

Alaska Board of Game
Arctic and Western Regions
Advisory Committee
Comments on Proposed Changes in Regulations

AC1	Matanuska Valley
AC2	Kotzebue
AC3	Anchorage
AC4	Northern Norton Sound
AC5	Noatak Kivalina
AC6	Fairbanks
AC7	Homer
AC8	Kenai Soldotna
AC9	McGrath
AC10	Northern Seward Peninsula

7 p.m. at MTA Building in Palmer

Members present: Keith Westfal, Stephen Bartelli, Tim Jones, Bill Folsom, Dan Montgomery, Max Sager, Andy Couch, Erik Beckman, Mel Grove

Members Absent Excused: Ben Allen, Kathy Thompson, Gerrit Dykstra, Brian Campbell, Bennett Durgeloh and Guiseppa Rosi

Andy Moved to accept agenda 2nd by Mel Grove. Agenda set.

ADF&G present: Tim Pelitier

Public Present: Alaska Outdoor Council Rod Arno

Patrick O'Connor (former AC member) Commented that regulation proposal book was getting more and more complicated as well as the regulation book. Rather than such complicated regulation, Pat suggested that hunts be regulated by dates rather than size of antlers, etc. He would like to see both regulation and proposal books thinned down.

Bill Folsom agreed, but said that state population had greatly expanded since the 50's and 60's.

Dave Weiss from Sutton, new to area and without knowledge of proposal process. Wanted to talk about possible grouse hunting proposal. (Bill Folsom said the process would not allow new proposals for our area at this time).

Stephen Bartelli suggested Mr. Weiss go to ADF&G website to look for information about the Board of Game process.

Andy Couch explained that he had killed an illegal bull moose in 14A and turned it into Fish and Wildlife Protection, but that he was set for a court date in November and would be up for a violation -- which the Advisory Committee may want to vote on considering whether he should stay on the Advisory Committee.

Bill Folsom and Max Sager both spoke in favor of just leaving Andy on the AC without taking any further action, because of the tough regulations, and because he turned himself in, and he also was a valuable member of the committee.

Mark mentioned if Andy was fined possibly he should not run in the next election for the AC.

Andy Couch mentioned that there seemed to be discretionary calls being made on the enforcement of the spike / fork/ 50 inch moose regulations and that after the court decision was made he would like to see an effort through the AC to make enforcement of the regulation more consistent.

Guiseppa will be missing meetings because of his work schedule, but it was agreed with no objection that he would remain on the AC through the next election when his term will expire.



Motion pass proposal 1 which would allow ADF&G to issue additional musk ox permits.
Motion Support Unanimously 9 -0-0.

Motion to pass proposal 2, 3, 4 which would require that all Nunivak muskox registration hunts be issued in Mekoryuk. Stephen Bartelli explained that the requirement that people must go to Motion Oppose to unanimously 0-9-0.

Motion to pass proposal 5 which would increase the moose amount of moose necessary for subsistence in Unit 18 to 500 to 1000 moose. Without knowing what the current number necessary for subsistence is, Dan Montgomery said 500 - 1000 was a large increase that could in the future restrict many Alaskans and non Alaskans from hunting moose in the area.
Proposal Oppose Unanimously 0-9-0.

Proposal 6 If adopted would streamline the process for obtaining moose permits in Unit 18, 19, and 23 -- especially for hunters out of the local area.
Support unanimously 9-0-0.

Proposal 7 by ADF&G would expand the moose bag limit in Unit 18.
Support unanimously 9-0-0.

Proposal 10, 11, and 12 Would expand methods and means for harvesting moose in Unit 18.
Opposed 0-8-1.

Proposal 13 Makes predator prey management more complicated.
Opposed unanimously. 0-13-0.

Proposal 14 would close nonresident trapping seasons for some species in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
Opposed 0-9-0.

Proposal 15 would increase the hunting limit from wolves from 5- 10.
Support 9-0-0.

Proposal 17 would expand the season and bag limit for lynx in Unit 18. One member felt that all should be required to purchase a trapping license. Trapping license allows people to take lynx without limit. There is harvestable surplus at times. Some members felt numbers would go down and need continual changing.
Motion Opposed 1- 7 - 1.

Proposal 19 This proposal would complicate predator prey management in an area where the nonresident harvest may be almost nothing.
Opposed 0-9-0.

Proposal 23 puts trophy value of muskox under subsistence regulations for reconsideration. Rod Arno for Alaska Outdoor Council supported allowing people to keep the trophy value of



musk ox. Dan Montgomery said allowing hunters to keep trophies could increase hunting pressure in the area. Mel Grove felt allowing ADF&G to make the determination as proposed was a good solution.

Proposal Supported 9-0-0.

Proposal 26 would allow year round brown bear hunting in Unit 22.

ADF&G opposed.

Opposed 0-7-2.

Proposal 29 would reallocate moose permits to guides. Rather than reallocating a precious few permits, some AC members felt the number of permits issued should simply be increased to allow and maximize sustainable harvest.

Proposal Opposed 1 - 5 - 3 .

Proposal 30 would restrict brown bear hunting unnecessarily in the Noatak National Preserve. ADF&G position do not adopt.

Opposed 0-9-0.

Proposal 32 would allow brown bear to be harvested without a tag in Unit 26A. ADF&G proposal.

Support unanimously. 8-0-0.

Proposal 33 would allow season and harvest of wolverine in Unit 26.

Support 8-0-0.

Proposal 34 Support 8-0-0.

Proposal 35 Inadequate information available from ADF&G. Motion to table with 2nd pending additional information. Motion tabled 8-0-0.

Proposal 36 -- motion to table pending additional information.

Motion tabled 8-0-0.

Members that took a break and got locked outside returned.

Proposal 37 Support 9-0-0.

The AC continued discussion of Board of Game proposals 40 - 50 for Statewide meeting, which are included in the Oct 26th meeting minutes in order to keep the comments together for use by the BOG.

Other Member Comments:

Andy Couch announced a public meeting run by Representative Newman at the public safety building in Wasilla to discuss Mat-Su Salmon stock management.



