

On Time AC Comment List

Stika AC1
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Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Tad Fujioka, Chairman
214 Shotgun Alley, Sitka, AK 99835

This is a compilation of the minutes of Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee over the three AC meetings that proposals for consideration at the 2011-2012 BOF SE Shellfish meeting were discussed. These AC meetings took place on Oct 20, Oct 27 & Nov 3 2011.

The following people are members of the Sitka AC, ADF&G staff, or public that spoke during one or more of the meetings. The record that follows frequently refers to these people by first & last initial, or in the case of members of the public by first name.

AC members: Eric Jordan-alternate, Jerry Barber-Hand troll-Vice chair; Karen Johnson-At-large; Mo Johnson - Seine; Randy Gluth- hunting; John Murray -power troll; Tad Fujioka- trapping- chairman; Pete Roddy-shellfish; Mike Baines- sportfish; Tory O'Connell -alternate-secretary; Floyd Tomkins-conservation; Jack Lorrigan-subsistence; Eli Underhill-longline,

Non-AC members: Dave Gordon- ADF&G Com fish; Patrick Fowler- ADF&G Sport fish; Troy Tydingco-ADF&G Sport fish; Kristen Green-ADF&G Groundfish; Larry Trani (public-commercial diver), Burgess Bauder (public-commercial diver), Greg Cushing (public-commercial diver); Ryan Kaufman -public non-commercial diver)

PROPOSAL 139

ACTION: passes 11-0

DESCRIPTION: Clarify where personal use shellfish regulations apply.

AMENDMENT:na

DISCUSSION: DG – personal use regulations came from a time when the State passed rural preference law for subsistence back in late 70s and many people became ineligible to participate in subsistence fisheries. PU filled that gap for residents that didn't qualify for subsistence. The state no longer has a rural preference for subsistence, so in most cases there is a subsistence fishery for all residents & PU is not needed where subsistence occurs.

TF – would there ever be a method and means that is allowed for PU but not for subsistence-i.e. one that is not customary or traditional? DG – C&T findings are for species and area – gear is a bit separate.

EJ – we have PU, subsistence, sport, and commercial. Are we going to be in a situation where we have sport and subsistence regulations that conflict that wouldn't if we had personal use. Very confusing area of regulations.

PR?

MTA: PR 2nd RG

PROPOSAL 140

ACTION: fails 4-6-1 absent

DESCRIPTION: Establish a catch report card system for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish fisheries.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION: PR - Sounds like a nightmare. Can't imagine that there will be anything useful but enforcement tickets. TO – disagree. This might not be the right tool but there is not good documentation of removals for subsistence, PU, or sport for shellfish.

TT – explained SWHS program – it is not useful for estimating harvest in small areas, but it is good in large areas with lots of participation. There is a standard error that goes way up for small sample sizes. Not sure of the mechanism for returning the data form this proposal. Washington State return rate on these tags in pretty low.

TF – what species does the SWHS ask about? TT – Dungeness crab, hardshell clams, other shellfish.

RG – is there any concern about nonresidents taking more shellfish – any surveys to see increasing trend?

TT - for Dungeness crab, the take by nonresident is 1%.

RG – all you have to do is drive around town and see the stacks of pots in front of charter lodges to know they are heavily fished here, perhaps the Department does not have a handle on this. Would this help enforcement with compliance? TT- can't speak for enforcement but I suspect no, because most limits are daily.

MTA PR – TO 2nd

MB?

PROPOSAL 145

ACTION:passes 11-0

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the shrimp pot limit for the sport fishery.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

MTA RG

MB 2nd

JM – Last board cycle they got a reduction in the daily limit down to 3 lbs or 3 quarts. That might be enough.

TO – what is done now, is there a problem?

PR – What was the catch rate in the commercial fishery? Has there been a reduction?

TO – what is the average catch/pot? – handling mortality seems like a real issue if the catches are too large

FT- We need a lower limit for pots/boat. Why would you want to increase the pot limit per vessel? You should limit it to 10 pots per vessel.

EJ – This getting more and more out of tune with what is sport. What is sporting about power-hauling shrimp pots? I support this. We should support our fellow advisory committee.

RG –is shrimp open to subsistence?

Yes.

TO?

PROPOSAL 146

ACTION: Passes 9-2

DESCRIPTION: Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial fishing.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

JB 2nd

EJ – what does this mean? If it passed than nonresidents couldn't fish for crab when commercial fisheries are closed? Residents could still fish under subsistence regulations, but nonresidents couldn't fish these areas?

DG - Historically when areas were closed to commercial fishing, the intent was to give to local residents better access, but the sport fishery allows nonresidents / lodges to get these crab instead.

PR – I totally support this, if it is closed to commercial it should be closed to sport – this allows for residents to have the intended access.

RG – I have to agree with PR – the guided sport fishery is a commercial fishery – do you have the percent of guided versus non guided?

JM – I think this is too all encompassing. Why can't Uncle Joe from Seattle fish for crab? The only way I would support something like this if it was a problem in our area.

PR – John you need to get out more – there are charter boats everywhere – there are charter pots every where. Even in Tenakee Inlet- there is a 4 mile closed stretch that is for the town – the rest of it would be open. If we are preserving an area for a skiff to fish from town that is important – Uncle Joe can fish all the way up the rest of the inlet.

EJ – So this doesn't apply to all the areas - there are plenty of areas that would remain open to sport fishing year round. This only applies to the areas that have been set aside for local use.

JB – I agree with John that this is too broad. I think most charter outfits don't crab. I don't think the take is that high. If you look at one Aleutian crabber compared to 20 charter boats they couldn't keep up

EU- you have to go farther and farther from town to catch a dungy crab. Even Takatz way over on the far side of the island is creamed with charter pots, they keep their pots there and there are so many that you can't get your own pot in there from May- to Sept. Every day they check pots, this happens up and down Chatham Strait all season. I think this is a great idea. It is hard to catch a Dungeness.

TO ?

PROPOSAL 148**ACTION: fails 0-10-1****DESCRIPTION:** Allocate all harvest of king crab in section 11A to the personal use fishery.**AMENDMENT:**

DISCUSSION: mta PR 2nd MB PR– this area was open for the first time in 6 years to the commercial fishery – it had been a commercial fishery historically, but was closed for several years to rebuild the stock. DG – Currently commercial fishery gets 40%, PU gets 60%, but PU gets opened every year that there is any harvestable surplus-with reduced limits in low stock years. TF – they allow a PU fishery even if there is a very small quota, but the commercial fishery has to meet a significant threshold before they will open it. This means that it takes a few years for the stock to build high enough to be above the threshold. TF?

PROPOSAL 149**ACTION: fails 0-9-2****DESCRIPTION:** Establish ring net limits for the subsistence, sport, and personal use Dungeness and Tanner crab fisheries.**AMENDMENT:****DISCUSSION:**

JB – I had spoken with enforcement about this and the intent is 5 rings for 11A but it wasn't written in regulations. DG – the issue is the management concerns with section 11A which currently has no limits on the number of ring nets you can throw out, but there are strict limits on the catch.

PR MTA

JB 2nd

PR – I'd like to have some direction in Petersburg

EJ – I think it's a good idea to have ring net limits but this is ridiculous. These are not conservation proposals...are guys commonly fishing their limit of pots and this many rings? Ring nets are constantly worked. If you had too many rings you couldn't work them all.

TF – I have a fair amount of experience with rings-both for kings and dungies. In an area with enough crab to make ringing worthwhile, you don't gain anything by fishing more than 8 or 10 – there is a practical limit. Why clutter up the regulation book with a limit that there isn't any reason to even approach? It is self-limiting. The ring doesn't fish any better if you let it sit any longer than 45 minutes or so. If you are a really efficient ring fisherman and working fairly shallow water you can turn over a ring in about 5 minutes from the time that you grab a buoy to the time you haul, re-deploy and move on to the next buoy. To have more than about 8 or nine rings just means that you have to own more gear and need to bring more bait. You won't catch any more crab, or catch them any faster. Actually it will take you longer to start catching because you'll spend time deploying your extra rings that you could have used to start pulling the first ones. JM- I don't do this crab fishing very often but I want to bring all the pots I can bring. I want to maximize my catch.

DG – this proposal is really targeted at the 11A king crab fishery.

EJ – my unfortunate experience is that everyone has to fish the maximum – just listen to JM. If you are going to limit it then you should limit it to a reasonable limit.

EJ mta no more than 5 rings per person 10 per vessel – throughout the proposal.

No 2nd.

MB ?

PROPOSAL 152**ACTION: no action due to support of 153****DESCRIPTION:** Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.**AMENDMENT:****DISCUSSION:****PROPOSAL 153****ACTION: passes 5-4-2****DESCRIPTION:** Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.**AMENDMENT:**

DISCUSSION:

MTA PR 2nd MB

PR – the Dutch price settled at \$10 per pound and SE crab would likely be worth more. The crabbers would like to have a fishery on this stock even with a smaller-than-historic limit. It used to not be economically viable to fish for this few crab, but with higher prices it is now.

EJ – how many king crab permits are there in SE? PR – about 40 perhaps – that would work out to about \$50K per permit at 200,000 lbs & \$10/lb

TO – is there a concern about handling loss with a small threshold?

PR – they are managing much smaller quotas than this on a daily call in basis.

EJ ?

PROPOSAL 154

ACTION: fails 0-8-3

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of square pots for golden king crab fishing in registration Area A.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

EJ – MTA, JM 2nd

EJ – I have heard of halibut being caught and used for bait. We need to conserve halibut.

JM – they need to reduce their harvest of halibut

TO – how many boats have square pots?

PR – lots, most of the big boats fish these – Anybody who can afford them and has a big enough boat to handle them. They are much better fishing than the round ones.

EU – Golden crab are fished very deep. Do you catch many halibut that deep?

PR – I’m not sure, I fish cones.

EJ – my friend fishes in 150 fathoms and deeper and he catches halibut.

TO – I am not going to support this because I need more data and I don’t know the economics of this but I do think there is a problem with these pots and leaving /losing pots on grounds preempting the grounds so that longliners can't fish without risking having their gear tangled. I wouldn't want somebody who has just spent a bunch of money on these pots to be told that he wasn't allowed to use them.

JB?

PROPOSAL 155

ACTION: fails 2-3-6

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the pot limit in the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries in Registration Area A.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR – MTA

EU 2nd

PR – this would slow down the take and the reduce the ground-crowding. This would be good for smaller boats. People with herring permits would not like this because it might extend the season into Sitka sac roe. This is a big boat versus small boat versus herring permit issue.

EU – I know the proposer and his boat. He is really level headed – he has a big boat- a 58' Delta. I think it makes sense. If he backs it, I'm for it.

MJ – a friend of mine does this fishery and he has a smaller boat and he is not in favor of this – he needs all his pots to prospect. The price statement is not correct.

PROPOSAL 157

ACTION: passes 9-1-1 as amended

DESCRIPTION: Redefine the start date for Tanner and golden king crab fisheries.

AMENDMENT: Opening at 8 AM – passes 8-1-2

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

JM 2nd

PR – they announce an opening day but then they read the tide book wrong. When it does open, it opens in poor weather – the idea was good, but functionally it is difficult.

PR – move to amend opening time 8 am JM 2nd

TO – I support this, it is hard for a manager to get the “right” answer

TF- How long has the fishery been opened using the current language? I.e. would there be an issue with comparisons to historic CPU? DG- It has only been a few years that it has been opened based on the tides. TO ?

PROPOSAL 158

ACTION: passes 11-0 as amended

DESCRIPTION: Add additional language that defines how weather delays may impact Tanner and king crab fishing seasons.

AMENDMENT: change start time to 8 AM; passes 11-0

DISCUSSION:

MTA PR

EJ 2nd

PR – I like that this is in regulation

FT – I amend to an 8AM start time; PR 2nd

PR – amended proposal – we don't want to be out there when the weather is going to kill us – boats have sunk because fishermen leave when the opening is scheduled to happen.

JB – we passed the last proposal because we wanted the date to be fixed, but now we want to make it variable?– Most other fisheries don't have this weather clause.

PR – the gear is the problem – we have a big deck load. Being top heavy that can kill in bad weather if you ice up– the previous proposal means that the fleet knows when to be ready & to leave town and head for the grounds. Once there you get there, you can stay in some protected bay to wait for the weather to moderate – it is a safety supplement.

TF?

PROPOSAL 161

ACTION: fails 0-9-2

DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Taku Harbor.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA, EU 2nd

PR – there is already a large area closed to commercial crabbing in the Juneau area – this is an assault on the commercial fishery.

JM – Did you support the Sitka Sound closure? PR – I believe I supported the resolution to close the Dec-Feb season in exchange for having the same season in all of SE – BOF actually took away all of Sitka Sound and the summer season as well.

FT – Is there a conservation issue or is it allocation?

DG – We don't feel like we have resource conservation issues with crab – it is a size sex season sort of fishery.

PR – I have fished Dungeness crab in Taku Harbor, so that is part of the Sitka fleet range.

MB ?

PROPOSAL 162

ACTION: fails 0-10-1

DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Swanson Harbor.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR – MTA

EU – 2nd

EJ – It is a long ways from Juneau to Swanson Harbor – the whole idea behind these closed areas is to keep shellfish near ports for locals, but this is way out of town. This defies the intent of resident protection

FT – is there a conservation concern? DG – no

?

