

Southern Norton Sound Meeting in St. Michael  
Minutes 11.13.12, Meeting start time 12:10 pm

**Excerpt taken from minutes 11.13.12**

**#115 Customary Trade of Subsistence Taken Finfish**

Nicole Braem: Gives information about customary trade. There has been a finding of the board for customary trade, this is not for commercial use or enterprise. Currently the regulation of customary trade for up to \$200 per year per household. The proposal wishes to increase the amount from \$200 to \$500.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Northern Norton Sound and the RAC meeting support of this proposal. We felt there was a need for locals to make a decision, just to defer to the local people in the communities. I think that the cost of gas justifies the increase in the amount.

Comments:

Michael Sookiayak: Suggests that the Southern Norton Sound supports this proposal changing from \$200 to \$500.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Nicole Braem.

Henry Oyoumick: Does this include smoked Chinook salmon.

Henry Oyoumick: There is some resentment for me to support this proposal would oppose this because of the low numbers for Chinook versus other species

Henry Oyoumick: I would be ok with this for other species, but not for Chinook.

Merlin Henry: What about Koyuk people sell smoked salmon in the store? What I understand here how much money they can make. Inquires about the amount that they make from selling the smoke salmon. What my understanding is the amount they can make they are trying to increase.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about RAC position.

Nicole Braem: I don't recall opposition.

Wade Ryan: I don't take firm stance either way. It is helping the community. I am willing to go either way on this.

Norbert: With the Chinook salmon being so low, I don't know if this is good idea

**Motion for Proposal #115**

**Discussion:**

**All Support**

**One Opposed**

**Motion Carries Proposal #115**

Jim Menard: Explains the proposals that applicable for the Norton Sound regions and subdistricts

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the committee participation on the proposals 116-119, it is not necessary. Northern Norton Sound deferred proposals to us.

Michael Sookiayak: I think we should move on to proposal #120

Proposal #120 King Salmon Management Plan

Scott Kent: Reads the proposal. It would prohibit the sale of King Salmon that are incidentally caught. It would give the department some flexibility in the regulation of the salmon fishery.

Department Position: Supports with reservations.

Art Ivanoff: Wrote this proposal in with along NSEDC.

Wade Ryan: inquires about the length of time that this proposal would be effective for.

Scott Kent: This would be effective for three years. Michael Sookiyak: Inquires about still reporting the incidental harvests of king salmon.

Scott Kent: That is really important to report that information when you deliver your catch to the tenders up in Shaktoolik. I would appreciate it if you could spread that information around.

Art Ivanoff: Requests about the changes that department wants.

Scott Kent: We support everything except the using the midpoints of the range as a trigger for the sale of king salmon commercially. This body can provide an amended version if so desired.

Wade Ryan: motion to support to the proposal with state modifications.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about supporting

**Motion for  
All support  
No opposition  
Motion carries #120**

**Proposal #121  
Scott Kent: Presents the proposal to the committee  
Department: Supports this proposal; gives department comments  
Art Ivanoff:  
Motion on the floor  
Discussion  
Question called  
All support  
None opposed  
Motion Carries #121**

**Jim Menard: Reviews proposals that are for other districts.**

**Art Ivanoff: We are only voting on proposals that affect Southern Norton Sound  
All support  
None opposed  
Proposal #126: Extensions of Commercial Salmon Fishing by Emergency Order proposed by Wes Jones  
Scott Kent: Presents the proposal  
Department Comments: Department Supports this proposal.  
Wade Ryan: Inquires about June 8<sup>th</sup> to September 7<sup>th</sup> fishing time frame.**

Scott Kent: There is some agreement to disagree with NSEDC.

Art Ivanoff: I am in favor of the proposal. I like the idea of supporting the proposal.

Michael Sookiyak: there are some years when we feel like the salmon season is closed prematurely, we feel like we are missing out some money making considering that the cohos are good money makes.

**Motion to support proposal**

**Seconded:**

**Discussion on 126:**

**Question 126**

**All support**

**None Opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Proposal #127: Allows EO authority for the use of 150 to 200 fathoms of gillnets in the commercial pink salmon fishery.

Scott Kent: Reads proposal #127 and presents the proposal to the AC along with department comments

Department Position: Supports the proposal, will allow for more harvesting of pink salmon.