Max Sager mentioned that he had no problem meeting at MTA in Palmer.

Dan Montgomery added the same comment as Max.

Bill expressed that AC members should let him know if they feel meetings should be run differently or if additional items need to be included on the agenda.

Andy mentioned the fishery proposals for Copper River / Upper Susitna River area -- Jehnifer Ehman from the public also mentioned wanting to cover some proposals from this area.

Meeting Adjourned -- AC to meet again on Oct. 26



STATE OF ALASKA

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kotzebue Advisory Committee

October 26, 2011

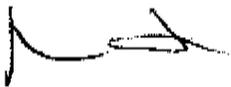
Attn: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

RE: Proposal 6 – 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Moose.

The Kotzebue AC voted unanimously to oppose this proposal. The Kotzebue AC was instrumental in putting the pre-registration system for hunting moose in GMU 23 (RM880) in place as a way to reduce hunting pressure on moose and user conflict issues in GMU 23. The AC has been pleased with the results of this hunt, which have been as intended. While this system is an inconvenience for non-local hunters, it also is an inconvenience for local hunters in that they sometimes miss the application period. This would seem to be a reason for locals supporting the removal of this requirement; however, the issues it has been successful in addressing - especially reducing pressure on GMU 23 moose populations - are of more concern to the Kotzebue AC than some local hunters occasionally missing out on moose hunting opportunities. The overriding responsibility of the AC is to the resource and this system effectively protects the moose population. It should also be noted that the last couple of years have seen less caribou coming through the GMU near the coastal communities which increases pressure on local moose populations; this is another factor in the Kotzebue AC's support of the RM880 process.

We request that the BOG do not pass proposal 6 and do not change the registration period for RM880 for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.



Pete Schaeffer
Kotzebue AC Chairman



KOTZEBUE SOUND AC (Unit 23) Comments re: Arctic & Western Regions

(Proposals not receiving comments are not included below.)

Bethel Area – Unit 18

Proposal 6

Action: Unanimously Opposed

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors. *(This proposal will also be considered under the Unit 23 management area.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: The AC feels the requirement to pick up moose registration permits in Unit 23 remain intact and that it is a useful tool to better manage the resource.

Proposal 13

Action: No recommendation

Description: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: After some discussion, the members decided not to act on Proposal 13.

Proposal 14

Action: No recommendation

Description: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: Same as # 13.

Proposal 19

Action: No recommendation

Description: Close nonresident fur animal hunting seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: Same as # 13.



Nome Area – Unit 22

Proposal 23

Action: Unanimously Opposed.

Description: Review the discretionary authority for requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit; specifically Seward Peninsula muskox.

Amendment:

Discussion: Discretionary authority needs to remain intact on some hunts as it is a useful tool in managing the resource.

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

Proposal 28

Action: Unanimously Support

Description: Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Amendment:

Discussion:

Proposal 29

Action: No action

Description: Allocate 50% of the Unit 23 moose permits for DM875 to guides.

Amendment:

Discussion: We are not in existence to help businesses grow.

Proposal 30

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Establish a harvest objective for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve.

Amendment:

Discussion: Bears knows no boundaries.



STATE OF ALASKA

FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kotzebue Advisory Committee

October 26, 2011

Attn: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

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We request that the BOG do not pass proposal 6 and do not change the registration period for RM880 for these reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pete Schaeffer
Kotzebue AC Chairman



KOTZEBUE SOUND AC

Comments

re: Regional

Regional

Proposal 34

Action: Unanimously Adopted

Description: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Amendment:

Discussion:



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

PROPOSAL 6 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V. Make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors.

DISCUSSION: Support, agree with issues stated in proposal.

PROPOSAL 7 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the Unit 18 resident moose season in the Lower Yukon Area (eg., downstream of MountainVillage) and change the bag limit to include any moose per regularity year.

DISCUSSION: Support, agree with issues stated in proposal.

PROPOSAL 8 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the resident moose winter season in the Remainder of Unit 18 and change the bag limit to include any moose in the winter hunt.

DISCUSSION: Support, agree with issues stated in proposal.

PROPOSAL 9 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18, as follows:

DISCUSSION: Support, agree with issues stated in proposal.

PROPOSAL 10 **0_ SUPPORT; 9_ OPPOSE; 1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of electronic calls for taking moose in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Oppose this proposal because the AAC doesn't see a need to change the current regulation prohibiting the use of electronic game calls for taking moose.

PROPOSAL 11 **0_ SUPPORT; 9_ OPPOSE; 1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Allow the use of salt licks for taking moose in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Oppose this proposal because the AAC doesn't see a need to change the current regulation prohibiting the use of salt licks for taking moose.



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

PROPOSAL 12 **0__ SUPPORT; 9__ OPPOSE; 1__ ABSTAIN**
DESCRIPTION: Allow moose to be harvested from a boat under power in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Oppose this proposal, the AAC doesn't see a need to change the current regulation prohibiting the use of a boat under power for taking moose.

PROPOSAL 13 **5__ SUPPORT; 3__ OPPOSE; 2__ ABSTAIN**
DESCRIPTION: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region.

DISCUSSION: The AAC supports this proposal, agree with issues stated in proposal.

Three members oppose this proposal for the following reasons: 1) They don't see a need to establish an ANS because they have never seen a complaint or a proposal to establish a need from those using the resource; 2) Suspicious as to the motive of this proposal; and 3) Concerned that this proposal may have an impact on Fish & Game's ability to implement intensive management plans.

Wade Willis, representing Science Now Project!, spoke about this proposal to the AAC.

PROPOSAL 14 **1__ SUPPORT; 5__ OPPOSE; 4__ ABSTAIN**
DESCRIPTION: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species within the Arctic Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The AAC opposes this proposal because five members didn't see a current problem that this proposal will fix.

The one member who supports this proposal agrees with issues stated in the proposal.

Wade Willis, representing Science Now Project!, spoke about this proposal to the AAC.

PROPOSAL 15 **0__ SUPPORT; 0__ OPPOSE; 10__ ABSTAIN**
DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for wolves in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Take no action.