PROPOSAL 163

ACTION: fails 0-11

DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Excursion Inlet of District 14.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR – MTA, MB 2nd

EJ – this is a huge area – from the head of the inlet to way south past the XIP Plant. This is a long ways from the town of Haines. This has traditionally been an important commercial fishery – but maybe the sea otters are getting them now.

EJ – this is like us proposing a closure in Gut Bay!

JM – is this part of the Haines Borough?

TF – It is the Haines Borough. There are some cabins and a lodge there.

EJ – As written, even the possession of dungy crab would be illegal in these waters. This would prohibit anchoring in the inlet, which really limits opportunity -also you couldn't get bait at the XIP plant if you had crab on board.

MB ?

PROPOSAL 164

ACTION: fails 0-10-1

DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the Ketchikan vicinity.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

MB 2nd

PR – there is no resource issue and they talk about they don't like the Wrangell and Petersburg boats.

JM – I am opposing this because they talk about locals but it is submitted by the guides association

MB?

PROPOSAL 165

ACTION: passes 10-0-1

DESCRIPTION: Amend regulation regarding buoy markers in the Dungeness crab fishery.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

EU 2nd

PR – I have been given warnings for sun faded buoys. It isn't realistic to expect all the buoys to be completely identical. Some get lost and have to be replace with new ones. Some are slightly different shape even when they are brand new.

FT- What is the point of requiring the buoys to look alike anyway? Is it so that enforcement can count your buoys and know that you are within your pot limit?

PR- No- It wouldn't be practical to try to count 300 pots spread over several bays. They make us put individually numbered tags on our buoys. It is really a pain. If I loose one pot I have to check all of my other buoys to figure out which tag number I lost so that I can go buy a replacement tag. It is so much trouble that some fishermen claim that they lost all of their tags, and buy a whole new set of tags each year to keep from having to go through the hassle.

TF – Well, if you are required to have individually numbered dept-issued tags on your buoys, how can the buoys be expected to be "identical" if the serial numbers are different?

TO?

PROPOSAL 167

ACTION: fails 2-6-3

DESCRIPTION: Reduce number of Dungeness crab pots allowed on vessels in Yakutat Area.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

RG 2nd

PR – if the Yakutat resource does come back, then if there is a 60 pot limit, the fleet that has historically fished there won't be able to fish economically This will turn into a skiff fishery and displace the fleet that has historically fished there.

FT – would this allow for a small fishery?

TO – seems like what they want is a test fishery, is pot limits the way to do this?

TF- How many Yakutat permits are there? DG- Yakutat isn't limited entry.

PROPOSAL 169

ACTION: fails 2-6-3

DESCRIPTION: Establish section sub-divisions in all districts of shrimp fishery.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR – MTA

JB – 2nd

PR – Perhaps there is a point about subdivision of districts.

DG – It is true that district 13 that there are large subdistricts – we had one to district 13 and then divided the area up to keep Hoonah Sound from being overharvested (section C). Tenakee was split out but in general we have been resistant to getting to small areas because our level of information doesn't support this. We have done some test fishing in outside areas to see about expansion of some areas. Trend with shrimp has been down, and we don't have much information.

TF – how much do they move? If shrimp in an unfished portion of a district can't move to an overfished portion, then maybe this makes sense. DG – I don't know the extent of their range, but I doubt that shrimp are moving from Crawfish Inlet to Hoonah Sound.

JB?

PROPOSAL 172

ACTION: no action-comment only

DESCRIPTION: Close the commercial shrimp fishery in the vicinity of Skagway from September 1-March 1 annually.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION: TF- I see that the dates of this closure are for the entire period that commercial fishing is currently allowed.

PROPOSAL 176

ACTION: passes 7-1-3

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp and Dungeness crab fishery at the same time.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

EJ MTA

TO 2nd

JM – I know a guy that had one of these beam trawl permits but he was out of luck. Petersburg isn't buying the shrimp anymore. There's no market.

TF?

178- Revise Cucumber Harvest Rate

Passes:8-0

DG- This fishery is now over 10 years old. We've learned a lot about this fishery. We know a little bit more about the optimal level of the resource, how the population response to harvest. We started out with what we thought was a pretty conservative harvest rate. Some areas can handle higher harvest better than others. This gives us more flexibility to manage the fishery.

EJ- Does the dept have numbers on what this proposal would mean to the overall harvest?

DG- There would be significant change to the individual district GHLS, but if we went with this proposal for this season, the overall GHLS would be up by 1%- basically no change.

MTA-RG/JB

Greg- The numbers that I saw indicated that Sitka would get hit very hard by this proposal. For instance, Windy Passage would be closed. I dove there last rotation and did well. I don't think that it needs to be shut down.

DG- The dept is concerned about Windy Passage. The densities there are going down. We would like to close it anyway.

TF- (to DG): It looks to me that this proposal seeks to change not just the Harvest Rate, but also how to compute the population that the Harvest Rate is based on. The population that is used changes from the original unfished biomass to the most recent surveyed population. Do you really base the current 6.4% harvest rate on the original biomass? This would mean that the GHLS for a given district would be the same every year.

DG- No- we don't do that. We use the survey population.

Several of the divers had some questions for DG about the dept's estimates of densities in specific areas. Basically, the divers had observed very high densities in some of these areas and the dept's surveys didn't show this. DG explained that the divers must have hit some unusually dense pockets, but that the overall average density was much lower. A couple of divers mentioned the research of the late Molly Ahlgren that indicated that larval sea cucumber are triggered to settle out of the water column by an enzyme that is produced by the adult cucumbers. Hence, if a bed is wiped out, there will not be any recruitment, while a bed with a healthy population will have a large recruitment.

TF- (to DG) In this proposal, the harvest rate varies as a function of the most recent survey divided by the original unfished biomass. In many of these cases the unfished state was prior to the spread of the sea otters. Now that there are otters on many of the beds, it seems like even without a fishery, the otters would keep the population from reaching their historic levels. Maybe the otters knock the cucumber population back to 50% of the original level. Even at that level, there might still be enough to sustain a fishery, but this proposal wouldn't allow that.

DG- Right, we didn't account for otters in the proposal. I think that the next proposal talks about otters though.

179-Increase harvest of cucumber ahead of the advancing sea otter

Fails 0-8

MTA JB/MJ

JB- Don't like this. It is race to the bottom. Not a good idea. If you wipe out one cucumber bed so that the otter don't get enough food on there they will move on to the next. If you wipe that one out too, they will just continue to move. You'll just accelerate the otter movement.

PR- This is probably illegal since it would not be sustainable and the Alaska Constitution requires that the resource be managed for sustainable yield.

MJ- This is a very bad idea and a very bad proposal. You occasionally see a radical proposal from an individual, but not from a group which presumably has enough people to keep from flying off the handle. Groups also have more reputation at stake. If I was on the BOF I would consider SARDFAs credibility to be zero after reading this proposal. What were they thinking?

Greg- I don't know. I'm on the SARDFAs board now- but for the record I was not on the board when this proposal was submitted. This gives you an idea of the mindset of the people that we (the Sitka divers) are dealing with and why we can't get SARDFAs to back our proposals.

180- Change season on Thanksgiving Week

PASSES 8-0 as amended to change the weekly schedule for all SE cucumber fisheries on Thanksgiving week, not just Ketchikan

MTA PR/JM

PR- Why should all fishermen have to change their schedule based on religious holiday? This is a dumb proposal.

DG- We don't think that it is a dumb proposal. We do this every year anyway by EO. Might as well put it in regulation. We had a diver mad at us one year who had bought plane tickets etc based on the usual opening day of the week who didn't know about the change for this one week. It should be in the book.

Larry- Why not do this for all of SE instead of just the Ketchikan districts?

EJ- Amend to **apply to all of SE**; seconded

Amendment passed 8-0

181 Prohibit unlicensed divers from diving off of cucumber boats before, during, and after openings

PASSES 7-2

Larry- I was asked last meeting if any cheating was going on. (See discussion that precedes geoduck proposals 183-190.) Yes it does happen. People use artificial light to gather cucumbers ahead of the season for the licensed divers to collect. Unfortunately, just last opening a man diving from a cucumber boat died underwater. He was on his second tank of air at 6:30 AM. You tell me what was happening there...

RG- I understand there is a trip limit. Why is there a need to cheat if there is a trip limit?

Larry- It is a big enough limit that some divers can't fill their limit.

TF- Well, even with this proposal, couldn't you just tow a skiff behind and have your unlicensed diver dive off the skiff?

Larry- This proposal won't stop the cheaters, but you could identify them. They would be the ones with the extra skiffs.

Extensive Geoduck discussion which occurred prior to taking action on Geoduck proposals:

Larry – Provided an overview of how geoduck fishery is run. We would like the dive association (SARDFDA) to support one of these since if SARFDA doesn't support it than the BOF isn't likely too either. Geoduck fishery is run in the most asinine way of any fishery that we can think of – derby style. You only have a few areas that are open to geoduck in SE in any given year, and furthermore you have to fish in areas that pass PSP test. This means that everyone is concentrated in one spot. It is dangerous. After one day of everybody fishing hard, the market is flooded with product. It is a live clam market which can only absorb some much product before the price tanks. It was \$18/lb before the Alaska season opened, now it about \$6/lb. Furthermore, there is only one freighter jet per day that we can ship geoducks out on. If too many divers dig too many clams on the same day they can't all get out of town that day. Their shelf live is very limited. A day's delay means a significant loss of value.

The Sitka Geoduck marketing Association has proposed a slate of proposals. We don't necessarily have any that we endorse over another. We were trying to see if we could get SARDFDA (and then the BOF) to go along with anything that would slow the harvest down and spread it out to increase the value that we get. SARDFDA is different from most of the fishing gear group organizations in that all licensed divers are automatically members and they all pay a landing tax to SARDFDA on their catches. After paying the executive director, the bulk of this tax money is turned over to the department for them to use to manage the fishery. The SARDFDA bylaws make it very difficult to get official support for a proposal. The proposal has to pass not only the SARDFDA board, but also the geoduck committee by not just a majority, but a large super-majority. Any significant opposition means that SARDFDA won't support your proposal. If SARDFDA does support it though, it should have clear sailing through the BOF since that means that there basically isn't any opposition. That's why we submitted so many different proposals. Maybe SARDFDA can get behind one or two of them. We would welcome any improvement over the current derby fishery. Proposals 191 & 192 deal more with safety. This derby fishery is very dangerous. These geoduck beds tend to be pretty small- at least the productive areas. You all know how small Symonds Bay is. That's a comparatively big area for a geoduck fishery. At times we've had 40 boats there– each diver has a floating air hose and a water hose that sinks and drags along behind the diver. Once you start jettling a clam out of the sand, your visibility goes to zero. It is real common to have other divers digging right next to you that you aren't aware of. People are walking around looking for clams. There is a lot of potential for trouble if hoses get tangled in other divers' hoses or in other boats anchor lines. Sometimes boats drag anchor through the area that the divers are working. Sometimes a boat wants to move to a different spot and is in such a hurry that they don't bother to completely pull their anchor, but just tow it through the water. Then they drop their anchor and just hope that there isn't a diver on the bottom where the anchor hits.

FT – question about quality of product – what time do they spawn? Is there a better season for quality.

Larry – there is a year round market, but quality suffers if the clams start to freeze while being transferred from the water to the boat's holds. This is a potential problem on very cold windy days, particularly during a derby fishery when the diver brings up a big load.

FT – is there a spawning period you would want to blackout?

Larry – The meat quality doesn't vary, but PSP closures are harder on the fishery later in the season – August-September than during the winter.

RG - It seems wrong to try and legislate civility in a fishery – I don't like to privatize fisheries.

DG – how do you visualize this will fix the PSP situation since there are still going to be areas closed for PSP where the fishery would otherwise occur.

Larry – people could choose to fish the same time of year if they wanted to, but other people could fish other seasons that they aren't allowed to now (because the quota has been harvested by then). The market could help dictate when this occurs. Right now there are 111 geoduck permits. You almost never get more than 70 divers in a season– high 50s is more typical. About half of the transferable permits are held by tract divers from Puget Sound. They spend most of their season working for somebody who owns a clam tract and getting paid only about \$2/lb. They want to keep the Alaska compressed in the fall because they think that \$6/lb is great and they want to get as much as they can quickly then go back to the tract diving. This year we got our dive board to agree to wait to harvest Sitka until the end of the season because the price was so low.

RG – won't you bring in more of the inactive divers if you make it less competitive?

Larry – I wouldn't deny that, but most have a day job anyway

TO – some of these can't be done – ie the proposal 192 the boat spacing. I can't see that being enforceable at all. Can we schedule a dive fishery meeting and have more of the local divers come to tell us what they want?

Discussion followed about equal quota share and how to manage the fishery

FT – the PSP testing must really effect time and space for fishery – how does this work?

Do they only test areas that might be open or do they test others.

Larry – They only test the districts that SARDFFA asks them to sample

Discussion of possibilities of overexpansion and stock assessment

TF – not sure we should go over this right now or not.

