals optimum to allow range to recover. Bag limit raised to 5 per hunter. Same day airborne is allowed in the spring.

There was a suggestion to allow same day in the fall when conditions are warmer and easier. In past was a concern for harvest concentrating on large bulls.

Joe Wittkop AWT Troopers:

Herring - large quota few violations. No large patrol vessel available. Used 32 foot Kvichak to patrol, boarded 14 vessels. Issued 2 tickets for crew license violations. One report of possible wasted fish no case made. Boarded 8 trawlers, tramper, and processor boats (may have been 20 such vessels in the area)- difficult thing for him to do. Contacted 135 boats, few violations one missing ADFG triangle plate.

Spring Bear 2019: Effort was reduced no citations issued.

One butchered moose found along Dillingham road in June, DNA evidence collected, no suspects at this time.

Sport Fishery: no funding for a sport fish enforcement team, patrolled as personnel and time allowed. Lack of life jackets and boat registrations were main issue. A few snagging and over limit cases made. Definition of a fly liberalized reduced issues on gear.

Commercial fish enforcement: about 600 vessels in the Nushagak district and skeleton enforcement presence. Mainly Joe, one pilot, one shore based patrol boat. 2026 contacts, 122 warnings, 181 citations, 48,000 pounds of fish seized. Closed period fishing was the main violation; some gear marking, lost nets as well. Grounding drift boats still and issue and a couple instances of permit holder not present at time of sale.

Locally poor internet created problems obtaining picture IDs so Troopers were lenient.



Togiak fishery was minimally patrolled - main violation was set nets fishing close periods and having nets too far off shore. One waste of salmon, a net was not picked for several days.

Fall Hunting: slow hunting at beginning as it was so hot, more harvest success towards end of moose season. Still a problem for hunters understanding regulations between registration permit and "general hunt" harvest ticket - confusion on season dates and reporting requirements. One sublegal moose taken and one failure to mark harvest permit.

Winter moose season no patrols due to medical situation. One winter harvest found 250 yard off highway when hunt conditions require 1/2 mile from highway.

Discussion on positioning of hunter with snow machines.

Discussion on incidental or personal use take of kings in commercial fishery.

Discussion of grounding of drift boats, some drift boats using extremely long tow or tag lines (half mile was expressed) to meet letter of the law regarding grounding was drifting. This is causing annoyance for other fishermen. Presents hazard and obstacle to other fishers. The office said they are aware of what they call "parking" and its a concern. May need a proposal to BOF to address the issue.

No subsistence violations were issued in 2019.

Lee Borden Sport Fish

Creel surveys were conducted on the Nushagak Kings, Alagnak Kings, Naknek fall rainbow fisheries. Data currently being analyzed no results ready to present.

Nushagak kings were very low catch rates with low and very warm water. Fish seemed to hole up maybe travel at night.

The previous years' Nushagak King sport mortality study is in the final stages in preparation for publishing and should be out soon.

In 2020 Sport Fish plans to conduct creel surveys on Togiak king salmon, Nushagak coho, and conduct another Naknek fall creel survey.

in 2021 Sport Fish is planning to conduct spring rainbow trout work in the L. Iliamna drainage in major tributaries.

Former area biologist Jason Dye took a promotion and moved to Anchorage, the Area Biologist position will be recruited and refilled.

Taryn Brito Board Support

Note to all: Board Calendars published in the proposal books are now out of date and wrong. Check the website or her office for up to date ones.

1) No further work from rod and reel gear special BOF committee.



- 2) Naknek BOF work session scheduled in 2020.
- 3) Nushagak King Plan work group had a meeting in fall 2019 and another scheduled March 12, 2020. Other than organizing and some guiding papers no actual planning action.
- 4) Action Item: fall work session, BOF approved ACR regarding D boats and 200 fathoms for Bristol Bay - now it is Proposal 279, available on line or at Board offices, comment deadline is February 21 and BOF will address in March meeting.
- 5) AC has action items on BOG proposals 165 re-authorize 17A antlerless moose, 166 brown bear tag fee exemption, ACR 5 (now 169) Troopers request to clarify purchase of locking big game tags,

VIII Public Comments

Cody Larson for Bristol Bay Native Association.

BBNA is concerned for the often warm winter conditions making winter moose hunts difficult and hopes to work with ADFG to add flexibility to the discretionary "conditions of hunt".