PROPOSAL 16 **0__ SUPPORT; 0__ OPPOSE; 10__ ABSTAIN**
DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit for wolverine in Unit 18.



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

DISCUSSION: Take no action. To form an opinion the AAC needed information regarding the population of wolverines in the area and if that population could sustain an increased harvest.

PROPOSAL 17 0 SUPPORT; 9 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Extend the season and increase the bag limit for lynx in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: The AAC oppose this proposal because lynx populations follow the hare cycle.

PROPOSAL 18 9 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Clarify when a violation has occurred concerning incidental take by trappers for Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 19 1 SUPPORT; 5 OPPOSE; 4 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Close nonresident fur animal hunting seasons for certain species in Arctic Region Units.

DISCUSSION: The AAC opposes this proposal because five members didn't see a current problem that this proposal will fix.

The one member who supports this proposal agrees with issues stated in the proposal.

Wade Willis, representing Science Now Project!, spoke about this proposal to the AAC.

PROPOSAL 20 0 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 10 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Increase the bag limit and lengthen the season for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

DISCUSSION: Take no action.

PROPOSAL 21 9 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 21 as follows:

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 22 9 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN
DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D, as follows:



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 23 10 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Review the discretionary authority requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit.

DISCUSSION: Support, the AAC felt that trophy value of subsistence permit animals should not be nullified. The AAC recommends the department identify better methods to control subsistence permit hunts if necessary.

PROPOSAL 24 0 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 10 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Align brown bear seasons in Unit 22C with remainder of unit.

DISCUSSION: Take no action. Need more information to form an opinion.

PROPOSAL 25 0 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 10 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Align brown bears seasons in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: Take no action. Need more information to form an opinion.

PROPOSAL 26 0 SUPPORT; 9 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Open a year round season for brown bear in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: Oppose, the AAC did not agree with year round opening for brown bears.

PROPOSAL 27 0 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 10 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the ptarmigan season in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: Take no action. Need more information to form an opinion.

PROPOSAL 28 9 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 23, as follows:

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

PROPOSAL 29 0 SUPPORT; 9 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Allocate 50% of the Unit 23 moose permits for DM875 to guides.

DISCUSSION: The AAC did not agree with 50% of the permits being allocated to guides. It was recommended that other options be considered that would increase permit holder participation.

PROPOSAL 30 6 SUPPORT; 4 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Establish a harvest objective for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve.

DISCUSSION: The AAC supports this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

Four members oppose this proposal because they didn't see a need to establish a harvest objective and they felt the harvest objective would be too restrictive.

PROPOSAL 31 9 SUPPORT; 0 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26A, as Follows:

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 32 7 SUPPORT; 3 OPPOSE; 0 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Add Unit 26A to the list of areas where a resident brown bear tag is not required for hunts.

DISCUSSION: The AAC supports this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

Three members oppose this proposal because revocation of brown bear tags is not necessary. It's not going to change reporting of harvested bears.

PROPOSAL 33 4 SUPPORT; 5 OPPOSE; 1 ABSTAIN

DESCRIPTION: Open the wolverine hunting season earlier in Unit 26.

DISCUSSION: The AAC opposes this proposal because there was no data to justify a longer season. Oppose the August 1st opening.

Four members support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.



Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Comments to the ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
for Arctic & Western Regions, Regional and Other Units proposals.

PROPOSAL 34 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in the Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

PROPOSAL 35 **_8_ SUPPORT; _2_ OPPOSE; _0_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15A

AMENDMENT: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15A **to include significant habitat enhancement.**

DISCUSSION: The AAC supports this proposal as amended. Supporting members recognize that habitat enhancement is essential for this area to support a healthy moose population.

Two members oppose to the amendment; however, they support the proposal as written.

Tony Kavalok, ADF&G, and Jeff Selinger, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, provided details of the implementation of the intensive management plan for Unit 15 A and C at our October 25th meeting.

PROPOSAL 36 **_7_ SUPPORT; _3_ OPPOSE; _0_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15C.

DISCUSSION: The AAC supports this proposal as written. Seven members concur with issues addressed in the proposal.

Three AAC members opposed the proposal for the following reasons: 1) Intensive management must include bears to be successful; 2) Lacking current predator prey analyst & habitat carrying capacity analysis wolf control is not justified and likely will not be effective.

Tony Kavalok, ADF&G, and Jeff Selinger, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation, provided details of the implementation of the intensive management plan for Unit 15 A and C at our October 25th meeting.

PROPOSAL 37 **_9_ SUPPORT; _0_ OPPOSE; _1_ ABSTAIN**

DESCRIPTION: Amend the current predation management plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd.

DISCUSSION: Support this proposal for reasons stated in the proposal.

END

Page 7 of 7



NORTHERN NORTON SOUND AC Comments re: Arctic & Western Regions and Regional Proposals

(The reason for the difference in total votes on the proposals is because some AC members would excuse themselves for a short time and then return to the proceedings.)

Bethel Area – Unit 18

The motion to adopt Proposals 13, 14, and 19 died on the floor with no second.

Proposal 13

Action:

Description: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion:

Proposal 14

Action:

Description: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion:

Proposal 19

Action:

Description: Close nonresident fur animal hunting seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion:

Nome Area – Unit 22

Proposal 22

Action: 8 supported and 1 opposed

Description: Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D.



Amendment:

Discussion: The one opposition is concerned about the resource in 22 (C) and the Remainder of Unit 22 (D).

Proposal 23

Action: Unanimously Support

Description: Review the discretionary authority for requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit; specifically Seward Peninsula muskox.

Amendment:

Discussion: The proposal was nebulous and confusing; there is an overharvest of mature bulls and the population is declining. The boards should give the department tools to use to manage resources.

Proposal 24

Action: Unanimously Support w/amendments

Description: Align brown bear seasons in Unit 22C with remainder of Unit.

Amendment: Change the open season dates for Residents to April 15-May 31 from August 1-May 31 and change the number of bears for Nonresidents to one bear every four years from one bear every regulatory year by drawing permit.