TO – I really think we should have an advertised meeting for dive fisheries

RG – is there a big problem with non-licensed cucumber divers bagging cucs before the season and leaving them in a pile for the licensed diver to haul up?

Larry – I don't think that is a big problem locally, but you do have licensed guys diving at night, which is not allowed, and of course misreporting areas. Trip limits were one way to take away the incentive to cheat.

Related to Proposals 183-190:

After the above conversation and the discussion of the proposals which follow, the following motion by EJ- (second by JB) was made: That the Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee note in its comments on the Geoduck Dive Fishery that:

We prefer the adoption of an equal share quota system and complementary proposals to spread the season out, starting July 1 etc., in order to conserve the resource by reducing wastage, improve the value of the product, and improve safety for the divers. If the Board of Fisheries, in it's wisdom does not adopt an equal shares approach, then the Sitka Fish & Game Advisory Committee recommends adoption of other proposals to improve safety, conserve the resource, and optimize value as proposed by the Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association.

PASSES 9-0

Proposal 183: Make Geoduck fishery an Equal Share fishery with each diver required to harvest from core and non-core areas.

Passes: 9-0

Burgess- explained that the 7 Sitka area geoduck divers have a gentleman's agreement to share the quota when they are the only divers working the local fishery. It has worked very well for them. They have even gone in together to market their clams and have seen this investment pay off several times over. The dept manager understands what that they are cooperating and can trust them to stick to a low quota, hence they are permitted to dive even towards the end of the season when the amount of quota left is too small to be manageable under a competitive situation.

The core/non-core aspect of this proposal was intended to be modeled on the tanner crab fishery. Without this sort of restriction the harvest would likely be disproportionately taken from the best areas first. This is an attempt to spread the harvest out.

DG- explained that the GHs for individual districts would still apply regardless of whether there was an equal share fishery or a competitive fishery.

Larry & DG explained how the relationship/responsibilities of SARDFFA and the dept would work. The dept would set quotas and have final say on seasons, but SARDFFA's input on when to dive would be given due consideration as the market as opposed to the geoduck biology would be a big driving force. SARDFFA would continue to determine when to test districts for PSP. Tax on landings by SARDFFA members would continue to fund ADF&G surveys to establish quotas.

MTA EJ/JB

EJ- asked if anyone was opposed to the overall concept of spreading out the harvest and reducing competitiveness- nobody answered affirmatively

MJ- noted that of the slate of proposals brought forth by the SGMA, 183 is the most radical. Perhaps we should consider some of the other proposals first. In favor of doing something though. Noted that many of the best areas are over crowded with up to 40 boats - Cone Island was mentioned as being particularly bad. Mentioned that many of the divers who base out of Ketchikan were opposed to equal shares or slowing the fishery down since they live most of the year in Washington and want to be able to harvest their Alaskan

quota as quickly as possible- even if it costs them lower prices since a longer season would conflict with their other fisheries.

EJ- Which proposal would the local divers most want us to support? The divers in the room agreed that the equal shares proposals were their first choice, but any of the proposals would be a significant improvement over the current system.

EJ- Asked about wastage under the current derby fishery

Burgess- In the highly competitive fisheries maybe as many as 25% of the clams that are killed are unsaleable. Divers rip the necks off of the clams in their haste to get them out of the hole. Many shells are broken. Even the ones that are sold are treated poorly enough that Alaskan clams have a reputation for low quality. During the cooperative local fisheries, one chipped shell per diver per day is about average. Three broken shelled clams on a day would be a terrible day. In addition, sometimes a competitive opening can harvest more clams than can be shipped out of town on the once-per-day air freight jet.

Larry- (in response to question by RG) There are a total of 111 geoduck permits. 55 transferable and 56 non-transferable. Most divers in the room had non-transferable permits hence any increase in permit value resulting from going to equal shares would not benefit them.

Greg - Safety is another big reason for these proposals. In the competitive fisheries there are too many divers and too many boats in a small area. I saw Burgess nearly get hit by a falling anchor. He was digging a clam and couldn't see out of his mud cloud and I saw the anchor falling down right into the cloud.
PASSES 9-0

184 Make Geoduck fishery an Equal Share fishery with each diver required to pre-register

PASSES 8-0-1 MTA JB/MB followed a brief discussion explaining that the pre-registration (with the payment of a significant registration fee) was intended as a means of making sure that only those permit holders who were serious about diving would participate in the fishery and that inactive permit holders didn't become active just because the equal share fishery made it more attractive.

185 Manage geoduck fishery for consistent monthly harvests

PASSES 8-1

MTA PR/EJ

Greg- A steady year round supply would mean that we are less able to flood the markets, hence result in a higher average price.

EJ- why didn't SARDFa offer a proposal like this instead of it having to come from this Sitka group?

Greg- permit holders are diverse in how they would like to the fishery conducted. All of the Sitka divers and most of the Craig divers want to move away from the derby fisheries to something more sane. The Ketchikan group, not necessarily so. The Sitka divers have tried make proposals along these lines for four BOF cycles now.

186 Start geoduck season July 1 instead of Oct 1.

PASSES 9-0

Larry-Summer and early fall typically have high prices (\$18 in Sept 2011), but the SE quota has already been harvested this late into the season. By starting the season early there will be the quota available when prices are high. The dept recently agreed to roll over quota underages and overages to the following harvest cycle. The Sitka districts are harvested every year (as opposed to every 2 or every 3 year cycles like most of the rest of the districts). SARDFa and the dept did agree to hold off on harvesting the 2011-2012 Sitka geoducks until late in the season (early fall 2012) when the prices would be high. Knowing that any unharvested quota will roll to the next year means that there isn't any risk of lost opportunity should these areas test hot for PSP with the season about to end. This works of Sitka, but in other districts fishermen would have to wait two or three years for their next opportunity if they had to forgo some of the quota due to PSP. Changing the season would fix that.

MTA PR/JB

187 Trip limits for geoduck

PASSES 8-0-1

MTA PR/JB

Another way to spread the harvest out over time

TF- Pointed out that the limits in popular areas might have to be made smaller if there were too many divers signed up to stay within the GHL. This means that over the course of a season one diver's cumulative limit might be quite a bit smaller than another's.

188 Manage geoduck fishery for a weekly quota based on SARDFAs recommendation

PASSES 7-0-2

MTA-JB/MB

Larry- explained that currently a PSP sample is taken on day one (typically a Sunday). It takes a day to get test results, then the department isn't allowed to open a fishery until the day after the test results are known (the "travel day"). This leaves only 2 days to fish before a new PSP test is required to ensure that the clams are safe. This proposal would require the fishermen to commit to an area and a specific day before they know the results of the PSP test. Daily harvest targets would be set for each district.

TF- So what happens if a diver signs up for a district that comes up with a hot PSP test? Is he allowed to dive somewhere else?

Larry- Not until the following week. He can sign up for a different district then. If you sign up for a district that comes up hot, you lose that week (actually just one day's) opportunity.

189 Dept to manage geoduck for weekly harvest targets

PASSES 7-0-2

MTA PR/MB

Larry- This isn't our favorite proposal, but it would be an improvement over what we have now. If it's the best deal we're going to get, we will take it.

190 Revise harvest rotation to make annual harvests approximately equal year-to-year.

PASSES 9-0

MTA PR/MB

Larry- year to year GHLs are very different because most districts don't open every year. Stability would help the price.

PR (to DG)- would the dept have a problem with this?

DG- Not really, we could split an cycle for some districts to get them on to a different rotation. I think that the concept is good. It wouldn't really change our management.

191 Limit air hose length to 300'

PASSES 9-0

MTA JB/MB

Burgess- The industry standard air hose length is 300'. Some guys though connect two hoses together to make a 600' hose. This is just a way to allow the diver to access a small crowded clam bed when there isn't enough room on the bed to anchor another boat. This compounds the congestion and associated safety concerns. 300' is all that is needed. This proposal is to create a limit in the fishery before things get out of hand.

192-minimum anchoring distance of 200 yards

Fails:2-7

MTA JB/EJ

There was a discussion on the enforceability of this proposal. Consensus was that it would be possible to enforce if there was enforcement personnel on scene at the level of the herring-sac-roe openings, but as a practical matter it would not be enforced.

Larry- This is the direction that we would like to see the fishery head. This is a proposal for safety and sanity.

Greg- There needs to be more awareness of how dangerous the current situation is.

193 -Confusing -Noaction

TF- I can't understand what this dept -sponsored proposal is trying to do. It looks like it is trying to do several things at once. Dave- can you help us?

DG- No, not really- I don't think I fully understand it either

No action

194-Increase weekly pre-registration time period from 24 hours to two business days prior to diving Passes:8-0

DG- explained that 24 hours isn't always enough time for the dept to make management decisions (i.e. how long an area should be open for) because of the dept is required to give adequate notice to the divers before each opening. Cited an example where a Ketchikan diver came to the Sitka area on barely 24 hours notice. The Sitka area was down to only a small amount of quota remaining, but the department planned to have an opening anyway since the Sitka divers typically work cooperatively with one another to make sure that they precisely hit a harvest target. In this case the introduction of a non-cooperative diver meant that Sitka coop dissolved and there was a competitive fishery which resulted in a harvest well in excess of the quota.

MTA JB/MB

195: Decrease subsistence abalone limit from 50 to 10

MTA:JM, 2nd JB

Drops subsistence and personal use limits from 50 to 10

ADFG: Proposal originated from AMB in Ketchikan where they are seeing depleted areas even in the absence of fishing. No assessment on abalone populations have been made and no harvest numbers for personal use or subsistence have been gathered. There hasn't been any abalone harvested commercially in SE since 1990's.

JL: We all got hit with the otters when they were reintroduced, not surprising that the abalone population is down. Otter harvest should be encouraged. Federal harassment of native hunters has created a problem and limited hunting. Don Young has a bill to allow for sale of raw pelts to non-natives. I am against the reduction in bag limits. I understand why it is proposed, but I don't like to change the law when the otters are the issue.

Discussion ensued about the Department language being a bit misleading – the problem is total removals, would this change that or simply give more to otters?

DG – ADFG – there is also a problem with inconsistency between personal use and subsistence fishery in Sitka Sound – right now subsistence allows 50 and personal use allows 20.

JM - what is the management plan?

DG – ADFG- very passive. Dive team has set up some transects to monitor population – but population so low that not productive.

TO- is this closed to sport fishing?

TT – the limit is 5 under sport fishing regulations.

TO – why wouldn't you prohibit harvest under the sport fish regulations before making a drastic cut to the subsistence limits? Subsistence is supposed to be the last fishery to suffer cutbacks.

Fails: 4 – 4

196: change in bag and possession limit and change in size limit for abalone

Passed as amended: 7-1 to close sport fishing; PU Daily & possession limits=5 & Annual limit;25 per proposal; Subsistence Daily & possession limits = 10 &Annual limit=30 per proposal; 3.75" minimum size per proposal

MTA JB, BL 2nd

Reduce sport bag limits to 3 daily, 3 in possession and establish a 6 abalone annual limit

Change personal use bag limits from 50 (20 in Sitka LAMP) to: 5 daily, 5 in possession and establish a 25 abalone annual limit in all of southeast.

Change existing subsistence regulations from 50 to 10 daily, 10 in possession and establish a 30 abalone annual limit.

Change minimum size from 3.5 to 3.75 inches

Ryan K discussed his proposal – he has been harvesting abalone here for a decade and has noticed a real decline, he has heard of abuse of takes. Although otters are a problem there is a human impact.

TF – what is the fraction of the population that is between 3.5" and 3.75"?

DG – unknown but obviously large animals are harder to find.

Ryan – a serious snorkeler will still get his bag limit and 3.5 is a pretty small abalone.

TF – what about size related mortality – more deadloss from releases?

LT – we were at 3.5 and then we went to 3.75 for the commercial fishery

JL – would there be a support to make an amendment to further reduce or entirely close sport?

JB – I didn't support the last proposal because the sport limit reduction wasn't there like it is in this proposal .

TO – I like the size limit idea but I don't know if the proposed bag limits are what we want. I would prefer to see a complete sport closure if we are talking about such a drastic reduction to PU and subsistence.

TT – Department has no information on how changes in size limit will effect population.

RG- some kind of regulation is in order especially concerning non-resident, we assume the abalone harvest is low because it takes a lot of effort. I'm not sure if trying to reduce the subsistence take of abalone is something that I support.

TO – motion to amend: abalone harvest by personal use and subsistence fishery only, no sport harvest; The PU and subsistence limits would remain as they currently are in all of SE except for the Sitka LAMP which would drop to 20 per day and the minimum size would become 3.75” as provided for in proposal.

JL – 2nd

Discussion...personal use versus subsistence different bag limits in Sitka Sound –

DC – 50 abalone a day is too many

Ryan – still too many abalone, so I don't support it.

TO – I agree this is too high a limit. I also like the annual limit idea because it helps to establish the idea of a limited resource. After the vote on the last proposal though, I don't know how many of the rest of us would support a reduction in the subsistence limits.

RG – In many years of abalone harvesting, I've never had an enforcement officer question me. No matter what our regulations are they will be abused. I don't like the greatly reduced bag limit. All it does is penalize those who want to follow the rules. Without enforcement it won't stop excessive harvest by many individuals.

