

Boards Support Newsletter

Summer 2017

BOARDS SUPPORT

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Central Bering Sea AC, October 2016, Photo: Anna Rose MacArthur, KYUK

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Dear Advisory Committee Members

Hello again Alaska's advisory committee members. The 2016/2017 Boards of Game and Fisheries meeting cycle is almost in the rear view mirror with the next season coming straight at us. The Board of Game is tackling Statewide Regulations and the Central/Southwest Region. The Board of Fisheries is set to review finfish in Prince William Sound, finfish and shellfish in Southeast and Yakutat, and Dungeness crab, shrimp, and other shellfish for all regions of the state.

Looking back at last year, we hope you agree that the fish and game AC system is alive and well. When challenges arise, AC members take them on in defense of their neighbors and friends. Please read in this newsletter about our Kuskokwim ACs who worked together to resolve very difficult allocative decisions in a manner that helps everyone along the river. Read also about our five excellence in service award winners for 2017.

Next year will be challenging as well. Low runs of king salmon around the state continue to press fisheries managers and pit users against each other. AC clear thinking and problem-solving for everyone's benefit is one of our best weapons to solving these challenges. We wish you the best in seeking equitable solutions and continue to thank you for your service to Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Glenn Haight, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Fisheries

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

Kuskokwim Advisory Committees and Stakeholders in Action!

Kuskokwim advisory committees and other leaders solve subsistence king salmon issues.

Impacts of low king salmon runs are hitting Alaska hard. In recent years, the decline in king salmon on the Kuskokwim River forced rigid conservation efforts and severe impacts to the subsistence fishery. In response, groups like the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group endeavored to remedy the situation.

The Board of Fisheries joined the effort by starting its Kuskokwim Subsistence Salmon Panel made up of three board members. The panel met twice in Bethel with ACs, the working group, tribal leaders, and interested public, arriving at the concept of "community harvest permits."

Remembering Greg Roczicka



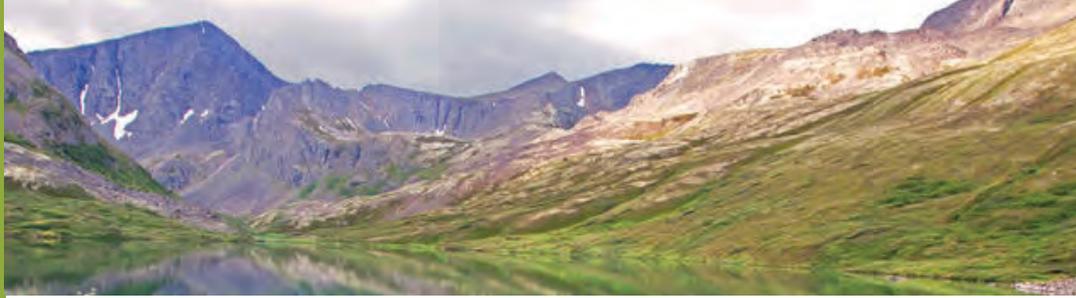
We are deeply saddened by the loss of Greg Roczicka, chair of the Bethel AC and long-time advocate for the subsistence lifestyle of fish and wildlife

resources in the Western Region. Greg's dedication in resource management was truly remarkable. Among his many roles and positions, Greg was the chair of the Board of Game, chair of the Bethel AC, which he helped create in 2013, a member of the Lower Kuskokwim AC, a founding member of the Kuskokwim Intertribal Fisheries Commission and the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and a member of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Greg will be sorely missed and our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Jensen & Spraker Reappointed for Sixth Terms

Reappointed for their sixth terms, current BOF chair John Jensen and BOG chair Ted Spraker are the longest-serving board members since the Boards of Game and Fisheries split in 1975.

Both were first appointed to their seats in 2003 by Governor Murkowski, and since then have been reappointed by three other governors and confirmed six times by the Alaska State Legislature. At the publishing of this newsletter, Ted and John have served over 5,240 days since their appointments in 2003. Congratulations to John and Ted on their reappointments and many thanks for their long-time service and dedication.



2017 Excellence in Service Award Winners

The Excellence in Service award recognizes the critical work done by AC members. Every year—and year after year—AC members demonstrate exemplary service in helping to manage Alaska's fish and game resources. We are happy to be able to recognize the outstanding contributions made by this year's Excellence in Service Award winners.

PERCY BALLOT, NORTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA AC. As chair of the Northern Seward Peninsula AC, Percy Ballot remains an active and engaged AC member and leader in his region. Percy runs organized and efficient meetings, engages thoroughly, and works in support of other ACs in the Arctic region. Percy helped create the Celebration of Life event in his home of Buckland, an event that honors Inupiaq culture while incorporating fish and game best management practices.

RAYMOND STONEY, LOWER KOBUK AC. Raymond Stoney has served the Lower Kobuk AC since 1991. Raymond has been a leader in the region, bringing ACs from Upper Kobuk, Kotzebue, and Noatak/Kivalina together to speak as one voice for Unit 23 efforts. In particular, Raymond was a leader in establishing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, receiving a Bureau of Land Management National 4C Award. The Cs stand for consultation, cooperation, communication, and conservation.