Discussion:

Proposal 25

Action: No action

Description: Align brown bears seasons in Unit 22.

Amendment:

Discussion:

Proposal 26

Action: No action

Description: Open a year round season for brown bear in Unit 22.

Amendment:

Discussion:

Proposal 27

Action: Support

Description: Lengthen the ptarmigan season in Unit 22.

Amendment:

Discussion:

Regional

Proposal 34

Action: 11 For and 1 Against

Description: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Amendment:

Discussion: The one opposition is concerned that without a fee structure or a registration form, there is no record of how many people want to hunt the resource and it is important to know when trying to manage the resource numbers.



STATE OF ALASKA Fish and Game Advisory Committees (ACs) – Arctic Region

Regional Office: Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Section PO Box 689 Kotzebue, AK 99752 Telephone: (907)442-3420 Toll Free: 1-800-478-3420 Direct Line: 442-1717 Fax: (907)442-2420	GMU 22 Northern Norton Sound Southern Norton Sound St. Lawrence Island	GMU 23 Kotzebue Sound Upper Kobuk Lower Kobuk Noatak/Kivalina Northern Seward Peninsula	GMU 26 North Slope
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To the Alaska Board of Game

The Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (NNSAC) met on Oct 12 and 13. Our agenda included the BOG Proposal 23, formerly 223, which reviews trophy destruction discretionary authority by the ADF&G. The new statement added since the proposal was tabled at Wasilla was to seek public input about creating a hunt for non-trophy and trophy hunters.

The NNSAC met for about six hours and determined that a whole host of problems would come about if the BOG chooses to adopt such action. During the consideration of proposal 23, we had 13 of our 15 members present. The NNSAC voted unanimously not to support the removal of the department's discretionary authority to require trophy destruction. We also opposed having separate hunts for trophies and subsistence. The current process for hunting of musk oxen has been extremely successful, perhaps overly efficient.

Proposal 23, formerly proposal 223, has challenged the Department's discretionary authority to require trophy destruction on muskoxen and other big game. The NNSAC stands by our earlier comment on this subject (see attachment). We believe this is a needed tool on Unit 22 muskoxen. The local ADF&G staff reported to our AC, and same report will be given to the BOG, there are serious concerns they have about the biological mix of musk oxen from the near game units of Nome. We heard testimony on the effects of a reduced male component in Unit 22 muskoxen and the likely need to reduce harvest of all muskoxen and in particular the male component. The restricted trophy rules broadens the focus of the hunters and makes for a more manageable hunt opportunity in the southern Seward Peninsula sub units. With the projected harvestable surplus for the next few years very brief hunt opportunities will be likely and if over harvest were to occur, Tier 2 or hunt closures will be required.

The winter weather conditions are a wild card that should be considered in this equation. Often conditions are poor on opening day. Actions resulting in pressure on hunters to beat the clock result in unsafe hunts, shot-thru animals, and wasted meat. Hunts with manageable season lengths and full opportunity to harvest the surplus are in the interest of all hunters.

The preamble of Proposal 23 was confusing, but seemed to suggest dividing the population into mature males and all others. The NNSAC found this idea to be inappropriate. The subsistence demand is not being met. One of the reasons for the current regulations is setting dates that eliminate rutty meat



issues which in itself acknowledges the subsistence harvest of mature males. Other issues include; there has not been enough time to understand how a significant reduction in the number of large bulls will affect the local herds that have been hunted near Nome. The high number bulls taken in local subunits versus the remaining number may even put Unit 22 back into Tier II. It is widely recognized that herd bulls are the primary breeders of the population. It is often overlooked they also provide for the defense of the herd by taking the offense role when the herd is threatened and are the point to rally about for the weaker animals when the herd is threatened. Being the herd Bull is a year-round job and should not be lightly regarded. We anticipate smaller quotas of mature bulls as management acts on this recent finding.

The anticipated reduction will not eliminate the opportunity to harvest some bulls. It should be recognized that subsistence hunters are shooting large bulls and have been ever since the opportunity was provided to hunt musk oxen. There is a traditional subsistence take of mature male musk oxen. Bottom line is subsistence hunters are shooting bulls to satisfy their subsistence needs.

A mechanism to encourage the harvest of lesser bulls, satellite bulls, is needed. These bulls are not important for breeding and are not the rallying point for defense. Often they are the animals that are first to present a clear shot. A very well-known problem with hunters selecting smaller bulls is that they are the same size as females. No one wants to get in trouble with ADF&G. The opportunity to take cows removes the risk of misjudging the gender of an animal. Bulls are easier to see and by taking a bull your time is shortened out in the field, a much safer course of action if it is cold out. If you choose not to take the bull there are enough hunters out there that will soon find the same herd and will take the bull. Musk Oxen are generally found on hill tops where there less snow and are easy to see from a distance this is true any time a person hunts musk oxen during the year. The animals are generally in large groups. There are many novice hunters in Nome who have limited experience in hunting which is growing each year as the hunt opens. There is a growing number of people here in Nome and surrounding villages that enjoy eating musk oxen.

All of this is happening with the trophy destruction in place. Imagine the problem created if trophy destruction was removed as a tool for management, the extreme high volume of added sport hunters would prevent subsistence hunters from being able to provide food for their families. The herds that are currently experiencing a shortage of bulls would be exacerbated by additional hunting pressure and aggravating a biological problem that still needs time to stabilize.

Subunit 22E is the only portion of The Seward Peninsula where allowing the keeping the trophy intact might better utilize the harvestable surplus of Muskoxen. 22E harvests are frequently low, the total number of animals is high and this would be a mechanism to redistribute hunting effort.

Roy Ashenfelter, Chair NNSAC



NNSAC Comment on Proposal 223 from the 2010 BOG Cycle.

Proposal 223 Amended. 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Retain [REVIEW] the **department's** discretionary authority **allowing** [REQUIRING] the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit.