Somebody just mentioned that the very low limit would be a means of letting people know that there is a concern about abalone. Reducing the subsistence bag limit isn't necessary to send that message- the closed sport fish season will send the message clearly enough.

TO – I like the annual limits and I do support the limits in the proposal. **I'll amend my amendment to reduce the PU and subsistence limits to those provided for in the proposal.**

2nd (JL) concurs

JM – I have some problem with this – there is little to no enforcement. I seriously doubt that this will be resolved. You got the otters out there but we might as well get them before they eat them all.

DG – SARFDA has shown some interest to seed abalone but it is too expensive.

RG – sea otters did a big hit for years and then they worked their way south. Things got a little better.

Now they are working their way back north and some are just staying here, eating their way out of house and home.

Amendment passes 7 – 1

No sport fishing; PU: Daily & possession limits: 5 Annual limit:25; Subsistence: Daily & possession limits: 10 Annual limit:30; 3.75” minimum size

FT - no sport limit

JM – amendment -could we keep subsistence bag limits at 50?

Fails for lack of 2nd

No sport fishing; PU: Daily & possession limits: 5 Annual limit:25; Subsistence: Daily & possession limits: 10 Annual limit:30; 3.75” minimum size

7-1 amended proposal passes.

PROPOSAL 197

ACTION: passes 11-0

DESCRIPTION: Clarify application of the personal use regulation and close the personal use razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PR MTA

RG 2nd

DG – Housekeeping, the Personal Use fishery has been closed in the special use areas, taken razor clams out of PU regulations for district 13 (subsistence area) .

TF?

PROPOSAL 198

ACTION: passes as amended 8-2-1

DESCRIPTION: Close the subsistence razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.

AMENDMENT: may be opened by emergency order **passes 8-3**

DISCUSSION:

FT MTA TO 2nd

JM – how can the state close subsistence? doesn't the feds manage subsistence? DG – no generally subsistence is managed by the state with the exception of halibut and freshwaters.

PR – no prospect of seeing more razor clams in future?

DG – we write an EO every year, we don't want to keep doing that...if the resource recovers then we would reopen it. Not correct policy to write an EO every year.

TF – I have seen clams over there – I wouldn't say that they are abundant, but they are easier to find than abalone in Sitka Sound. If razor clams warrant complete closure, so do abalone.

EJ – if the tribe would get after those otters...

TF – to entirely close a subsistence fishery is a very drastic action – you should allow the taking of some for the cultural aspect, even if it isn't nutritionally significant. With a limit of 5 or 10 a day, I can't see that the total harvest would be significant- or at least not significantly higher than it would be with a full closure when illegal harvest is considered.

JB – it is strange to close a subsistence fishery, and hard to reopen fisheries once closed. There hasn't been funding for a clam survey in how many years now? Until there is another one, it won't be reopened. I can't see that the funding would show up any time soon if it hasn't for several years.

DG – it wouldn't take an act of congress to open it up. You could build a sunset clause in there.

The users are the ones that asked for this closure.

PR – think of offering an amendment – closed but may be opened by emergency order.

EJ - 2nd

TO – can you open it by EO?

Craig F&G Advisory council meeting Dec. 5, 2011

Quorum in attendance

Doug Rhoades, Ellen Hannan, Steve Stumpf, William Farmer, Fred Hamilton, Charles Haydu, Bill Russell, Corky Timpe, Mike Douville

Discussed the following proposals:

Shellfish Proposals Dec. 5, 2011				
Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Comments
140	0	9	0	
145	9	0	0	
165	9	0	0	
174	0	9	0	<i>“Support as amended”</i> Keep the season as it currently is 8 am - 4pm.
179	0	9	0	We feel it’s wrong to kill one species to save another.
180	9	0	0	
182	9	0	0	We feel this will stop illegal divers from stockpiling product prior to the openings.
193	9	0	0	This will close o loophole for noncompliant divers.
195	9	0	0	<i>“Support as amended”</i> We feel 50 is too many while 10 is too few. We support a limit of 25 daily.
Board of Game Proposals Dec. 5, 2011				
67	8	1		Steve Stumpf opposed this proposal feeling there was not enough information to allow or deny a specific percentage of tags to non-residents.
89	0	9	0	
92	0	9	0	
104	9	0	0	

Following votes on the above proposals we briefly talked on a couple of Finfish issues.

Set the next meeting for elections and discussing Finfish proposals for January 9, 2012 @ 6pm. City Hall.

Ended meeting at 8:45pm

Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Committee Comments to Board of Fisheries 2011/2012

oppose #163 motion passes 5 in favor, 1 opposed- it was felt the closure area in Excursion inlet was too small and would lead to many similar requests for small closures and create a problem

support # 168 unanimous vote

oppose # 172 with information from Randy Bachman, local ADFG fisheries biologist about commercial harvest in the area, it did not seem necessary to close the waters to shrimping as the commercial harvest didn't seem excessive. Two dissenting board members from Skagway would like to keep an eye on the situation and might resubmit the proposal in the future. 3 oppose, 2 abstain motion

support #280 unanimous vote

oppose #291 must maintain the integrity of the local run. Opposed to fishing in the icy straits interception corridor. unanimous vote

oppose # 325 and #326 felt these proposals opened up too much additional pressure on stocks already depleted by other gear groups unanimous vote

Tim McJannet
ULC F+G AC
Secretary
12/18/11

ACTIONS OF THE WRANGELL FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AT IT'S MEETING OF DECEMBER 22, 2011

Members Present: (12)	Tom Sims Marlin Benedict Robert Rooney Janice Churchill	Brennon Eagle Tony Guggenbickler Alan Reeves Chris Guggenbickler	David Rak Brian Merritt Otto Florschutz John Yeager
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Following are the results of the Wrangell Advisory Committee's actions on the proposals presented in the Alaska Board of Fisheries, 2011/2012 Proposal Book. Listed here are the Southeast and Yakutat King and Tanner Crab, Dungeness Crab, Shrimp and Miscellaneous Shellfish proposals the Wrangell Committee chose to act upon during it's meeting. Actions on other proposals in that Book will be considered at meetings planned for December 29, 2011 and January 5, 2012.

Proposal #139 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Tony Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The proposal attempts to clarify where personal use shellfish regulations apply in SEAK. Joe Stratman explained that shellfish in an area with a customary and traditional determination (C&T) are managed under subsistence regulations. Wrangell has a C&T determination. The bag limits for personal use and subsistence are the same. Non-residents harvest shellfish under sport fish regulations, not personal use or subsistence. There was much discussion toward understanding a resident fishing with a subsistence pot, versus a guest or non-resident family member fishing with a pot under sport regulations.

Proposal #140 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Chris Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: There may be a need for accountability of shellfish harvest in AK. ADF&G did not develop this proposal and feels the proposed reporting system would have a great cost in dollars, the Department may not have. The reporting system would be just another regulation for the average Alaskan to comply with. There are already enough unnecessary hunting and fishing regulations.

Proposals #141 to 144 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The Department already has the authority through EO to close waters as needed, and once the closure is made by regulation of the BOF it is more difficult to open/close as needed. Troy explained the Department has no reason to close these waters at this time.

Proposal #145 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal was submitted by the Wrangell AC who feel the number of sport shrimp pots should be lowered to correspond with the lower sport bag limit.

Discussion from February 2011: The number of sport shrimp pots that nonresidents can fish is too big. The current regulation allows 10 pots per person and 20 per vessel. The bag limit that was allowed with this pot number was 10 pounds or 10 quarts daily. If it takes 20 pots to get 10 pounds or 10 quarts of shrimp; there is not enough shrimp in that area for a fishery. Since the bag limit has been lowered to 3 pounds or 3 quarts daily, the number of pots that nonresidents are allowed to fish should be lowered as well. Way too many shrimp are being caught and some unneeded mortality is occurring from inexperienced shrimp handlers. Hauling shrimp to the surface where they are exposed to sun and heat results in mortality. Having many shrimp on deck also provide temptation to go over the bag limit. Out of State persons harvest shrimp under sport regulations. This reduction in shrimp pots would not affect residents who harvest shrimp under personal use.

Proposal #146 PASSED
 Motion to adopt by: Brian Second by: Brennon
 Number in favor: 12
 Number opposed: 0
 Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal was submitted by Wrangell AC member Brennon Eagle. All waters closed to commercial Dungeness crab fishing should also be closed to sport Dungeness crab fishing. Wrangell residents harvest crabs under subsistence not sport regulations. It was explained that within the proposal it is "areas" not "seasons" that are closed. All areas closed to commercial Dungeness crab fishing should also be closed to sport Dungeness crab fishing, regardless of the commercial season being open or closed. These areas are set-aside for residents needs and they are subject to misuse and over fishing by out of state sports fishers prompting requests for larger closed areas for local use. (Reference proposals #161 and #162.) Locals should not have to compete with out of State fishers and lodges.

Proposal #147 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Proposal #148 FAILED
 Motion to adopt by: Rob Second by: Chris
 Number in favor: 0
 Number opposed: 12
 Number abstaining: 0

Comments: When king crab stocks in the Juneau area are low all non-subsistence harvesters should experience a reduction in their bag limit. Ninety percent (or all) of the limited crab stocks should not be reallocated to personal use.

Proposal #149 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Proposal #150 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Proposal #151 FAILED
 Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Allan
 Number in favor: 0
 Number opposed: 12
 Number abstaining: 0

Comments: Joe Stratman explained this is a house keeping proposal by ADF&G because a regulation is needed for live holding facilities for personal use and subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries. The proposal uses regulations already used in the subsistence Dungeness crab fishery. The AC finds unacceptable that no matter how many people are using a live holding facility; it can only contain one persons bag/possession limit in the facility at one time. The AC could support the proposal if it included a distinction between a holding pot in the water and holding facility on a boat. Example: If two persons go out to get crab together, they should be able to bring back two persons bag limits in a live tank on the boat.

Proposals #152 to 160 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Proposals #161 and 162 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: Waters adjacent to road systems are generally close to town and fished by younger fishers using smaller boats. Need to provide opportunities and jobs for younger fisheries close to town. Currently waters close to the Juneau road system are closed to commercial dungeness crabbing. This proposal would expand closed waters in the Juneau area. Crabbers displaced from those waters will move into others areas that would ripple into the Wrangell area. There are people in Juneau who choose not to personal use fish for crab and would like to purchase a commercially caught crab. The expanding sea otter population is seriously impacting the numbers of Dungeness crab in the Juneau area. The proposal could represent greedy people who want their own area to catch crab.

Proposals #163 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The further restriction of commercial crabbing in Excursion Inlet is excessive. The area is currently open only four months to commercial crabbing, and year round to other harvest groups. The expanding sea otter population is seriously impacting the Dungeness crab population in Excursion Inlet.

Proposals #164 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Otto

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal is opposed by the AC for reasons similar to it opposition to proposal #163.

Proposal #165 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Otto

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The AC agrees with replacing "identical" with "similar" in the regulation. Due to fading paint, etc, it is very seldom that any two buoys are identical.

Proposal #166 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The AC favors bringing the seasons for Districts 1 and 2 in line with the rest of Southeast Alaska. The AC feels that if crabs are available for harvest they should be taken.

Proposals #167 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Chris

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: Joe Stratman explained that the Yakutat Area commercial crab season was last open in 1999. In 2000 it was classified collapsed and recovery. A survey is needed to show if health of stocks has improved before the Department will reopen the fishery. A survey is planned for May/June 2012. AC members report that the sea otter are thick in the Yakutat area and seriously impacting the Dungeness crab population. Historically crabbers in the Yakutat Area came from beyond Yakutat. IF the crab ever come back commercial crabbers will need 400 pots to fish the large area. Limiting crabbers to 60 pots would in effect limit the harvest to crabbers from Yakutat.

Proposal #168 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Chris Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal was submitted by Wrangell AC member Brennon Eagle. Working within the GHL has concentrated the shrimp fleet into areas of known shrimp abundance. Need a tool and the ability to find shrimp in other (non-core) areas. This proposal would allow the fishery to shift out of the core areas into smaller areas where shrimp may be found, and work in an area that may not have had gear during the season. Three to seven days of fishing is not enough time to damage/harm a shrimp population, if protect the little shrimp. Protecting the small shrimp while being able to prospect small areas cannot harm the shrimp population.

Proposal #169 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Chris Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal is a needed tool providing access to areas that may have shrimp. Brennon and the AC support the proposal in concept, but add the proposal needs some "fine tuning".

Proposal #170 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Chris

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal was submitted by Wrangell AC member Otto Florschutz. The AC favors more proactive management using harvest data provided by the fisheries, and using the most recent data to manage the fishery. Managing the fishery using past data is rear view mirror management. Managers should use the data they have now. This proposal would support that effort. The Department is setting quotas within the GHL, and leaving those in place for three years. This leads to leaving shrimp un-harvested in years of high abundance, and the season too long in years of low abundance.

Proposal #171 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The spawner index system used in Canada is a great concept to work toward, but it would need adjustments in Alaska due to different pot size and mesh spacing. The AC supports the proposal in concept, but is not sure if managers could get there by next year. It would be a good thing to work toward in three to

five years. Troy Thynes explained the Department would need a great deal of funding to implement a spawner index system.