Gary Cline Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp (CDQ).

BBEDC is supportive of the systematic review of Bristol Bay salmon management plans. They agree the plans have been "piecemealed" over the years and more comprehensive and systematic approach is warranted to keep plans current.

BBEDC is willing to host the local meetings well ahead of BOF meetings. The goal is to bring well prepared information to the BOF.

LUNCH BREAK 12:03

RESTART 12:32

Susie resumed the meeting emphasizing the 3PM meeting room deadline.



IX New Business: Review and actions on proposals.

1. Proposal - BOF proposal 279 (ACR from October 2019)

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
279	<p>5AAC 06.333. Requirements and specifications for use of 200 fathoms drift gillnet in Bristol Bay.</p>		
Oppose	2	8	<p>Dan Move Todd 2nd: Tim Sands explained history of regulation and how this proposal would affect the fishery. ADFG is neutral. Discussion about the history of D boats and 200 f gear was supposed to aid permit holders without boats, take some boats and gear out of the water. But it activated dormant permits. Now a single person can own 2 permits may have added gear to fishery and works against original intent. When the Naknek RSHA is opened many D boats tend to head to Nushagak District adding competition to that fishery.</p> <p>Joe C. " I've always opposed allowing 200 fathoms of gear and current regulation is working fine.</p> <p>Sands indicated that there were over 600 boats in Nushagak District in 2019 and over 700 in 2018; that Nushagak generally supports the most D boats, especially early in the season and then D boats tend to disperse to other districts as the season progresses.</p> <p>Curt, this does not rise to the level justifying an ACR and would be better addressed by more of the public if it came up in the normal BOF cycle for the Bay.</p> <p>Susie is opposed, in her case it would be better for her family to fish a second boat and full complement of gear. But Nushagak District is already congested and they don't need more boats coming in, especially with 200f. "I am opposed to the fisheries proposal more to the effect that it would increase congestion in the Nushagak and reduce local permit holders</p>



Alaska Board of Fisheries: Statewide King & Tanner Crab Proposals			
March 7-11, 2020 Anchorage, Alaska			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			<p>opportunity/catch."</p> <p>Gust - I support D boat system, it helps some village families and keeps some gear out of the water. But I only support for 2 individual permit owners.</p> <p>Tom called the question. Roll call vote.</p>

2. Board of Game Proposals

NOTE prior to taking up the wildlife proposals Biologist Watine brought more data and discussion to the AC members. That information is included above in the general format minutes.

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals			
March 6-14, 2020 Fairbanks, AK			
Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
165	Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A		
Support	10	0	<p>Joe move to adopt Travis 2nd.</p> <p>ADFG noted moose population is well above and even exceeds desired levels. The range needs to be preserved from excessive browsing.</p> <p>Dan said he supports, protect range, provide opportunity to local</p>



Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 6-14, 2020 | Fairbanks, AK

Proposal Number	Proposal Description		
Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
			people and reward them for their restraint allowing the herd to grow. . Gayla asked how often the plan is reviews [5 years].
166	Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region		
Support	10	0	Travis move to adopt, Gayla 2nd. ADFG explained proposal. Dan and Travis expressed their support. Very handy to not have to buy a tag and we can take b
169	Clarify Purchase of Locking Tags, AWT proposal.		
Support	10	0	Dan Move to adopt, Travis 2nd AWT Witkopp explained the proposal was to clarify tag must be purchased before taking an animal. AWT had difficulties with a case and current regulation was not clear. Dan I support clearer regulations and yes, if Alaskans must have a harvest ticket before hunting, nonresident hunters should buy their tag before shooting, hunting. Travis supports, these guys are working the gray area and need clear rules This helps enforcement do their job.

3. Discuss proposals to submit to the BOG for 200/21 meeting.

Todd Fritze requested the AC submit a proposal to address positioning snow machines for wolverine and wolf hunting. It was the understanding of several public and some BOG members that this issue was addressed by the last BOG meeting in Dillingham. However when the regulations were published wolverine especially was omitted and only addressed caribou. Reviewing transcripts of meeting its was not clear.



Todd moved to submit proposal. We need BOG to readdress - especially for wolverine, existing regulations cover wolf. Todd wants to have the same options as most other GMU to the north and west of 17.

AWT asked to make positioning clear as current regulations do not mention "positioning" anywhere with regard to snowmachine. Please be clear, positioning the hunter or the quarry?