5 AAC 92.052 (5) ... the trophy value of an animal taken under a subsistence permit may be nullified by the department;

ISSUE: When needed for hunt management, and to avoid trophy hunting in subsistence hunts, the department should have the ability to exclude trophy hunting by discretionary use of trophy nullification. The amendment to the Proposal 223 retains this authority by the department so that across the State trophies may be devalued (cut, defaced, destroyed, etc) as a permit hunt requirement implemented by the Department. This maintains the status quo and does not change the way the Department has used trophy nullification in subsistence hunts to preserve reasonable access to game in subsistence hunts. Without this authority, more hunters are inclined to hunt for easy access to trophies and this can lead to quotas being reached quickly or hunts managed with short seasons. Both of these consequences reduce reasonable opportunity for subsistence users.

There are a number of hunts in the state where allowing the retention of trophies in Tier I hunts will result in unmanageably short seasons requiring the management to revert to tier II hunts or limited registration hunts with long lines for few permits to avoid alternate year hunts due to the fact that quotas could be exceeded without these alternatives to trophy destruction. Residents of Unit 22 have extensive experience with Tier II management and long registration hunt lines. Trophy destruction is the favored management tool over these options. The BOG should realize that these options have been considered for more than a decade and we have made an informed recommendation. The Board of Game itself mandated trophy destruction in Unit 22 during the time of Tier II hunts.

Under the current management of the small Unit 22 muskoxen population, both meat hunters and trophy hunters have an opportunity. Sport hunt drawing permits are available in the lottery system and Tier I registration hunts are available on-line to all residents of the state. This is the most equitable distribution method of the three alternatives of the aforementioned management options. In the end, the hunters of the state all wish to maximize their opportunity to hunt while fully developing the wildlife populations to maximum sustained yield. We believe that trophy destruction on occasion is the best choice.



NOATAK/KIVALINA AC (Unit 23) Comments re: Arctic & Western Regions

(Proposals not receiving comments are not included below.)

Bethel Area – Unit 18

Proposal 6

Action: Unanimously Opposed

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors. *(This proposal will also be considered under the Unit 23 management area.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: The AC feels that the requirement to pick up moose permits in Unit 23 remain intact and that it has proven to be a useful tool to better manage the resource.

Proposal 13

Action: No recommendation

Description: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: After some discussion, the members decided not to act on Proposal 13. We don't know enough about all furbearer populations including wolves and the department would need to be afforded the funds and human resources to determine the populations before developing ANSs in the Arctic region.

Proposal 14

Action: No recommendation

Description: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: Same as # 13.

Proposal 19

Action: No recommendation



Description: Close nonresident fur animal hunting seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: Same as # 13.

Nome Area – Unit 22

Proposal 23

Action: Unanimously Opposed.

Description: Review the discretionary authority for requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit; specifically Seward Peninsula muskox.

Amendment:

Discussion: Requiring the nullification of the trophy value of animals taken in subsistence hunts, specifically the Seward Peninsula musk ox needs to remain intact on some hunts as it is a useful tool in managing the resource. User conflict already exists and discretionary authority needs to remain intact as it is a useful tool in some subsistence hunts.

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

Proposal 28

Action: Unanimously Support

Description: Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Amendment:

Discussion: After listening to reports about the health and population of the species, the AC voted to unanimously support the proposal.

Proposal 29

Action: No action

Description: Allocate 50% of the Unit 23 moose permits for DM875 to guides.

Amendment:

Discussion: We don't know enough about the guiding operations in Unit 23 whether state or federal to make an informed decision on this proposal.

Proposal 30

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Establish a harvest objective for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve.

Amendment:

Discussion: Bears knows no boundaries.



NOATAK/KIVALINA AC

Comments

re: Regional

Regional

Proposal 34

Action: Unanimously Adopted

Description: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Amendment:

Discussion: After listening to reports on the health and population of brown bears in Unit 23, the AC unanimously adopted the proposal to continue to exempt resident tag fees.



Faribanks AC Comments re: Arctic & Western Regions

The Fairbanks AC offers the following comments and recommendations to the Board of Game. These comments were approved by the FAC by a vote of ____ In Favor, ____ Opposed, ____ Abstaining, ____ Absent from vote.

Bethel Area – Unit 18

Proposal 1

Action: Support

Description: Increase the number of available drawing permits to 'up to 100 permits' for the spring hunt for bull muskox on Nunivak Island in Unit 18.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Makes sense to hunt back to the desired bull:cow ratio. The FAC has no recommendation on "Where" to issue the permits. Mekoryuk makes the most sense as being closest to the herd.

Proposal 2

Action: Refer to Proposal #1 comment.

Proposal 3

Action: Refer to Proposal #1 comment.

Proposal 4

Action: Refer to Proposal #1 comment.

Proposal 5

Action: Oppose

Description: Change the Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses for moose in Unit 18.

Amendment: None

Discussion: High and growing moose population, long seasons and subsistence needs met. There is no need to revise the ANS, especially to the high numbers recommended.

Proposal 6

Action: Adopt

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors.

Amendments: None

Discussion: There is no need to keep the old discrimination by cost system (an extra round trip). The proposed change would cut costs for moose hunters. Especially in growing moose populations it allows more Alaskans access to the resource.

Proposal 7

Action: Adopt

Description: Lengthen the Unit 18 resident moose season in the Lower Yukon Area (e.g., downstream of Mountain Village) and change the bag limit to include any moose in the fall and



two moose per regulatory year.

Amendment: None

Discussion: In this growing and already high population, we prefer moose in freezers rather than to die off in a bad winter or poor habitat.

Proposal 8 Action: Adopt

Description: Lengthen the resident moose winter season in the Remainder of Unit 18 and change the bag limit to include any moose in the winter hunt.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Increases opportunity where there is a high moose population.

Proposal 9 Action: Adopt

Description: Antlerless reauthorization

Amendment: None

Discussion: High population warrants reauthorization.

Proposal 10 Action: Amend/Adopt

Description: Use of electronic call for taking moose in Unit 18.

Amendment: Electronic calls may be used in GMU 18 for moose from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset.

Discussion: The restriction on using electronic calls was because of the interference with other hunters and camps, especially by idiots who used them all night long to “call in” moose for the morning hunt. A time restriction would allow the technology without the interference.