Proposals #172 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Chris

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 13

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The AC feels the Department already has all the tools it needs to close an area without an additional regulation by the BOF. And if the area is closed, it should be closed to all users.

Proposals #173 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The AC opposes this proposal because all of the baseline data centers on an October opening. Changing the opening would effect the baseline. A later start date will not improve the quality of the shrimp harvested.

Proposal #174 PASSED

Motion to adopt by: Brennon Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 12

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: This proposal was submitted by the Wrangell AC who feels shrimp pots should only be hauled once per pay. Double picking of pots is harmful to the shrimp, especially the small ones (which are the future crop). AC realizes that it is almost impossible to enforce the prohibition on double picking, but feels a need to protect the small shrimp. The Ac also realizes that limiting pot haul to once per day will force shrimp fishers with 100 pots to get to 140 pots. The percentage survival of small shrimp thrown back is unknown, but thought to be low. To conserve small shrimp it is best to use a large mesh size, leave the pot on the bottom as long as possible, and allow the small shrimp to escape while the pot is on the bottom. An option of changing the 6 AM to 6 PM described in the proposal, to sunrise to sunset (as determined by a published table similar to waterfowl regulations) was discussed; and possibly could be acceptable. Discussion from January 2011: There is a need to prohibit double picking of shrimp pots and slow down the shrimp fishery. The proposal allows shrimp pots to be pulled once per day; not based on the current 8 AM to 4 PM fishing time. This change would allow shrimpers to adjust fishing time for weather in the case when a storm blows thru for four to six hours of a day. With more shrimpers fishing the maximum of 140 pots, mostly there is not time for a shrimper to double pick their pots. Current Alaska laws allow for double picking shrimp pots within the 8 AM to 4 PM fishing time. Canadian laws allow for one picking of each shrimp pot per day.

Proposal #175 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Proposals #176 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Rob Second by: Brennon

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The only trawler on the AC at the meeting testified that not enough dungeness are caught in a slow moving trawl to make a difference. If you go slow the crabs get out on their own and are often found on the outside of the trawl because they are trying to get a small fish that is inside the trawl. The regulation is unnecessary. Trawlers just turn the crab out of the trawl if they are caught. There are very few people that have a trawl and dungeness permits, and it is not worth the time to have a separate regulation those few people.

Proposal #177 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Motion to adopt by: Rob Second by: Brennon

Motion and second were withdrawn after brief discussion.

Comments: The only trawler on the AC at the meeting testified there are not enough beam trawlers left around to form a task force. Usually a task force would be a good way to work with industry. It was noted that ADF&G did not submit this proposal.

Proposals #178 to 194 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

Comments: The AC chose to take no action because no dive fishers were present.

Proposals #195 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Chris

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: There has been no recent Department assessment of abalone population in SEAK. The AC feels that human over fishing of abalone is not the problem. People are not hurting the abalone population; it is the expanding number of sea otters. The proposal may be an effort by the Department to preserve the small pockets of abalone that still exist. But the remaining abalone would only be protected for the sea otters. The abalone should not be saved for the sea otters, but should be available for people to take while they still can. Need to limit the harvest of abalone by sea otters, not by people.

Proposals #196 FAILED

Motion to adopt by: Otto Second by: Alan

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 12

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: Same as comments for proposal #195.

Proposals #197 to 198 Considered but NO ACTION taken.

The schedule of future AC meetings was discussed. Troy Thynes is available for the next 2 weeks. A meeting is planned for December 29 2011 and January 5 2012. Southeast Finfish proposals will be discussed at both meetings. Elections for 2012 will be held at the January meeting.

Tom discussed a concern brought to the AC by Susan Wise-Eagle over a proposal considered by the Board of Game that would allow for searching licensed taxidermy businesses in Alaska. The proposal was amended to replace searching the business to requiring the taxidermy business to keep a logbook that could be inspected. Susan, who has a home business, objected to the search of her business and home as originally proposed; but can accept maintaining a log book that could be inspected.

Tom discussed that SSRAA is looking for a location for a new fish hatchery or other fish enhancement facility. Provide location ideas to Tom.

The meeting was recessed until 7 PM on December 29, 2012.

/s/David Rak

DAVID RAK
Secretary

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
January 15-21, 2012
SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT KING AND TANNER CRAB, DUNGENESS CRAB,
SHRIMP, MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH

DESIGNATED REPORTER: Edna Bay Advisory Committee

PROPOSAL 139 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**

DESCRIPTION: Clarify where personal use shellfish regulations apply.

DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game

PROPOSAL 140 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0)**

DESCRIPTION: Establish a catch report card system for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish fisheries.

DISCUSSION: Will aid in sustainable management.

PROPOSAL 141 **ACTION: No Comment**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cache Island by all users. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 142 **ACTION: No Comment**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish in a portion of Behm Canal. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 143 **ACTION: No Comment**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Naha Bay. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 144 **ACTION: No Comment**

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cedar Island. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 145 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the shrimp pot limit for the sport fishery.

DISCUSSION: Shrimp pot limits for nonresidents. People have recovered "ghost gear" on more than one occasion from people whose charter was over and just couldn't find all of their pots.

PROPOSAL 146 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**

DESCRIPTION: Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial fishing.

DISCUSSION: Equal opportunity for all user groups.

PROPOSAL 147 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend registration requirements for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 148 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Allocate all harvest of king crab in Section 11-A (Juneau area) to the personal use fishery.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 149 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish ring net limits for the subsistence, sport, and personal use Dungeness and Tanner crab fisheries.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 150 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish king and tanner crab size limits in the personal use and subsistence fisheries.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game

PROPOSAL 151 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend live holding regulations for personal use and subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game

PROPOSAL 152 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.
DISCUSSION: Don't believe it would do anything to improve the fishery.

PROPOSAL 153 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.
DISCUSSION: Don't believe it would do anything to improve the fishery.

PROPOSAL 154 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of square pots for golden king crab fishing in registration Area A.
DISCUSSION: Obviously there is a problem with halibut getting into square pots.

PROPOSAL 155 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Reduce the pot limit in the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries in Registration Area A.
DISCUSSION: Better economic recovery.

PROPOSAL 156 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Clarify when six and one-half inch male golden king crab may be retained.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 157 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Redefine the start date for Tanner and golden king crab fisheries.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game.

PROPOSAL 158 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Add additional language that defines how weather delays may impact Tanner and king crab fishing seasons.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game

PROPOSAL 159 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend regulation to allow 120 pots for vessels with two Tanner permits aboard.
DISCUSSION: Concentrates too many pots in one area.

PROPOSAL 160 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend regulations to allow additional pots in the king and Tanner fisheries for vessels with two permits aboard.
DISCUSSION: Concentrates too many pots in one area.

PROPOSAL 161 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Taku Harbor.
DISCUSSION: Allow Dept. of Fish & Game to manage.

PROPOSAL 162 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Swanson Harbor.
DISCUSSION: Allow Dept. of Fish & Game to manage.

PROPOSAL 163 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Excursion Inlet of District 14.
DISCUSSION: Not enough info.

PROPOSAL 164 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the Ketchikan vicinity.
DISCUSSION: Not enough info.

PROPOSAL 165 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend regulation regarding buoy markers in the Dungeness crab fishery.
DISCUSSION: Laws need to be reasonably worded.

PROPOSAL 166 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Revise season dates for commercial Dungeness fishery in Southeast districts 1 and 2.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 167 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Opposed**
DESCRIPTION: Reduce number of Dungeness crab pots allowed on vessels in Yakutat Area.
DISCUSSION: Support Yakutat AC.

PROPOSAL 168 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Revise management plan for the southeast pot shrimp fisheries allowing extra fishing time per subdistrict.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 169 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish section sub-divisions in all districts of shrimp fishery.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 170 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Revise the commercial southeast pot shrimp fishery management plan utilizing inseason catch data.
DISCUSSION: Hard to manage and regulate.

PROPOSAL 171 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a spawner index system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.
DISCUSSION: Hard to manage and regulate.

PROPOSAL 172 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Close the commercial shrimp fishery in the vicinity of Skagway from September 1-March 1 annually.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 173 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Revise the opening dates for the shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area A.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 174 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish set times for deploying or retrieving shrimp pots in Registration Area A.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 175 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Revise marking requirements for shrimp pots in Registration Area A.
DISCUSSION: Potential to lose more gear.

PROPOSAL 176 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp and Dungeness crab fishery at the same time.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game.

PROPOSAL 177 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a Beam Trawl Task Force.
DISCUSSION: Support establishing a management plan.

PROPOSAL 178 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a variable harvest strategy for sea cucumbers.
DISCUSSION: Support establishing a management plan.

PROPOSAL 179 **ACTION: (0) In Favor (7) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Revise sea cucumber management plans to account for predation by sea otters.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 180 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend allowable fishing days during the week of Thanksgiving for the sea cucumber fishery in the Ketchikan area.
DISCUSSION: Common sense change.

PROPOSAL 181 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend allowable daily dive time for the sea cucumber fishery in areas north of Sumner Strait.
DISCUSSION: Aids in safety and flexibility due to weather.

PROPOSAL 182 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibit diving of unlicensed CFEC sea cucumber permit holders 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after commercial sea cucumber fishery openings in Southeast Alaska.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 183 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Establish an equal-share harvest program within the Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.
DISCUSSION: Encourage Board of Fisheries to look at what it takes to make this a well-managed fishery.

PROPOSAL 184 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Under an equal-share harvest program, require preseason registration for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery.
DISCUSSION: Encourage Board of Fisheries to look at what it takes to make this a well-managed fishery.

PROPOSAL 185 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Opposed**
DESCRIPTION: Open geoduck fishery year round to provide consistent monthly harvest.
DISCUSSION: Helps establish a more consistent market.

PROPOSAL 186 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Opposed**
DESCRIPTION: Extend geoduck fishery year round from July 1 to June 30.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 187 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a trip limit program for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery.
DISCUSSION: Encourage the Board to look at this fishery.

PROPOSAL 188 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Amend number of harvest days and times for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery to allow for preseason control of harvest for the fishery.
DISCUSSION: Encourage the Board to look at this fishery.

PROPOSAL 189 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a weekly rate of harvest schedule for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery.
DISCUSSION: Encourage the Board to look at this fishery.

PROPOSAL 190 **ACTION: No Comment**
DESCRIPTION: Revise harvest rotation areas for the geoduck fishery in Ketchikan and Craig to provide consistent annual harvest in the fishery.
DISCUSSION: Encourage the Board to look at this fishery.

PROPOSAL 191 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Limit length of air and water hoses to 300 ft. in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery.
DISCUSSION: Safety reasons.

PROPOSAL 192 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Establish a minimum distance of 200 yards between vessels in the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery.
DISCUSSION: Safety reasons.

PROPOSAL 193 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Prohibits divers from using gear in commercial openings following unauthorized use of gear and allow divers to dive on aquatic farm sites.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game.

PROPOSAL 194 **ACTION: (7) Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Amend the registration requirements for red sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and geoducks in Registration Area A.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game.

PROPOSAL 195 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Reduce the bag and possession limits for abalone from 50 to 10 in the subsistence and personal use fisheries.
DISCUSSION: Support Dept. of Fish & Game

PROPOSAL 196 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Restrict the subsistence, personal use, and sport abalone fisheries.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 197 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Clarify application of the personal use regulation and close the personal use razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 198 **ACTION: (7) In Favor (0) Oppose**
DESCRIPTION: Close the subsistence razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.
DISCUSSION:

Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee

<u>Proposal #</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Comments</u>
#139	Favor-6 Oppose-80	
#140	Favor-2 Oppose- 4	
# 140	No action, take up during fin fish	
#141	No action, take up during fin fish	
#142	No action, take up during fin fish	
#143	No action, take up during fin fish	
#144	No action, take up during fin fish	
#145	Favor-6 Oppose-0	Shrimp Pots 1989-4, 10 ...
#146	Favor-6 Oppose-0	Closed Areas, Sport/Commercial
# 147	Favor-0 Oppose-6	George Inlet 2 guides, 2 vessels, since 2008, dept issues logbook
#148	Favor-0 Oppose-6	Red and Blue King Crab Management
#149	Favor-6 Oppose-0	Rings are becoming a more popular unit of gear, dept. wants to be pro-active in ring net limit, currently no limits are in place.
# 150	Favor-6 Oppose-0	
# 151	Favor- 6 Oppose-0	
# 152	Favor- 1 Oppose-5	
# 153	No action same as 152	
# 154	Favor-5 Oppose-1	

Prohibit use of square pots. This needs to be reworded with sunset clause, in our support as amended. Make a amendment with a phase out period, or Steve could go to Board of Fish meeting and amend. General support for a phase out date. Support with a phase out date to be determined, no consensus.

155 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

#156 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

157 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

158 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

159 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

160 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

161 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

162 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

163 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

164 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

165 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

166 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

167 No action

#168-171 No action

No input from shrimp fisherman, PVOA referred proposals be reviewed by shrimp task force.

172 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

Choose this proposal because this committee is opposed to closing any commercial fishing, unless conservation concerns.