Joe C. suggest look to existing regulations as a guide and don't reinvent the wheel.

Gayla moved to write a proposal using the wording in the proposal to "mirror" language that is being proposed to the Feds for GMU 17. Initially AC included GMU 9 but review of charter suggests this AC has no authority to make proposals for 9.

Dan 2nd

Curt noted any language adopted likely to be "subject to interpretation" and suggested using the words "...go to..." to be clear.

Roll Call vote: 7 support 3 No.

By unanimous consent: Working group of Todd, Gayla, Dan agreed to work up language and submit by the proposal deadline. Language to mimic a similar proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board.

4. Discuss Mulchatna Caribou herd and current regulations.

Dan had requested this agenda item. He's very concerned and listed the following: high quality survey shows 13,500 animals +/- 2000 - very tight estimate and less than half the 30,000 minimal population goal. Hot weather may be degrading nutritional quality of the range, animals may have headed into what is now a real winter in reduced condition. Fall rains into November may be hard on young animals. Now we have cold weather and forecast snow building good travel conditions may allow heavier hunting pressure; if we get more snow could also push animals closer to villages and make them vulnerable, suggestions of considerable unreported harvest - very strong comments suggesting considerable non-reporting coming out of some Tribal organizations in the Kuskokwim which seemed a surprise. Look how long its taken for the NAP to try to recover and we've been waiting a long time now too.

Lauren provided recent historic Mulchatna recorded harvests:

2019 to date 85

2018 240

2017 448 reflects best winter travel in years

2016 358

2015 246



Todd: I hear caribou are showing up near Nushagak River villages now and some animals may be harvested. Also mentioned previous years where one year the estimate was low and ADFG worried and next year animals seemed to "reappear" in numbers. Hard to gauge a single year estimate.

Tom thinks current harvest is inconsequential and we should wait for another year's survey.

Travis? -The problem of not knowing the true harvest is obscuring what the problem might be. But closing it would only penalize the honest folks and might not deter the non-reported harvest.

ADFG discussed current assessment efforts, don't have enough satellite collars to locate herd this time of year. Seems like adult survival is uncertain, maybe there is a problem with female survival? Not known. ADFG plans to get out more GPS collars next season.

Todd we could be heading into the prime time for harvest and could have a big impact on the population.

Tom discussed observing the herd decline from top abundance in early 2000's while he was a pilot guide. Seemed like as the herd declined they ventured less and less into GMU 17 - staying more and more at the north end - maybe straying is part of the problem.

Joe thinks GMU 17 could suffer as the Federal land have already been closed and maybe this is just the Feds want the State to act as well. This might be the only year we get good travel and hunt conditions. I would hate to see the harvest opportunity jeopardized now that numbers are down. Maybe Feds just want a blanket closure, I prefer to see the State biologists take the lead. and preserve some opportunity.

Dan asked, has ADFG made any plans or action points if harvest suddenly increases? ADFG said they are watching closely but no action points set.

We can submit these minutes to the BOG when they take this up in Nome.

ADFG: during flights from November to recent days, every time we go we see indications of what appears to be unreported harvests and often appears to be more than one animal has been taken.

Travis supports continued opportunity and we shouldn't over-emphasize illegal activity. Stay with 1 animal.

No other proposals discussed.

ADFG reminded all in attendance Game proposals are due May 1.

Proposals are open for entire range of the Mulchatna herd.

Dan reminded group we've worked a long time to have uniform, coherent range-wide caribou regulations, be careful about breaking things up again.

Gayla commented maybe the AC should have a working group on this.

X. Miscellaneous Business:

1. Approval of minutes:

Joe move and Travis 2nd for secretary write minutes, and have Gayla and Susie review and approve for submission to Boards Support. All three to approve and sign.

Motion supported Unanimously, 10-0.

2. Next Meeting Time and Location:

Time: by call of the Chair. TBA

Location: Gayla moved the Curyung Tribal building where we are less likely to be under time constraints we always have at the City building.

Motion supported Unanimously, 10-0.

XI. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned 2:35 PM

I.