Proposal 11 Action: Oppose

Description: Allow the use of salt licks for taking moose in Unit 18.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Don't start the argument for “why” the salt block was placed in the field. This practice is not necessary for moose harvest in Unit 18.

Proposal 12 Action: Oppose

Description: Allow moose to be harvested from a boat under power in Unit 18.

Amendment: None

Discussion: This practice is not authorized for moose anywhere. It is not needed to assist moose hunters in Unit 18.

Proposal 13 Action: Oppose

Description: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC's opinion is that the original findings for ANS for furbearers and fur animals



intended for the furbearer. Our opinion is the existing language is adequate and does not need to be changed.

Proposal 19

Action: Oppose

Description: Close non-resident fur animal hunting seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Please refer to the discussion for Proposal 13.

Proposal 20

Action: Oppose

Description: Increase the bag limit and lengthen the season for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The present limit of 20 per day and 40 in possession is generous. A significant increase, as proposed, could lead to waste rather than use.

Proposal 21

Action: Adopt

Description: Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 21.

Amendments: None

Discussion: We support the modification of Unit boundaries when it makes them more identifiable to the hunters. If the local AC's approve a change, we support them.

Nome Area – Unit 22

Proposal 22

Action: Adopt

Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC supports antlerless reauthorization as approved by the local AC's.

Proposal 23

Action: Adopt

Description: Review the discretionary authority for requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit; specifically Seward Peninsula muskox.

Amendment: None needed

Discussion: The FAC has always opposed antler destruction and seeks other ways to control the harvest. If mature bulls are removed from the "bag limit" for subsistence muskox, antler destruction language could then be removed from the regulation. We urge you to take those actions.

Proposal 24

Action: Oppose

Description: Align brown bear seasons in Unit 22C with the remainder of the Unit.

Amendment: None

Discussion: There is a large difference in the hunter population between 22C and the other



subunits. If the seasons were aligned, the harvestable surplus of brown bears could easily be exceeded. We recommend keeping the existing regulation.

Proposal 25 Action: Oppose

Description: Align brown bear seasons in Unit 22.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Please refer to the discussion for Proposal # 24.

Proposal 26 Action: Oppose

Description: Open a year round season for brown bear in Unit 22.

Amendment: None

Discussion: Please refer to the discussion for Proposal #24.

Proposal 27 Action: Support

Description: Lengthen the ptarmigan season in Unit 22.

Amendment: None

Discussion: We recommend aligning the season with the surrounding Units and sub-units. It is our understanding that there are high ptarmigan populations in Unit 22.

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

Proposal 28 Action: Support

Description: Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC supports reauthorization as approved by the local AC's.

Proposal 29 Action: Oppose

Description: Allocate 50% of the Unit 23 moose permits for DM 875 to guides.

Amendment: None

Discussion: If successful drawing permit hunters are not taking advantage of their permits because of hunt conditions, more information about those conditions should accompany the drawing permit data. Guides can compete by informing potential clients about those same conditions. An additional allocation for guided hunters is not warranted.

Proposal 30 Action: Oppose

Description: Establish a harvest objective for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC questions the premise that the present harvest level is “unsustainable”. The proposer speculates the reason is unreported harvest and lower skull size measurements. Unless there is evidence to suggest that the harvestable surplus is being exceeded, the board should not set a formal harvest objective.



Barrow Area – Unit 26A

Proposal 31 Action: Support

Description: Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26A.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC supports the antlerless reauthorization as approved by the local AC's.

Proposal 32 Action: Support

Description: Add Unit 26A to the list of areas where a resident brown bear tag is not required for hunts.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The harvestable surplus is high enough to need to reduce the bear population.

Proposal 33 Action: Amend/Support

Description: Open the wolverine hunting season earlier in Unit 26.

Amendment: Substitute August 10 for August 1

Discussion: Hunters that would take advantage of this change are going to be hunting multi-species if possible. Since the sheep season opens on August 10, it would make sense to add wolverine to the choices.

Regional

Proposal 34 Action: Support

Description: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC supports this reauthorization.

Other Units

Proposal 35 Action: None

Description: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15A.

Amendment: None

Discussion: This plan is not available for comment by the public or AC's (as of October 25, our meeting date). How is the public comment/AC comment process supposed to be involved? The board will need to defer this proposal until the next meeting to get the necessary public input.

Proposal 36 Action: None

Description: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15C.



Amendment: None

Discussion: Please refer to the discussion for Proposal #35.

Proposal 37

Action: Approve new information

Description: Amend the current predation management plan for Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9.

Amendment: None

Discussion: The FAC supports adding the new information. On page 51 the “new” data changes the target calf survival rate from 30/100 cows to 20/100 cows. How is it possible to grow the herd at this level? The 20/100 is below every other target minimum (usually 25/100 to maintain). We do not approve of this change as it could be precedent setting for other plans.

Proposal 256

Action: Amend/Adopt

Description: Snare with diverter wire for wolf trapping only in Unit 1C.

Amendment and Discussion: 1/32 inch wire is too small to support a diverter and to hold a wolf. Change to 3/32 inch. Although the concept of a diverter wire may work in some areas, the heavy snow area in Unit 1C isn't the place to try this. We constructed an example and the bulk of the 28” wire will be vulnerable to snow load to the point of not working as desired. We recommend not requiring the diverter wire in Unit 1C.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Homer F&G Advisory Committee
Oct 25, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Members Present: Marvin Peters (Chair), Trina B. Fellows (Sec), Tom Young (Vice), Michael Craig, George Matz, Joey Allred, Dave Lyon, Gus Van Dyke, Thomas Hagberg, Pete Wedin & Gary Sonnhuber.

Excused: James Meesis, Skip Arvil, Tabar Ashment & Lee Martin.

F&G Biologist: Thomas McDonough – Homer, Mark Burch ADF&G/DWC Reg#2

AWT: Trent Chwialkowski & Paul Mconnel.

F&WS –Kenai NWR: Steve Miller.