173-175 No action

176 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

177 No action

178 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

179 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

180 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

181 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

182 Favor-6 Oppose-0

183 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

184 No action due to action on #183

185,187,188,189 Favor-0 Opposed-6 Move to adopt and vote on all 4 proposals at the same time

186 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

190 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

191 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

192 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

193 **Favor-6** oppose-0

194 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

195 **Favor-6** Oppose-0

196 Favor-0 **Oppose-6**

197 No Action

198 No Action

KETCHIKAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2011

DISCUSSION OF:

Proposals 139-177 for upcoming

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES

January 15-21, 2012

**SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT KING AND TANNER CRAB, DUNGENESS CRAB,
SHRIMP, MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH**

DESIGNATED REPORTER: John Scoblic

TELECONFERENCE 1-800-504-8071 PASS CODE 465-4046

___Ketchikan, AK___ Advisory Committee **(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)**

___5 PM 11/15/11___ KETCHIKAN ADF&G CONFERENCE ROOM 2030 SEA LEVEL DRIVE

Meeting Minutes:

Call to Order and establish quorum (8)

Introductions John Scoblic, Jeff Wedekind, Steve Lacroix, Bev Davies, Darell Welk, Chuck Denny, Clay Slanaker, Don Westlund.

Approve meeting agenda: Motion to accept agenda seconded motion carries unanimously.

Approve previous meeting minutes: Motion to accept agenda seconded motion carries unanimously.

Reports:

Chairman's report-

ADF&G

Others

Public comment: (MAY BE LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES). None

Old business items: None

New business:

- 1) MOU with RAC & ADF&G Motion to support renewal of MOU moved and seconded, motion carries 7-1.
- 2) Shellfish proposals (written comment deadline 12/30/11)
- 3) Finfish proposals (written comment deadline 02/09/12)

PROPOSAL 139 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Clarify where personal use shellfish regulations apply.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: There is a lot of confusion about State vs. Federal authority over personal use.

PROPOSAL 140 Motion to TABLE UNTIL NEXT MEETING. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Establish a catch report card system for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish fisheries.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: The group want to give the author who is a member of our committee to speak to him prosal.

PROPOSAL 141 Motion to adopt 141-144 as a group. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8.

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cache Island by all users. (*This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*)

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: THERE WAS NOT SUPPORT FOR THIS “not in my back yard attitude” by an unknown group that was not available to speak to there propsals. It was felt that state waters are public property for all to use in various ways.

PROPOSAL 145 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 7-1

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the shrimp pot limit for the sport fishery.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: The majority felt like this was enough gear to catch bag limits.

PROPOSAL 146 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 1-7.

DESCRIPTION: Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial fishing.

AMENDMENT:

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 147 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Amend registration requirements for the George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: This was seen as a resonable allowance for the lodges to find a guide for the fishery.

PROPOSAL 148 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Allocate all harvest of king crab in Section 11-A (Juneau area) to the personal use fishery.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: Take no action out of our area.

PROPOSAL 149 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Establish ring net limits for the subsistence, sport, and personal use Dungeness and Tanner crab fisheries.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: GOOD IDEA TO ESTABLISH A LIMIT.

PROPOSAL 150 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Establish king and tanner crab size limits in the personal use and subsistence fisheries.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION.

PROPOSAL 151 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 7-1.

DESCRIPTION: Amend live holding regulations for personal use and subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 152 MOTION TO TABLE ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

PROPOSAL 153 MOTION TO TABLE ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

PROPOSAL 154 MOTION TO TABLE ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the use of square pots for golden king crab fishing in registration Area A.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

PROPOSAL 155 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the pot limit in the golden king crab and Tanner crab fisheries in Registration Area A.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: Didn't see the reason for a reduction in gear.

PROPOSAL 156 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Clarify when six and one-half inch male golden king crab may be retained.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: Seemed like a good thing to clarify.

PROPOSAL 157 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Redefine the start date for Tanner and golden king crab fisheries.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: This makes sense as tides play an important factor in fisheries performance.

PROPOSAL 158 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Add additional language that defines how weather delays may impact Tanner and king crab fishing seasons.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: WEATHER IS A SAFTEY FACTOR AND SEEMED RESONABLE TO ADOPT THIS PLAN. This came out of the king and tanner task force process.

PROPOSAL 159 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0.

DESCRIPTION: Amend regulation to allow 120 pots for vessels with two Tanner permits aboard.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: This came out of the king and tanner task force process.

PROPOSAL 160 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0
DESCRIPTION: Amend regulations to allow additional pots in the king and Tanner fisheries for vessels with two permits aboard.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: This came out of the king and tanner task force process.

PROPOSAL 161 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Taku Harbor.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION OUT OF OUR AREA.

PROPOSAL 162 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Swanson Harbor.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION OUT OF OUR AREA.

PROPOSAL 163 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Excursion Inlet of District 14.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION OUT OF OUR AREA.

PROPOSAL 164 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 5-3
DESCRIPTION: Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the Ketchikan vicinity.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: This has been a divisive issue in the KTN area. It is a long standing sport vs. commercial issue. Most see “outside of KTN fishers” getting all the benefit. The minority felt this was an important fishery to a limited number of KTN residents and they should be allowed to keep fishing in there area.

PROPOSAL 165 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 2-6
DESCRIPTION: Amend regulation regarding buoy markers in the Dungeness crab fishery.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: This sounds like an enforcement nightmare if adopted.

PROPOSAL 166 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8
DESCRIPTION: Revise season dates for commercial Dungeness fishery in Southeast districts 1 and 2.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: All members present wanted to see the fishery go back to the way it used to be.

PROPOSAL 167 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0
DESCRIPTION: Reduce number of Dungeness crab pots allowed on vessels in Yakutat Area.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION OUT OF OUR AREA.

PROPOSAL 168 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8
DESCRIPTION: Revise management plan for the southeast pot shrimp fisheries allowing extra fishing time per subdistrict.
AMENDMENT: N/A
DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 169 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8
DESCRIPTION: Establish section sub-divisions in all districts of shrimp fishery.
AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 170 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Revise the commercial southeast pot shrimp fishery management plan utilizing inseason catch data.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 171 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Establish a spawner index system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 172 MOTION TO TAKE NO ACTION. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0

DESCRIPTION: Close the commercial shrimp fishery in the vicinity of Skagway from September 1-March1 annually.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: TAKE NO ACTION OUT OF OUR AREA.

PROPOSAL 173 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Revise the opening dates for the shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area A.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: The prosed shift of one month wasn't perceived to make any significant difference.

PROPOSAL 174 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Establish set times for deploying or retrieving shrimp pots in Registration Area A.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: If adopted this could allow for double hauling all the gear in one day and that was percieved as being very negative for the fishery.

PROPOSAL 175 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion fails 0-8

DESCRIPTION: Revise marking requirements for shrimp pots in Registration Area A.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: This is an old issues that has was hammered out over several board cycles and would be going backward from what industry thought was a good idea.

PROPOSAL 176 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp and Dungeness crab fishery at the same time.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION:

PROPOSAL 177 Motion to adopt moved and seconded. ACTION: Motion carries 8-0

DESCRIPTION: Establish a Beam Trawl Task Force.

AMENDMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION: It was generally agreed to that the Task Force process is a good venue for industry and ADF&G to come together and work through issues.

Concensus was to call it quits for the night.

Next Meeting December 13, 2011 5:30 PM. Elections to be held.

Adjourn aproxamatly 9:15 PM

AGENDA REGULAR MEETING

TELECONFERENCE 1-800-504-8071 PASS CODE 465-4046

___Ketchikan, AK___ Advisory Committee (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

___5:30 PM 12/13/11___ KETCHIKAN ADF&G CONFERENCE ROOM 2030 SEA LEVEL DRIVE

Call to Order and establish quorum (8) 5:49

Introductions

Approve meeting agenda - DON - DARREL - 9-0

Approve previous meeting minutes table DON - JEFF - 9-0

ELECTIONS: 4 REGULAR SEATS. (FRANULOVICH, LACROIX, WEDEKIND, WELK)
PLUS 3 ALTERNATES. (WESTLUND, PATTISON, SLAGLE)

Reports:

Chairman's report-
ADF&G
Others

Public comment: (MAY BE LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES).

Old business items:

New business:

- 1) Finish Shellfish proposals (written comment deadline 12/30/11)
- 2) Finfish proposals (written comment deadline 02/09/12)

Set next meeting date (DEC 27, 2011) OR (January 4, 2012)

Adjourn

8:33 PM

6PM-9PM

AC Meeting - Minutes

12-13-11

Tele Shannon Stone

John Scobliz

Ron Moyer

Darell Welk

Steve Hoffman

Ed Toribio

Kelly Piazza DFG

Steve Lacroix

Brad Sculssa

Clay Slanaker

Tele Clay Bezenek

Chuck Denny

5:40 Don Westlund

Jeff Wedekind

5:49 Call Meeting to Order Have Quorum

Meeting Agenda Approved 9-0

John discusses previous meeting minutes

Table Previous Minutes Approval 9-0

Election: 4 members expire 12/31/11
3 alternates " "

Nominations

- 1) R. Franulovich (11) R
- 2) S. Lacroix (10) A
- 3) D. Westlund (4)
- 4) D. Welk (11) R
- 5) J. Wedekind (12) R
- 6) Brad Sculssa (10) A
- 7) Ron Moyer (11) R
- 8) Steve Hoffman (9) A

Results of Vote

	Votes	Status	Term
* R. Franulovich	11	Regular	3 yr
S. Lacroix	10	Alternate	1 yr
D. Westlund	4		
* D. Welk	11	Regular	3 yr
* J. Wedekind	12	Regular	3 yr
B. Saalsaa	10	Alternate	1 yr
* R. Moyer	11	Regular	3 yr
S. Hoffman	9	Alternate	1 yr

(12) Ballots everyone present
 (except Kelly Piazza)
 voted including
 Clay Bezenek (tele)

Don Westlund left after vote
 11 members present after Don left

Recently elected fill out Member Forms

6:15 Nominations for Official Positions

John nominated as Chairman - unanimous
John voted in as Chairman

Jeff Wedekind nominated as Vice-Chair
Motion passes : Jeff Vice Chair

Ed Toribio - nominated as Secretary
motion passes Ed for Secretary

All votes Unanimous

John reviews AC membership : Thanks
everyone, discusses next Board meeting
→ Ketchikan Feb. 24 - March 4, 2012

★ Shannon recommends that we organize
something " for Board Members
something special like no-host bar
or appetizers - talk to local vendors
to donate

6:30 Chairmans Report : No report

ADFG : Justin (?) No report
Kelly No report

No other comments

New Business

Prop # 140 Vote: 2-9 Opposed

Proposed by our member Clay Bezenek
Concern that we have no idea of total harvest levels. We have comm. only, but no idea of sport, personal....

Kelly (DFG) info that Dept collects thru "Statewide harvest survey" on Crab: clam, but not shrimp

Dungeness 1% of total is personal use
1.8% of total is personal + sport

Concerns that personal: sport, subsistence is such a small % that it is not worth the effort. Also concerns about expense. It would also have to go through legislature

Underfunded mandate

1:9:1

Prop # 178

Vote: 1:9:1

OPPOSED

Justin (DFG) gives overview of ^{Sea Cucumber} BioMass Survey vs HR (harvest rate)

Has nothing to do with sea otters

However, if otters take enough of the ^{Sea} Cucumber BioMass, and survey falls below 50% then Dept can shut it down (HR = 0%)

John: ~~Clay~~ Steve make good arguments that this proposal may allow otters to deplete resource while not allowing fishing

Shannon: reminds us that there will be a meeting in Petersburg about sea otters

7:30 pm
Clay B.
no longer
with us

Prop # 179

Vote: 6:0:4

SUPPORT

This proposal by SARPA (Dive industry) to Revise Sea Cucumber Management plans to account for predation by sea otters

Jeff asks if there any other predators

Steve Hoffman - asks if this proposal is considering certain levels of harvest

Justin reminds us that Dept must manage for Sustained yield, however that may not be the case. It is probable that this sea cucumber population will go away (due to other predation)

John gives overview of Cuke harvest worldwide and coming age of aquaculture. Prices have gone from \$1.25 ~~to~~ ^{to} \$2 ~~to~~ ^{to} \$3 ~~to~~ ^{to} \$6 due to limited supply worldwide

Darel asks if Dive Industry plans to overharvest areas not yet affected by others. Steve replies no. John explains the idea (behind this proposal) intends to leave unaffected areas as "Status quo"

Proposal # 180 Vote: 10:0 SUPPORT

~~Amend~~ Proposed by this AC (Ktn) to Amend allowable fishing days

Proposal # 181 Vote: 0-10 Opposed

Proposed by Sitka Geoduck Marketing Assoc. to Amend Allowable daily dive time for areas North of Sumner Strait

John summarizes how this proposal gives Northern fishermen unfair advantage by more fishing time. There are more equitable ways to deal with time...

Proposal # 182 Vote: 0-10 Opposed

Proposed by Sitka Geoduck Marketing Assoc. to prohibit ... Stockpiling, by non-licensed diver.