Henry Oyoumick: inquires about the length change that will be affected by this regulation

Scott Kent: ~100 to 150 fathoms or 200 fathoms

Art Ivanoff: I like the idea of allowing people, allows people to engage and really be aggressive with fishing as long as there is not an environmental issue

Michael Sookiyak: I am concerned about fisherman who don't have the big enough boats to handle all of the gear. It would be there choice to participate with this additional gear however.

Art Ivanoff: I think your concern is a good one and I think for those people who are well equipped to give them another tool in their tool box to be aggressive.

Motion to support proposal #127 Michael Sookiyak

Seconded Merlin Henry

Discussion:

**Question:**

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Motion Carries in Support of #127**

Proposal #128-Use of pink salmon as bait

Scott Kent: Presents the proposal

Gives department comments: Department is neutral to the allocative aspects of this proposal, but supports the idea of finding additional methods to harvest pink salmon surpluses in years of abundance. The department does not support the idea of allowing pink salmon bait harvests in low years while people are needing it for subsistence.

Scott Kent: The department was neutral on this proposal because it is allocative.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Northern Norton Sound position on this proposal.

Scott Kent: the NNS voted to support this proposal.

Michael Sookiyak: Would like to know if there will be an effect on the herring fishermen who already fish for bait.

Scott Kent: The data would say no, because permit holders for crab they could go catch their own herring if they wanted to.

Henry Oyoumick: Could you explain the Port Clarence Area

Scott Kent: Explains Norton Sound Port Clarence Area, Brevig South to Point Romanoff.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about whether if this proposal would affect the Southern Norton Sound

Scott Kent: This proposal would affect all of Norton Sound and Port Clarence.

Wade: It sounds like basically people want to use this for crab bait. My only concern is overharvesting the pink salmon. Like fish and game said they have the power to shut it down so I support this.

Scott Kent: Clarifies the necessity of modifying the proposal

Henry Oyoumick: I would be in favor if it only affects Northern Norton Sound

-I would to oppose this because I think we should use our herring bait fishery

Michael Sookiyak: I think we should support this proposal with the changes that the state recommends.

Art Ivanoff: I feel I agree with Henry, this could be impacting this region

Question

2 support

1 opposed

Motion carries with state modifications.

Scott Kent: I don't have any more proposals to cover

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the sport fish record of Kings in Unalakleet, 534 king were caught. That is from the statewide harvest survey. 534 king that were caught and released.

Brendan Scanlon: That includes the 534 king were that were harvested, confidence interval 300-800 fish.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the mortality about catch and release for Chinook salmon.

Brendan Scanlon: There was a project conducted on the Kenai River. Over 5.9 and 8.8% death rate for hooked fish by hook and line.

Art Ivanoff: on the 2011 harvest of 53 king inquires about the number of 53 of the salmon that were harvested how many of them were residents?

Brendan Scanlon: About half 50/50 of the sport harvests is Alaska residents and half non-residents.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about preference for Alaska residence harvest versus non-residents.

Brendan Scanlon:-I can only think of one regulation SE marine harvest for marine king salmon only. Otherwise all of the regulations are the same.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Kenai resident versus non-resident priority preference.

Art Ivanoff: There is statutory language to give residents first stab at the resources?

Brendan Scanlon: There is only the one regulation that I can think of that segregates residents from non-resident.

Art Ivanoff: I am just trying to figure out what we need to do get our stocks to the historical level. Looking at the 534 number 8% up.

Brendan Scanlon: The maximum harvest was 2-4 fish per year for non-resident take. it is more like 10%. It looks like the data from Kenai, 15% of the salmon that didn't survive. For king salmon it is 5.5% and 8% over a range of over 200 fish which is a pretty extensive study in the Kenai.  
3:19:48

Art Ivanoff: It looks like 50 fish don't make it up the river to spawn. There have been more reports that mortality rates are higher for coho salmon to 68% with 15 fish not surviving. I can't remember that the study by Susiski was higher like 80%, I can't remember if it was for sockeye. I don't like the idea of the sports fishing up the river along the subsistence fish and I don't like the mortality rate. There is 20 caught with 30 fish mortality that our people aren't able to catch. I don't like that our people doing subsistence aren't able to catch

Brendan Scanlon: Explains the AYK Resident Species is for Northern Norton Sound for the Nome River

Art Ivanoff: Defer to the Northern Norton Sound proposals and focus on the Southern Norton Sound proposals.