RAY COLLINS, McGRATH AC. Ray Collins has served as chair on the McGrath AC since its inception in 1976. He remains the leader behind the McGrath AC and serves as a voice for the Upper Kuskokwim River. In that time, Ray was a force behind several initiatives including the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (an effort that mitigated user conflicts between boat and aircraft hunters), an intensive management program that significantly increased the number of moose, and the establishment of a winter sheep hunt in Unit 19C. Not only does Ray work with the state's management system, he is also on the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group, the Western Interior Federal Subsistence RAC, and the McGrath area intensive management committee.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, FAIRBANKS AC. Virgil Umphenour is a dedicated and tireless supporter for fish and game interests in his region. Virgil has served on the Fairbanks Advisory Committee since 2004 following a lengthy term on the Board of Fisheries. Virgil's contributions include work on the Yukon salmon treaty, contributions to younger Alaskans, and efforts in the federal arena.

DAVID OSTERBACK, SAND POINT AC. David Osterback has been on the Sand Point AC since its inception. David is noted for his ability to mediate difficult issues among the three commercial gear types (set, drift, and seine) in the area, offering a humble and modest demeanor which has led to his successful representation of the advisory committee's recommendations before the Board.

Welcome New Board of Game Members

LARRY VAN DAELE was appointed to the Board of Game by Governor Walker in February 2017. He first came to Alaska in 1977 and started work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1981 after earning bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife management. He and his wife Hilary moved to Kodiak soon thereafter. During Larry's 34-year career with ADF&G, he was the area wildlife biologist in Dillingham and Kodiak, spent time as a regional wildlife biologist and regional supervisor in Anchorage, and earned a PhD focused on the management of Kodiak brown bears.



KAREN LINNELL was appointed to the Board of Game by Governor Walker in November 2016. Karen is a long-time resident of the Copper River basin. A lifelong subsistence hunter and fisher, Karen has over a decade of experience working on fish and game management issues in her region. She is currently a board member of Ahtna, Incorporated, the Executive Director of the Copper River-Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Conservation District, and Chair of the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. Additionally, she has served on the Copper River Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee for over eight years.

THOMAS LAMAL was appointed to the Board of Game by Governor Walker in 2017. Tom has lived in Alaska since 1971 and currently resides in Fairbanks. Tom is a retired teacher, commercial fisherman and surveyor. He served on the Fairbanks Advisory Committee from 2010 through 2013 and has been active in many outdoor and hunting organizations. Tom is an avid hunter and enjoys retriever training, flying, rafting, XC skiing, and gold mining with his wife Kate.



Welcome Back Board of Fisheries Member

FREDERICK "FRITZ" JOHNSON was appointed to the Board of Fisheries by Governor Walker in 2017. Fritz is from Dillingham and previously served a three-year term as a member of the Board. He also served three terms as an elected volunteer director of the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood

Development Association. Fritz founded the Bristol Bay Times in 1980, and has been involved in the Bristol Bay region since then.

Boards Support Staffing Update

Boards Support welcomes Jen Peeks and Lena Gilbertson to the team. Jen joined us last November and is located at the Bethel office as the Regional Coordinator for the Western Region ACs. Lena began in February as the Publications Specialist for the Board of Game and also serves as the Regional Coordinator for the northern Southeast Region ACs.

Boards Support also bids farewell to Carmen Daggett, Regional Coordinator for the Arctic Region ACs. Carmen has taken a position as a biologist with the Division of Wildlife Conservation. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for her several years of service with Boards Support.

KUSKOKWIM

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The community harvest permit concept was heard at the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim finfish meeting in January 2016 along with a controversial Tier II proposal. A Tier II fishery occurs when the harvestable surplus of fish is less than what is needed for subsistence. At that point, a subset of subsistence users are allowed to harvest, leaving others idle along the river bank. ACs and other residents met for days seeking a good plan, but the community harvest permit concept was not backed due to various concerns along the river. The board tabled the community permit and Tier II proposals for a year, hoping the region could arrive at a solution.

When the proposals returned at the statewide meeting this March, there was no interest in a Tier II system. However, the use of community harvest permits was of interest for villages upstream of the federal conservation unit who could not fish king salmon when community harvest permits were allowed within federal conservation unit waters. ACs and stakeholders again met with ADF&G staff and arrived at a plan that allowed the villages from the federal conservation unit boundary near Aniak up to the headwaters to use a no-cost subsistence permit where households could harvest up to ten king salmon when king salmon conservation measures go into effect. This plan is set to start in 2018 and end in 2021.

The ACs did an excellent job showing unity among all people along the river. In the end, it was an equitable solution for the Kuskokwim region. AC members from the region who advised the board include David Bill, Central Bering Sea; James Charles, Lower Kuskokwim; Greg Roczicka, Bethel; Lisa Feyereisen, Central Kuskokwim; Nick Kameroff, Central Kuskokwim (participated on other efforts at an earlier meeting); and Barb Carlson, Stony/Holitna. Thank you all for your great work!

BOARD MEETINGS & COMMENT DEADLINES

BOARD OF FISHERIES

Agenda Change Request Deadline: August 17, 2017

October 17-19, 2017 | Anchorage
Work Session - ACRs, cycle organization,
Stocks of Concern
Comments due October 3, 2017

December 1-5, 2017 | Valdez
Prince William Sound Finfish
Comments due November 17, 2017

January 11-23, 2018 | Sitka
Southeast & Yakutat Finfish & Shellfish
Comments due December 28, 2017

March 6-9, 2018 | Anchorage
Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp & Other
Miscellaneous Shellfish (Except Yakutat & Southeast)
Comments due February 23, 2018

BOARD OF GAME

Agenda Change Request Deadline: September 11, 2017

November 9, 2017 | Anchorage
Work Session
Comments due October 27, 2017

November 10-17, 2017 | Anchorage
Statewide Regulations
Comments due October 27, 2017

February 16-23, 2018 | Dillingham
Central/Southwest Region
Comments due February 2, 2018

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