Homer News: Michael Armstrong

Public: 18 people

Proposal 35 & 36 1 Favor 9 Oppose 1 Abstain

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Comments by public:

More moose needed for hunters – Opposed to aerial wolf hunting – wolves needed for tourist attraction – improve habitat first – vehicles kill hundreds of moose each year. Wolves kill moose calves – tourist take more pictures of moose – address black & brown bear also – moose winter habitat by Beluga Lake has no ~~beavers~~ ^{beavers} – not enough time to read & digest – out of cycle – inadequate public notice – address Moth infestation/ no wolf studies – will habitat improve after wolf control – wolf used as a keystone –canary in coal mine – this intensive management proposal has nothing to do with science and all to do with politics – need predator studies – address carrying capacity – no emergency – stop poaching – need more enforcement- wait another year and see how antler restriction in 2011 turns out – use money for studies of moose, wolves, bears – mixed land ownership- nutritionally stressed already - meeting in Barrow is out of range for people of Homer.

Comments by Advisory Board:

1 favors proposal as written.

1 abstains: A few minutes to study proposal is not enough time. Why just wolves?
Studies needed on bear population – habitat – vehicle kill.

9 Oppose: Not needed – carrying capacity –there is not a lack of animals just a lack of bulls - need to encourage trapping and hunting of wolves & bears –can't support with just 1 hour to read – wait for 2013 and revisit – not sound science just political.

Meeting Adjourned



Kenai/Soldotna AC Comments re:Arctic & Western Region meeting November 11 – 14, 2011

Bethel Area – Unit 18

Proposal 6

Action: Support

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors. *(This proposal will also be considered under the Unit 23 management area.)*

Discussion: Current regulations regarding registration permits in these areas is essentially eliminating Alaska residents, other than those actually living in the village, from participation. Alaska residents should be afforded a reasonable opportunity to participate in these hunts; the present regulation appears to be the opposite of that.

Proposal 10

Action: Oppose

Description: Allow the use of electronic calls for taking moose in Unit 18

Discussion: This is a hunting ethics issue; electronic calls for big game hunting have historically been prohibited, not only in Alaska but virtually everywhere in the U.S. Approving the use of electronic calls would provide a significant advantage that is not in the best interests of the resource. Further, allowing electronic calls specifically for one area would set a precedent that would surely result in statewide use.

Proposal 11

Action: Oppose

Description: Allow the use of salt licks for taking moose in Unit 18.

Discussion: Opposition to this proposal essentially mirrors that for proposal number 10. The use of salt licks as bait for ungulates has long been considered an unethical approach and creates the situation akin to “shooting fish in a barrel.” Regulations have prohibited the use of salt licks in the past and to allow such use in one area would only lead to having to implement in other areas and would not be in the best interests of the resource.

Proposal 12

Action: Oppose

Description: Allow moose to be harvested from a boat under power in Unit 18

Discussion: Opposition to this proposal essentially mirrors that for proposals 10 and 11. Taking moose from a boat under power would be little different than taking one from any motor vehicle under power. The special circumstances where this is allowed, particularly in the case of swimming caribou is an entirely different situation for too many reasons to list here. To pass this proposal would set a precedent and would seem to invite more of the same in the future. Moose harvest in the proposed area is a much more viable option than in most areas and there is no evident justification to cross those ethical lines.



Kenai/Soldotna AC Comments re:Arctic & Western Region meeting November 11 – 14, 2011

Other Units

Proposal 35

Action: Support

Description: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15A.

Discussion: The residents of the Kenai Peninsula place great value on the ability to harvest moose as a sustenance providing resource. Peninsula residents are currently facing a significant reduction in the ability to harvest moose due to recent regulations limiting harvest to 50”/4 brow tine bulls. Hunters on the Kenai have shown support for this regulation as a means of balancing the bull/cow ration and re-growing the moose population. This proposal will allow the Department of Fish and Game options, particularly the aerial harvest of wolves, that heretofore were not available. The operational flexibility in this proposal appears to provide the Department numerous operational tactics to achieve the management goals for Unit 15A.

The committee would like to comment that the brown bear populations on the Kenai Peninsula remain a significant threat to moose population growth. The public continually expresses disappointment that the brown bear situation is seemingly out of control and the committee suggests opening the fall brown bear season on September 1st to allow those with permits more opportunity to harvest brown bears.

The committee would also comment that new data pertaining to moose calf mortality/survival and data from winter moose predation appears to be necessary to further enhance the region’s moose populations.

Proposal 36

Action: Support

Description: Approve an intensive management plan for moose in Unit 15C.

Discussion: See comments for proposal number 35.



Draft Minutes from McGrath AC Teleconference

Thursday, October 27, 2011

12:15 pm

Members Present:

Ray Collins, Chair-McGrath

Lewis Egrass-McGrath

Steffen Strick-McGrath

Mark Cox-McGrath

Kevin Whitworth-McGrath

Clinton Goods- Takotna

George Gregory- Nikolai

Nick Petruska-Nikolai

In addition Daniel Esai (who could not make the meeting due to work) call the chair earl to state he was opposed to any changes in the issuing of permits as proposed in Proposal 6. It is not broken and doesn't need fixing. Any increase of hunters from outside the area will impact the current recovery of moose numbers.

Comments on BOG Arctic/Western BOG meeting

Proposal 6

Action: Unsupported

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors. *(This proposal will also be considered under the Unit 23 management area.)*

Amendment: None

Discussion:

- Local people in these areas are dependent on the resource, and while there is currently enough to go around, increasing the availability of permits has the potential to drastically increase the number of hunters which would be detrimental to the whole resource
- We feel that if hunters have enough money to fly into this area specifically to hunt, they can hunt on general season tickets, other registration hunts, or drawing hunts, not these specific registration hunts. This change would impact local hunters that need these moose to subsist on. With the high cost of fuel in rural Alaska, local hunters are limited to how far away from their homes they can already hunt, without having to deal with added competition from people who live outside 19D.
 - On a side note, an AC member observed 5 good sized bulls being taken in 19D on the river this hunting season by non-locals with no harvest ticket. McGrath does not currently have an enforcement officer, and other areas know this. An increase in hunters with no enforcement officer is not a good mix.