John gives example of fatal accident by non-licensed diver

Justin explains that current regulation already prohibit unlicensed divers from entering the water

7:49 John summarizes Proposals 183-192 all proposed by same party Sitka ... and his discussions with industry members (divers) that are opposed to these. John suggests we lump these together

Lump 183-192 together moved: 2nd

Proposals 183-192

Vote: 0:10

Opposed

Proposal # 193

Vote: 10:0

SUPPORTED

Proposed by ADFG - goal to enforce 14-day dive rule. Justin explains the original sentence was removed from regulation.

Proposal # 194

Vote: 10:0

SUPPORTED

Proposed by ADFG - Justin explains time frame notification required to let department know if permit holder is going to move to new area 2 business in advance.

Proposal # 195

Vote: 10:0

SUPPORTED

ADFG concerned about reduction in resource and this proposal would show that "we" are making an effort.

Proposal # 196 Vote: 10:0 "Take No Action"
Supported

Move to "Take No Action" due to decision on previous proposal

Proposal # 197 } Vote: 10:0 Supported
Proposal # 198 } Take No Action

Move: 2nd to Take No Action due to OOA

Proposal # 152 : # 153 Vote: 0:10 Opposed

previously tabled, This person wants to fish when biomass is below 200,000 # GHL. Edge of Range for this species

Move to Lump # 152 : # 153 together

Proposal # 154 Vote: 0:10 Opposed

Proposal to prohibit square pots. They are negligible anyway. Idea is to reduce habitat by catch, which is minimal

Shellfish Proposal Completed

8:30 John suggest that we adjourn at this point

Asks for 1 meeting/week beginning in January 4th Weds., 2012

Go Back to 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Motion: 2nd to send John Scoblic to meeting in Petersburg

Vote: 10:0 Approved

8:34 Meeting Adjourned

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: 12-20-2011

Page 1 of 5

ADVISORY COMMITTEE NAME: ADFG Pelican Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Location (City, town, village): Pelican, Alaska

Members Present: William Combs, Patricia Phillips, James E. Phillips, Steve Young, Terry Wirta

Members Absent _____

Members Excused _____

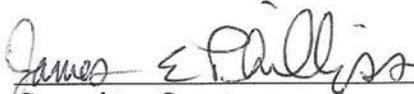
QUORUM PRESENT: YES NO

ADF&G Staff Present: _____

Time meeting called to order 4:00 AM / PM

Old Business and New Business: -- Use additional pages

Time Meeting Adjourned 5:30 AM / PM

Signature: 
Committee Secretary

Sign-in
12-20-2011

Pelican Advisory Committee

TEARLY E. WIMTA
(SPORT
GUIDED SPORT
COMMUNISM
SUBSISTANCE

PO Box 775 PELICAN
907-735-1199

Patricia Phillips
Patricia Phillips
Commercial, subsistence

PO Box 109 Pelican
907 735 2240

JAMES E. PHILLIPS
James E Phillips
Commercial, sport, subsistence

P.O. Box 109 PELICAN AK
907 735-2240 - 907-321-1755

William E Combs
William E Combs
PO Box 401

735-2262 "unlisted"

Steve D Young
S D Young
P.O. Box 7415

735-2273

Commercial sport Subsistence

ELECTION/NOMINATION RECORD

Advisory Committee Name: ADFG Pelican Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: 12-20-2011

NUMBER OF SEATS OPEN FOR MEMBERSHIP: 5

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>VOTE TALLY</u>
William Combs	5
James E. Phillips	5
Steve Young	5
Terry Wirta	5
Patricia Phillips	5

ELECTION RESULTS

MEMBERS ELECTED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>LENGTH OF TERM</u>
Williams Combs	3 yrs.
James E. Phillips	3 yrs.
Steve Young	3 yrs.
Terry Wirta	3 yrs.
Patricia Phillips	3 yrs.

OFFICERS ELECTED

CHAIR: Patricia Phillips

VICE CHAIR: _____

SECRETARY: James E. Phillips

HAVE NEW AND RE-ELECTED MEMBERS COMPLETED AND RETURNED NEW MEMBER NOMINATION FORM?

ADFG Pelican Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
C/O P.O. Box 737
Pelican, Alaska 99832
December 20, 2011
4:00 p.m. Meeting called to order

Voter Record/Comments

Proposal No. 141/142/143/144: W. Combs/J. Phillips move to support proposals 141, 142, 143, 144. Discussion: Do not agree with any proposal that establishes Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ). Once an area is shutdown it is never going to get reopened. What gets started in one area almost always spreads to other areas of the region. The Pelican AC does not want to establish MCZ's in our area. Should not shutdown resident use of areas. 5 No Votes. Motion fails.

Proposal No. 249: W. Combs/T. Wirta move to support. Discussion: There should be a ceiling on the number of fish taken. Limit to 100 lbs. fish per non-resident person. The Pelican AC supports every fish being caught being counted. Every resident of Alaska suffers because of the depletion of the stocks. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal No. 308: W. Combs/S. Young move to support. Already below allotted allocation of enhanced salmon stocks already. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal No. 312: S. Young/W. Combs move to support. Emergency closure only when a low catch justifies a closure. Only want a closure, in the season, when there is a conservation problem. Every year that ADFG has had closures, the number of fish caught is always provided for all other users except salmon trollers, because the salmon trollers are shut down and there is adequate escapement. Hook & line has less impact on overall catch rates. 5 No Votes. Motion fails.

Proposal 311: J. Phillips/W. Combs move to support. Run of coho salmon runs early with a seven pound average. Open the season early and retain what is caught. If someone wants to fish those areas of early coho runs they should be able to fish those areas of early coho runs; they should be able to keep what they catch. Cohos used to be open June 1st. Hatchery production is changing the dynamics of the wild stock salmon runs. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal 313: S. Young/J. Phillips move to support. Extend coho season to end of month with ability for ADFG to do an emergency closure. This is the way it should be. The north end cohos show up October/November and are larger in size. It is more local residents fishing the end of the season. Support having more fish available to catch later in the season in Cross Sound. Hatchery production is changing the dynamics of the wild stock salmon runs. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal 343: W. Combs/T. Wirta move to support. Pelican has local resident trollers that utilize the Hidden Falls fishery in August and September. Trollers need a greater percentage of enhanced fish. Salmon trollers provide 35% of the enhancement money with a 17% return for trollers. Need to give trollers a chance to raise the percentage of enhanced fish caught. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal 219: W. Combs/T. Wirta move to support. By-catch for trollers is 1800 lbs. There is an abundance of lingcod in the Northern Southeast (NSE) outside waters. ADFG does not allow commercial trollers to keep any because by-catch limits are so low. Certain areas are closed before other areas catch limits are caught. So fishermen end up turning loose fish. Want to be able to keep winter troll caught lingcod for a year-round market. Sport-fishing in Area 2C can only keep a 37" halibut and have to turn loose the ling cod. Clients would be a lot happier if they could keep the lingcod caught instead of having to hook and release. Lingcod is a good substitute white fish. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposals 307 and 309: W. Combs/S. Young move to support proposals 307 and 309. Still be limited to winter fishery only. Hand trollers are better off using regular hand troll gear in the summer season. Hand trollers have the four fishing rods as a gear method that is effective. AC members are seeing more yachts with downriggers and HT letters on them. The yachters are using the HT permit to write-off their yachts. 5 No Votes. Motion fails.

Proposal 310: W. Combs/S. Young move to support. All enhanced king salmon in winter season. Good to move fish to markets in the winter-time; need more fish caught to make a season. With more people winter king fishing, the quota gets caught quicker. Adding the hatchery fish on will allow more days. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal 269: J. Phillips/S. Young move to support. Harvest record required with annual limits. The proposal supports the sustainability of all marine resources. There is a lack of enforcement and a lack of hard data. Self-guided boats have no check-ins/no punch cards required. All a matter of accounting – keeping account of the number of fish caught. Technology has advanced to allow greater accountability of fish caught. 5 Yes Votes. Motion passes.

Proposal 148: W. Combs/J. Phillips move to support. Oppose any efforts to shut-down commercial fishing on any crab stock in Southeast Alaska. This is an effort to displace commercial fishermen. 5 No Votes. Motion fails.

The Pelican AC discussed submitting a proposal in the next regulatory cycle (2015) to close Lisianski Inlet from Nose Head to Lisianski River to commercial shrimp fishing. This area is already fully utilized by local users and is heavily impacted by summer recreational users.

T. Wirta/W. Combs move to adjourn. Meeting adjourns 5:30 p.m.

ADF&G PELICAN FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Pelican Fish and Game Advisory Committee is having a meeting and elections on December 20th, 2011. There are 5 seats up for election/re-election. Anyone interested in serving on this committee is highly encouraged to attend this meeting. The Pelican AC will, following elections, be discussing upcoming issues which have been brought before the Board of Fisheries for this cycle year and the proposed changes to the Board of Game cycle calendar and proposal deadlines. If you are interested in any of the issues on the table you are highly encouraged to attend this meeting. As always, this meeting is open to the public.

The Pelican Fish and Game Advisory Committee is a collection of community members from all user groups that come together and discuss fish and game issues and recommend changes to current regulations. They also represent their community before the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game at board meetings.

Location: Pelican Community Center

Time: Tuesday, December 20th, 2011 4:00pm

For more information you can contact:

Shannon Stone, ADF&G Regional Coordinator – 465- 6097; or Patricia Phillips-735-2240

For more information contact Shannon Stone, Regional Coordinator for Alaska Department of Fish and Game (465-4110).



Posted 12-5-2011

3 locations

Pelican, Alaska Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 20th, 2011

4:00 p.m.

Location: Pelican Community Center

Agenda:

Election of Committee Members

Comments to Alaska Board of Fisheries

2011/2012 Proposals

Southeast AK, Yakutat and Statewide

Alaska Board of Game proposals

*Pending arrival in mail: Proposal booklet available to review at Pelican Library

Posted 12-5-2011 3 locations

ADFG Advisory Committee Meeting/with Elections

12.16.11

6:40-10:00

Egan Lecture Hall

Call meeting to order (Mike Peterson): 6:40

Attending committee members: Mike Peterson (Chair), Kirk Hardcastle, Mike Bethers, Thatcher Brower, Greg Brown(vice-Chair), Bill Bahleda, Jenny Pursell, Jason Kohlhase, Chris Miller, Henry Webb. Richard Yamada and Chris Conder attended via teleconference

Guests: Alaska Fish & Game Staff- Forrest Bowers (Commercial Fishing),

Brian Glynn (Sport Fish), and Dan Teske (Sport Fish)

Chair recognized Nick Yurko (Southeast Rep. for the Board of Game) in the audience

Additions to Agenda

Mike: Secretary of Interior & Secretary of Agriculture are performing their annual review of the MOU. Advisory Committees are encouraged to submit comments to the Federal Subsistence Liaison Team. MOU will be on agenda for next meeting.

Mike: Joint Board Mtg (Nov. 21) – Reviewing Advisory Committee regulations- joint board will be soliciting comments and possible proposals from public and AC concerning scope and issues that might affect ACs (i.e. uniform understanding of regulations). 1 to 2 year process.

Agenda

Elections

Seat	Expires	Nominee	Open/closed	Comments
Trapping	2014	-----	open	
Charter Fishing-Freshwater	2014	Chris Casey	open	
Processor	2014	Jason Kohlhase	closed	
Commercial Fishing	2014	Henry Webb	closed	
Sport Fish/Hunting/Personal Use	2014	Forest Wagner	closed	Not present- see letter
Hunting Guide	2013	Atlin Daugherty	open	Postponed until

				January- not present
Alternate	2012	Kirk Hardcastle	closed	
Alternate	2012	-----	open	

#####

PROPOSAL 140

Establish a catch report card system for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish fisheries.

Forrest: Comprehensive proposal- covers all of Southeast-concerns with the proposal due to how comprehensive it is- it would duplicate data collection methods (statewide harvest, subsistence-household surveys) and it would be expensive to implement.

Mike Bethers: ADFG is saying that it is not needed?

Forrest: There are areas where we need more data- but a proposal that is this broad is too much right now. Also, in this proposal there is a late fee that is implemented by the board if they don't turn in their permit on time; however, the board doesn't have the authority to do that.

Bill: What number goes along with annual limit? There is information missing.

Forrest: The title above is a reference to the regulation that is associated with it.

Mike: Proposal is broad- does it need to be more specific by species? Could you allocate funds from statewide survey into the permit system?

Forrest: A more targeted approach would work better. A proposal would receive more support if it was specific.

Brian: If it was specific to a problem the board could work with implementing it; however, this proposal applies to so much and it would be hard to utilize all of the data.

Henry: Do have any measurements of sport harvest for dungees in areas such as Taku Harbor?

Brian: The creel surveys don't extend to the areas such as Taku Harbor and we cannot say to that area how much is being harvested by sport users.

Chris Donek: (lady representing Territorial Sportsmen): The majority of pots are commercial pots in the Taku Harbor.

Proposal Fails: No - 9 Abstain - 3



Chair: the following 4 proposal's are for discussion only and the AC is not expected take a position. The Chair hopes the AC will discuss the implications of closing some waters to ALL fishing and close other waters to non-resident fishing.

PROPOSAL 141

Prohibit fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cache Island by all users. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

PROPOSAL 142

Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish in a portion of Behm Canal. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

PROPOSAL 143

Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Naha Bay. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

PROPOSAL 144

Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cedar Island. *(This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.)*

Brian: We are not aware of any conservation concerns in the areas that are identified in these proposals.

