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ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
Federal / State Subsistence Committee

December 9, 2015, Egan Convention Center, Anchorage

MEETING SUMMARY
(revised January 5, 2016)

The Board of Fisheries (BOF) Federal / State Subsistence Committee (committee) met on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 in Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center. The purpose of the meeting was to review the committee purpose and receive updates on subsistence issues related to federal and state management. Committee members present were: Orville Huntington, (Chair), John Jensen, and Tom Kluberton. Board of Game members Ted Spraker and Nate Turner were also in attendance for a part of the meeting. The meeting was open to the public.

The meeting opened with an overview of the committee purpose provided by Glenn Haight, BOF Executive Director. The committee was formed in 2005 or 2006 to review regulatory changes made by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and determine if the BOF should take reciprocal action to ease public confusion over differing rules. The committee met a few times thereafter. There is information indicating in 2006 the board generated three proposals which included the content of three federal fishery proposals. The board did so to allow for public and board consideration of these proposals prior to the FSB taking action on the proposals. There was no recent record of the board meeting to review changes in federal regulation.

Following the overview, the committee heard from representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USF&WS and ADF&G. The MOU has not been in effect since November 2014. Unsuccessful efforts were made at the time to execute a new MOU. The committee expressed its interest in the ADF&G reigniting efforts to have the MOU resigned.

The committee then heard from ADF&G about recent FSB regulatory actions with a nexus to state management. The six actions include:

- Kenai River subsistence gillnet for sockeye salmon
- Closure near Makhnati Island (Sitka) for commercial herring fishing
- Salmon fin removal for subsistence fish in Southeast Alaska Area
- Chignik area waters (Black Lake) open to subsistence fishing
- Kodiak subsistence permit requirements for salmon and herring
- Klawock River sockeye salmon open season

Finally, the committee heard a brief report by ADF&G staff on the 2015 Kuskokwim salmon season, including specific information on king salmon harvests. The committee also heard from USF&WS on progress made to date on its work with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission on establishing a co-management system.

No action was taken by the committee although it acknowledged additional follow through was needed.