- With the improved and lengthened runway at Takotna, the ability to fly in boats and 4wheelers is now a possibility. The workers that came out to make the improvements on the runway went hunting in 19D and were talking about doing just that. This ability already exists in McGrath.
- Passing of this game regulation would take away a valuable tool that the managers use to manage the moose population. While there is currently a sustainable harvest, an increase of hunting pressure could negatively impact the bull:cow ratios in GMU 19D
- Locals went through a 5 year memorandum on moose hunting the not too distant past. The communities here did without moose in order to bring the population up. Local hunters paid the price , while other hunters that are now interested in coming into 19D to hunt did not have to give up their moose. Already over 20% of these permits go to people willing to come out here and get the permits who later return to hunt, and that number will increase if this proposal passes. There is a huntable surplus of moose in the area of 19D that is outside the permit area. This area does not require a permit and can sustain added pressure.

Motion moved and seconded to adopt

Vote taken

0 in favor; 8 opposed

Motion Defeated Unanimously

The following proposals are to be taken up at the Statewide BOG meeting in Anchorage 2012

Proposal 93

Action: Unsupported

Description: Allow only the use of traps and snares for taking wolf and wolverine on National Park Service lands and prohibit the use of firearms except for dispatching trapped animals.

Amendment: None

Discussion:

- The McGrath AC believes this would be a horrible proposal to pass
- This proposal would affect very few people, but those people would be effected greatly
- There is no biological reason- if there was, it should be addressed by changing season dates and/or bag limits.
- The trappers that operate on park lands operate far away from the beaten path, which means that the viewing wildlife aspect of parks near more accessible areas would not be affected.
- If this proposal is extended to all federally managed land, it would be very problematic. Some communities, for example Galena and Holy Cross, are surrounded by federal lands. The trappers who reside there currently use this method of taking furbears quite a bit, and removing the trappers abilities to remove animals this way would impact their livelihoods as well as moose and caribou populations, there-by effecting the freezers and pocketbooks of the locals that depend on the moose and caribou in the area
- All trappers who have traditionally taken wolves and wolverine with a rifle when the opportunity presents itself could be affected if this is used as a precedent by those who oppose trapping.
- With the park lands spreading across Alaska, this could wind up being a very bad game regulation for the whole state.

Motion moved and seconded to adopt

Vote taken

0 in favor; 8 opposed

Motion Defeated Unanimously



Proposal 131 Action: Support

Description: Authorize a brown bear control program in Unit 19A.

Amendment: None

Discussion:

- It works for us, so it should benefit those folks.
- With an increase of moose down there would help those hunters be able to take the moose in their own area instead of having to travel too far, including into 19D.

Motion moved and seconded to adopt

Vote taken

8 in favor; 0 opposed

Motion Supported Unanimously

Next McGrath face-to-face AC meeting

February 10th (Roger in Fairbanks 13th-17th, comment deadline on the 17th for Interior BOG meeting)

Possible Agenda items:

- Antlerless Moose reauthorization
- AYK Proposals
- Comment on Interior BOG proposals

Tentative

- 19D Biological Update
- Innoko Update



NORTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA AC (Unit 23) Comments re: Arctic & Western Regions

(The Acting Chair prefaced the proposal deliberations by reminding all committee members in person and on the teleconference that fish and wildlife are important to the people and communities now and into the future and that all votes will be unanimous. Any issues or concerns will be raised and resolved prior to leaving the table. Also, there will be no “no action” items as this might be construed as supporting or not supporting the proposal when neither might not be the case.)

Bethel Area – Unit 18

Proposal 6

Action: Unanimously Opposed

Description: Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region V (Units 18 and 23); make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors. *(This proposal will also be considered under the Unit 23 management area.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: Requiring hunters to pick up moose registration permits in Unit 23 has proven to be a useful tool in managing the resource. At one time, there was a crash and eliminating this requirement may cause the resource to further decline. There is concern about calf reproduction and this should be considered before rules are changed.

Proposal 13

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Develop a Unit specific Amount Necessary for Subsistence finding for each Unit in the Arctic Region. *(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)*

Amendment:

Discussion: The AC feels strongly about taking a stand and taking no action may mean we support it when the opposite is true. We need to know the total population of a species before an ANS becomes necessary. This AC feels that the department has enough to do and that additional funds and human resources would become necessary to census all furbearers including wolves in the Arctic region.



Proposal 14

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units.
(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)

Amendment:

Discussion: We need to know the health, population, and take of the species before arbitrarily closing a nonresident trapping season for wolves in the Arctic region.

Proposal 19

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Close nonresident trapping seasons for certain species in the Arctic Region Units.
(This proposal will also be considered under the other management areas.)

Amendment:

Discussion: Same as # 14.

Nome Area – Unit 22

Proposal 23

Action: Unanimously Opposed.

Description: Review the discretionary authority for requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit; specifically Seward Peninsula muskox.

Amendment:

Discussion: Requiring the nullification of trophy value of the Seward Peninsula musk ox needs to remain intact as it has proven to be a useful tool in managing the resource. User conflict is beginning to escalate and removing this management tool would affect the population. Discretionary authority needs to remain within the department and taking it away may drive the resources to unsustainable yields.

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

Proposal 28

Action: Unanimously Support

Description: Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Amendment:

Discussion: The resource appears to be stable to continue the reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Proposal 29

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Allocate 50% of the Unit 23 moose permits for DM875 to guides.

Amendment:

Discussion: We don't know enough about the guiding operations on state and/or federal lands and cannot make an informed decision that is allocative.



Proposal 30

Action: Unanimously Oppose

Description: Establish a harvest objective for brown bear in the Noatak National Preserve.

Amendment:

Discussion: While it appears the brown bear population is slowly increasing, the AC feels there is not enough scientific evidence to establish a bear harvest objective in the Noatak National Preserve.



NORTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA AC Comments re: Regional

Regional

Proposal 34

Action: Unanimously Adopted

Description: Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

Amendment:

Discussion: After listening to reports on the health and population of brown bears in Unit 23, the AC unanimously adopted the proposal to continue to exempt resident tag fees.