Forrest: Some of these areas are quite small- they are much smaller than areas that we would survey.

Chris Condor: Really not sure what the point of this proposal is- I'm concerned that this proposal is reserving this area and resources for subsistence use only.

Forrest: To clarify, the area we are talking about is 47 sq. miles, 20 sq. miles and some other small areas.

Jenny: Question concerning Clover Pass Islands- there are islands that are classified as marine conservation islands- why were they classified as marine conservation islands and who classified them?

Brian: I don't know.

Forrest: Referring to proposal 144- I have never heard the term 'marine conservation island'- we will look into this.

Jenny- It would be good to know the foundation for the proposal.

Chris Miller- Is this specific area ecological sensitive to groundfish/shellfish?

Brian: The three proposed areas- 25 miles north of Ketchikan in Naha Bay- productive fishing grounds and proximity to Ketchikan- there is a statute 1605.251- broad regulations of the board of fisheries- setting apart fish reserve areas, refuges and sanctuaries in the State- needs approval by the legislature.

Henry: Can you delineate between resident and non-resident users?

Brian: The state board can say there are areas that only residents can use.

Thatcher: Are there any other marine conservation areas?

Forrest/Brian: Over in Sitka Sound, Coronation Island...

Greg: This proposal would not be objectively done due to the targeted user group specifications.

Mike: We need more information to be able to have any stance.

Jenny: If these types of proposals will come up again (finfish AC meeting) I have an interest through the department to understand what this marine conservation area concept means. I think it would be informative for committee members in order to have a better background when confronted with proposals like these in the future.(Jenny Pursell added the following after the meeting for clarification: [As a volunteer this is not a project that I want to prioritize with my time.If this information should be pursued I would defer this to the Department and their resources to do so.]'

Kirk: Can look at Hawaii as a model for conservation zones/reserves and preserves.

Mike: I propose that Jenny can come back to the committee with an update on how this process is going.

Chris Miller: The previous statement- that the legislature needs to be involved- tells me that we can't do anything on these subjects- so we should allocate our time to issues we can deal with.

NO ACTION TAKEN

#####

PROPOSAL 148

Allocate all harvest of king crab in Section 11-A (Juneau area) to the personal use fishery.

Forrest: Within that fishery 90% available to summer fishery and 10% to winter fishery. When the dept. calculated GHL we sum up biomass contributions from various management areas and calculate total area GHL and use that to compare to the open fishery threshold- if biomass had not been included we would have had to close the fishery .

Rick Daugherty (commercial fishermen): We are 40% of the allocation now. It is vitally important to have threshold- without we would not have had a commercial fishery. 11-A is based on guidelines for salmon- if we lose this area for crab, we will never get it back. I wish to have this area open- it is important to the overall Southeast fisheries.

Mike Bethers: It seems that the Juneau area has some of the most consistent habitat for King Crab in the past- the way fisheries are now in this area- how many personal use and commercial use fishermen are participating? Are you happy with the data you are getting in this area?

Forrest: For personal use- within 11-A in 2010 there were ~1300 permits for summer and ~500 for winter season and peak was 3300 in 2003. In the summer they took 1100 crab and the winter they took 400 crab. There were 5 commercial permits for 11-A, there was a 9000 GHL and took just shy

of 10,000. Around a 1,000 crab were harvested. In Southeast there were 56 commercial permits total fishing.

Jason: Bag limit? Total number of crab harvested?

Forrest: In 2010 summer there was an allocation of 1494 (took 1104) in the winter 298 (took 373).

Jenny: Are there any conservation issues for red and blue king crab in 11-a?

Forrest: 11-A is generally a consistent producer in terms of stock health- not a large relative biomass, but healthy.

Jason: Dept. has stock status of 11-A where? I think what is happening in 11-A is that the stock status is declining. Based off of survey results they are seeing a decline. For red crab in Southeast is in 11-A. This means that it is incredibly important to commercial fishermen. There is now a mark and recapture effort to bring more light to stock status inside 11-A. I think that it is embarrassing that the territorial sportsman (proposal writer) would submit this proposal.

Chris Condor: Personal use fishermen were sad about their limit last year (2 king crab/person) and were a little confused why it was opened up to a commercial fishery. I think that we need to make 11-A into sub-units.

Jason: The commercial fleet was restricted to only 24 hours to fish the 9000 GHl- part of the reason they did that was because of the reasons brought up by the sport users.

Forrest: Background information- there are waters within 11-A that are closed to commercial fishing.

Jenny: In the closed commercial areas- why were these areas closed off to commercial fishing? How long has these closures been in place? What are the results to closures to these areas?

Forrest: These areas were closed probably due to important crab habitat area and the proximity to local communities. I don't have data to look at trends in biomass changes.

Jenny: Was conservation also a reason?

Forrest: The Portland trench is important crab habitat.

Mike: Is all of 11-A open to personal use?

Forrest: The personal use permit applies to all areas of 11-a.

Bill: For the record, the limit for personal use is 2 king crab/head of household. I only saw concentration of fishers around Portland Island.

Greg: Do populations fluctuate a lot?

Forrest: Crab stocks have notorious fluctuations. Crab stocks are very vulnerable to environmental conditions and difficult to survey. If you can estimate biomass of crab stock to within 20% you are doing really well. What we see in closures could be due to measurement errors.

Mike: Is the method of surveying improving? Is it getting better?

Rick(Commercial Fisherman): Yes. It has gotten better.

Jason: The mark and recapture survey is groundtruthing the biomass estimates done by the biologists. There is now a level of cooperation that was not around for a very long time. The fleet is volunteering their time to assist surveying efforts. Some of the reasons we have had a hard time surveying crab for biomass estimates is that the catchability of crab is very hard to pin down.

Forrest: mark-recapture in St. James and Seymour Canal has indicated that there is a higher number of crab than we thought before.

Jason: To say that the commercial fleet is taking all of the crab in 11-A is not true. (~1000 vs. ~1500)

Chris Donek (Territorial Sportsmen Rep) : How many people put in permits for the fishery? I feel that the numbers are disproportionate between commercial fishermen and public fishermen.

Mike Bethers: The management has involved to a system where there is such a small time and such a small limit- there is not a lot of people doing it. There could be a longer time allocation for the sport fishery due to the difficulty of catching the crab.

Steve Box (Commercial Fisherman-crab): I think fish and game has a good hand dealing with this.

Proposal Fails (Yes: 1 No: 8 Abstain: 3)

PROPOSAL 161

Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Taku Harbor.

PROPOSAL 162

Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Swanson Harbor.

Mike(Chair): Discussion open for both and take a vote separately.

Forrest: #161- the proposed area is a part of a larger ADFG statistical area- 4 permit holder have taken crab from the larger statistical area. There is no C&T or subsistence use in this area and we do not have any conservational issues in this area. 27,000 pounds by 4 permit holders over 10 years

Forrest: #162- We were not able to determine where the specific proposal area is. Harvest over the last 10 years- 21,630 lbs. by 4 permit holders in the larger statistical area. No conservation concerns for Dungeness crab in this area, and no C&T findings for this area

Chris Donek (Juneau Yacht Club/Territorial Sportsmen): The users in the Juneau community find these areas quite heavily used due to the sheltered nature of the area and ability to catch crab in a recreational

area that is easy to get to. Taku Harbor was heavily hit last year by the commercial fleet- it doesn't leave any crab for everybody else.

Peter Org (commercial crab fisherman): Closure of Swanson Harbor would be devastating- Dungeness fishing is affected by sea otter population increases- the Dungeness fishing is becoming crowded in areas like Taku and Swanson Harbor. I am against closures of these destination harbors. To get to these harbors you go through areas that are very productive for crab sport fisheries.

Tom Brayton (commercial crabber Taku Harbor): More people are being forced towards Taku Harbor due to sea otter populations and closures. When you have a closure (proposal 161-164) the few crab fishermen have to move somewhere else and impact the fishermen that are already there.

Steve Box (commercial crab fishermen): I agree with the comments about being displaced. There is very good crabbing around Juneau for personal use.

Kirk: Concerns about toxins in Gastineau Channel- crab might not be safe to eat. I agree with Taku Harbor being overpopulated with fishermen and catchability of crab harder than in previous times.

Tom Brayton: When I read these proposals there is never an 'other solutions' section.

Steve Box: Summer season for commercial fishing is June 15-Aug 15. The winter season is Oct. 1- Nov 30.

Mike: Taku and Swanson are nice harbors- are these areas bountiful in crab? Are you going to catch crab all in one week?

Steve: Just because the first week of the season is not very good- the last week of the season doesn't have to be bad.

Mike Bethers: In these tight areas where everyone wants to fish, would it be reasonable to have a two week on two week off schedule for the commercial fishery?

Forrest: Yes, the board could structure regulations to clearly lay that out- it would require additional enforcement. I don't see anything from the department's perspective that would make it unworkable.

Mike Bethers: To crabbers- if you had the closure to 2 weeks would you move the gear to another area- would that be a major obstacle?

Tom Brayton: Could be an obstacle for the crabbers that move into the area. Getting into and out of the box idea is good.

Mike: Are Taku Harbor & Swanson Harbor 4th of July hot spots?

Chris Don: Yes. We are only looking for a little area- from rock dump in the middle of the harbor to the north(Swanson Harbor).

Peter Org: This area is the most productive area for crabs. This area is what I think of when I think of Swanson Harbor.

Mike: Would the two week cycle work?

Chris Donek: I don't know if this would work. I think it is worth a try.

Jason: I think that this is another allocation grab- the weekly cycle will change the dynamic of these regions- you are going to create management that is too small scale.

Thatcher: As a commercial fisherman I can't support these proposals- more closures for commercial grounds does not sound like a solution.

Jenny: I like Mike Bethers' proposal with two weeks on and two weeks off. I would not foresee this as generating a tremendous amount of micromanagement.

Richard Yamada (teleconference): What is the capability of changing the proposals to different temporal scales? Does it go back to the beginning?

Mike: The proposal would go before the board next month in its original form and our comments would be in written form but we cannot modify this proposal, only advise.

Richard Y: I propose an amendment to both 161 and 162 proposal- there be rolling closures so user groups would have access to the fishery at different times.

(not seconded)

Henry: What is the situation with sea otters in the region?

Forrest: We don't have a Dungeness survey, but using commercial harvest as an index of abundance. 2002- 7 million lbs 2010- 3.5 million lbs. However, in the 1990s it is comparable to the numbers we have now. Sea otter range is expanding. Dungeness crab are a small proportion of the diet, but they are an important energetic source for sea otters. The Dept. feels that the commercial fleet is being compressed spatially, but there is not one single factor that is causing it.

Tom Brayton: Another suggestion could be that Taku Harbor has a pot limit for commercial fishermen.

Chris Miller: It seems to me that this is an issue of convenience. Sport fishermen in the Juneau area have easy access already.

Mike to Chris Donek:- is there something that can come of an amended proposal? Is it possible to have an ad-hoc discussion between sport and commercial users to come together with possible solutions and bring it back to the AC later?

Jason: Comment deadline is December 30.

Steve Box: What about the next destination spot that people want to go to- will commercial fleets be displaced there as well?

Greg: We should vote to amend the proposal and then vote on the amended proposal.

Mike Bethers: Maybe we can have alternatives a and b- where a is the rotating schedule (set dates for commercial and sport) and b is the max number of pots.

Forrest: Pot limit by area- that adds additional enforcement concerns.

Mike: We can bring it up to the Board of Fish meeting and tell them what we tried to work out.

Jenny: I would like to make a motion to take no action to the proposal at this time. We should bring the discussion to Petersburg and that we have put it to the 5 users (that represent the 300 some permit holders) to craft an amendment that could be brought to Richard and Mike.

2nd: Greg Brown

Taking no action on proposal 161 and 162 Fails (yes: 5 no: 7)

Proposal 161/162 Fails (yes: 0 no: 8 abstain: 4)

Mike: I would to form a subcommittee with the intent of touching base with other ACs in Southeast and forming a network in order to deal with the sea otter issue.

Jenny: Sea otters were dessimated by Russian harvesting- this was a policy issue to begin with.

Henry: We created this issue and have no means to manage this. Sea otters were re-introduced to Southeast and we bound our hands in terms of being able to manage them.

Greg: I think we need to look at this at a little broader scale. We need to invite biologists to be part of this subcommittee.

Kirk: Sea otter is a keystone species.

Greg: Reference to a good report to Southern California. I think the scope of the subcommittee should take into account other species.

Jenny: Discussion on sea otters in Petersburg?

Forrest: On January 15th there will be a meeting where sea otter proposals will be presented and discussions will be held to address these issues. This is to educate the board members in order to get everyone up to speed in terms of the science and policy involving sea otters.

Mike: will hold off on forming an sea Otter sub-committee. Will be attending Sea Otter presentation in Petersburg.

Did not have enough time to get to the remaining proposals:

PROPOSAL 163

Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Excursion Inlet of District 14.

PROPOSAL 169

Establish section sub-divisions in all districts of shrimp fishery.

PROPOSAL 171

Establish a spawner index system for the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery.

10:04 Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Michael Kohan