Minutes Recorded By: __Dan Dunaway__

Minutes Approved By: _____

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: ___1-13-20___



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James A. Blake
James A. Blake
Registered Guide Name **PRINT & SIGN**

1207
Reg. Guide #



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Russell DAVIS 177
Registered Guide Name PRINT & Reg. Guide #
Russell Davis SIGN



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Respectfully,

JUSTIN DUBAY
[Handwritten Signature]

Registered Guide Name **PRINT & SIGN**

1174
Reg. Guide #



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Orin Hiltbrand #1330
 Registered Guide Name **PRINT NAME** Reg. Guide #
& SIGN



May 21, 2019

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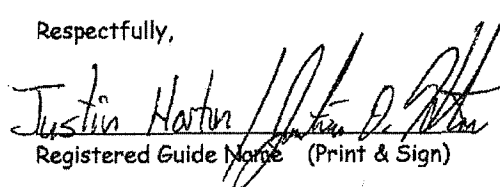
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 Justin Martin (Print & Sign) Reg. Guide # 1332



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Registered Guide Name PRINT NAME
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M114
Reg. Guide #



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The reason this May 1 - 31 permit-application period is so **CRITICALLY** valuable to us is because we can re-apply for our bear hunters who failed to win a Spring permit during the Nov/Dec application period, but who are still interested in a Fall hunt. The Nov-Dec application period only allows hunters one chance/year to win a permit so if they don't initially win a Spring permit, they have another opportunity for a Fall permit. The hunters are fully available and our teams are needing to make a living.

As it is, with 2 application periods, we've had frustrated hunters in the drawing for several years. Now, if only one permit-application period is available, their success rate will be even lower, thus causing many to withdraw from the Alaskan process completely, especially considering that there is **no preference-point system**.

We realize that much of the recent Alaskan state budget-cutting has been reasonable, but the math doesn't compute reasonably in our case. Since most of us in the guiding industry operate our own offices, we can see that the little bit of labor, by 1 - 2 **existing ADF&G employees**, to manage this **small seasonal** computer-drawing, is not a hardship on the ADF&G budget.

With 46 Kodiak brown bear permits awarded each Fall, the **minimum** associated ADF&G income is:

Bear tag: (\$1,000 x 46)	\$46,000
Hunting license: (\$160 x 46).....	7,360 (\$630/aliens)
Deer tag: (\$200 x 70).....	14,000 (+\$300/aliens + many hunters take 2 - 3 deer)
Sea-duck stamps: (\$10 x 25).....	250 (approximate)
Fishing licenses: (\$45 x 25).....	<u>1,125</u> (approximate)
TOTAL ADF&G income.....	\$68,735 (approximate)

Again, this more than covers the cost of 1-2 existing ADF&G employees for their part-time attention to a few hundred computer entries &/or pieces of paper.

By contrast, what does it mean to Registered Guides & their 1 to 5 asst-guides/packers/cooks? With Kodiak brown bear hunts averaging about \$20,000/hunt, the projected income into the Alaskan economy is **at least**:

Hunt: (\$20,000 x 46)	\$ 920,000
Accompanying non-hunters: (\$3,000 x 20)...	60,000
Tips: (10% minimum of hunt).....	<u>92,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,072,000

PLUS air-lines, hotels, restaurants, ground-taxis, air-taxis, groceries, fuels, advertising, sport-shops, hardware, etc.

Those of us in the guiding industry (many, for decades), are high-energy, ruggedly industrious, honorable individuals. **We are not a financially-draining burden on the state.** We are not part of the unnecessary "fat" that needs to be trimmed from the state budget. Quite the contrary, we bring a lot of outside revenue into Alaska. We are not welfare recipients, but your recent decision may contribute to some of our members needing future financial state assistance.

From a business perspective, it appears you've made an unwise decision by not taking all these basic factors into consideration. If you'd allowed the guides to voice their critical concerns, these factors would have been brought to light.

As per the governing principles for being Board of Game members, you are required to consider "**socio-economic information**", "**public comment from people inside the state**" and any "**emergency situation**". Our concerns meet each of these criteria. Therefore, you could easily re-convene in the near future, by tele-conference or in person, to reverse your recent serious blunder so that the May 1- 31 permit-application period for **2020 & future years** can be re-instated by simply agreeing.

We, the undersigned, adamantly request that you make an Agenda Change Request & reverse your recent decision.

Respectfully,

Josh Randall
Registered Guide Name

1146
Reg. Guide #



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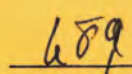
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Registered Guide Name
Seltwell



Reg. Guide #