AYK Genetics:

Scott Kent: this year there were 3 collection trips to build upon the for Norton Sound Port Clarence Chinook Stock for the Igallik and Shaktoolik Rivers. We got 26 samples on the Shaktoolik River and 53 samples on the Ungalik; we are just shy of 100 total for the baseline. We working towards getting more samples and putting new markers on the fish to break the western Alaskan coastal grouping.

Michael Sookiyak: Inquire about if Fish and Game is working with the Northern Bering Sea Aquaculture Association.

Scott Kent: Not really. They are not really involved. It is pretty much the department is one but NSEDC did assist us in the past before we had a genetics budget.

Henry Oyoumick: I have always been interested in the genetic influence and *Ichthyophonus* and how other diseases affect our salmon.

Scott Kent: That's a good point and I would recommend that you attend the AYK Chinook salmon symposium in Anchorage December 10-11 as that is going to be one of the topics for discussion and presentation.

Art Ivanoff: Some of the people in Barrow are catching Chinook Salmon, and there has been a complete regime shift. I just would like to know what your thoughts are.

Scott Kent: It is not too far to suggest that salmon species are expanding their range in the Northwest Alaska like chum and sockeyes. My trip to Ungalik this summer was quite an eye opener. I think in a good year that the Ungalik has the potential to support large numbers of Chinook salmon. . I've been told that there used to be a lot of fish in the Ungalik before the big mining camps dredged out the river. It's possible that the runs are just now coming back. Chinook salmon were utilizing the majority of the drainage which is a good sign. The river looked very healthy to me. Salmon are good at finding and exploiting new habitats as long there is good oxygen and a good stable thermal regime.

Art Ivanoff: I am not sure if this is an anomaly, but it is interesting.

Merlin Henry: There used to be a lot of fish up there a long time ago. Inquires about mining.

Scott Kent: The Inglutalik and Ungalik rivers are probably some of the healthiest in Norton Sound. The fish utilize these drainages in their entirety; fish are all the way up the forks on the Inglutalik based on aerial surveys. The mining

operations that are on-going are well back from the river and they have good settling ponds dug to protect fish habitat. There isn't any pollution.

Merlin Henry: Commercial fisherman had a low King Salmon return. In the Ingallik I only caught two king fish. I saw chums with sore heads (more than one). I don't know where they get their sores. I wanted to give them NSEDC, but I have been too busy. My wife had been commercial fishing, and she has seen chums with sore heads, more than one.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Yukon Area Salmon

Jim Menard: Nothing from our end.

Art Ivanoff: What would the body like to do? Maybe it would be good to go through the proposals Southern Norton Sound submitted to the board.

Michael Sookiayak: there are a lot of new faces sitting around the table. They might want some information about what we are talking about here.

Art Ivanoff: I guess we can just talk about those proposals.

Proposal #183 Jim Menard gives presentation

It has to do with the start date of the area M fishery. There has been a lot of discussion and changes throughout the years. 1984 is when they went to changing the start date. 1986 chum cap.

Art Ivanoff: the proposal was written because they currently stand down during the time period. We wanted to have some sort of regulation that prevent them from fishing during this time period, because of the mixed stock composition. We know over several years area M fisherman stood down on fishing for the first week to allow them to migrate. We wanted to prevent them from fishing for fish that were our fish.

Michael Sookiayak: I just wanted to bring it up so that new people know what is going on.

Art Ivanoff: We know that there has been a high take of our AYK salmon in the Area M fishery. We submitted this proposal again to address our concern. Any question?

Proposal #180- Chum Salmon Cap

Art Ivanoff: I think that window establishes a stand down and it gives our chum salmon time to migrate and not being caught. I think we want to be there at the Board of fish to present our proposal. Inquires about action taken a year ago.

Michael Sookiayak: I think we don't take action on this.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about having action taken regarding this proposal..

Jim Menard: Area M is allowed to catch 8.3 % of the sockeye salmon. Explains the chum cap. One of the arguments presented about the 16 hour fishing day and how it didn't give them time to get out of the chum they are currently on 88 hours fishing with time off in between to allow them to move out of the chum. The discussion was if they got into chum they could move out of the area if they preferred to catch sockeye. There is not a chum cap now.

Art Ivanoff: We need a motion to support 183 and supporting other proposals that were produced by other AYK proposals like 180. I think it would be great to give a representative some flexibility to modify their position.

Michael Sookiayak: I make a motion to support 183.

There is a motion 183.

Seconded:

Discussion:

Art Ivanoff: The proposal 180 is by Roy Ashenfelter, I think when you go to these meetings you pick up a lot more information and may have an amended version of our proposal and I am asking for the flexibility of changing the proposal. The idea is to focus on conservation.

Is there support for the amended motion?

**All in support for the amended motion, no opposition.**

**Gives the representative to have flexibility to make decisions based on the information given at the meeting.**

**Question called for the amendment**

**All Support**

**None Opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Jim Menard: We don't have anything about the statewide salmon.

Art Ivanoff: Explains the minority report. The minority report was designed to push the envelope on providing resources to this region. There were about 300 people in the room and it was sort of discouraging to see the allocation of resources for Northwest Alaska. It seems like we have gotten the short end of the stick. Are there any questions about the letter about the allocation of resources to manage our salmon stocks. We submitted it to higher ups the commissioner's office and senator's office to let them know there are some issue.

-covers disaster declaration

About two years ago Southern Norton Sound has submitted a disaster relief proposal about salmon in this region. The response with the department of commerce was to deny our request for disaster relief. However, we would like to try again.

Explains that we didn't agree with the findings for the submission of declaration of the disaster from district 5 and 6. The letter was resubmitted to commerce for reconsideration. The Kenai River was classified as a disaster area. We are going through the motions to become part of the disaster declaration. We have had discussion with the congregational delegation staff. Our villages are facing hardships for lack of Chinook salmon harvest.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about the letter submitted and the response to the letter since then.

Art Ivanoff: Explains the lack of comment from the Secretary of Commerce.

Art Ivanoff: What was suggested was something a little different. There needs to be some modifications and overhaul for the AC systems to fine tune this machine. There are too many ACs, there are 200 ACs. The AC machine needs to be fine-tuned then. You control 40%/44 million miles lands based on our hunting and fishing history. The tools need to be sharpened to get ACs engaged in the decision making processes. The system is broken. The ACs should be involved in the deliberations, during those discussion. There needs to be more money put into these processes to make the ACs to support rural Alaska. We need to get ACs together to get the system to really fit rural Alaska. It is difficult, but it needs to be overhauled. It needs to be examined for the AC process to be remodeled. St Michael and Stebbins brought up some issues needs to be addressed. There is more that is required so that our people can harvest moose when they need it.

I would like to submit a motion for a letter SNAC to request additional resources from the Department of Fish and Game so that people can get the moose that they need, and we need to have an allocation of resources for the Department of Fish and Game to allow research to occur in this region.

Motion to support a letter to be submitted to Senator Olsen, Foster and the Commissioner

Seconded:

Discussion: there is are other areas that we could focus on. I know that Shaktoolik has been trying to get support for Chinook Salmon and the resources need to be covered across a greater area.

Michael Sookiayak: I agree that there needs to be more resource allocation to conduct more surveys in this region. I thought some of whats going to come from NSEDC with the sonar research. .

Amended motion to the board to increase the allocation for research to take place by Fish and Game to include the Shaktoolik River resources.

Motion carries for the amended

Art Ivanoff: two letters one for Senator Olson to allocate more resources to the Department to the Shaktoolik region Chinook salmon stocks with their own research and funding independent of Unalakleet. The direction is pretty clear.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about input from Henry Oyoumick and Wade Ryan

**All support**

**None opposed**

**Motion Carries**

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about further issues to be heard in the meeting even if they are not on the agenda.

Art Ivanoff: Returns back to Koyuk for antlerless moose hunt possibility. Is that the direction that Koyuk would like to do?

Merlin Henry: I have never been to this type of meeting before.

Art Ivanoff: We addressed the St. Michael and Stebbins about surveys, by submitting a letter. We will press the issue again.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about other issues.

Michael Sookiayak: Musk ox when I posed the question to the people at home. There were more questions asked than I could answer them. They wanted to leave it to the next annual meeting. Hopefully we will have an answer from Shaktoolik whether they are interested in the musk ox hunt or not.

Wade Ryan: I talked with Tony Gorn with this. I would like a tier two hunt that gives more preference (local preference only) for local hunters, to reallocate the point system. All of those names at the top will be thrown into the hat to be drawn.

Art Ivanoff: inquires about further issues that others might have

Wade Ryan: I don't have any more questions and concerns

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about further issues that Henry Oyoumick might have.



Henry Oyoumick: We need to look at the baseline data for Cisco data needs to be looked at for a whitefish fishery. We need to know what type and amount of white fish we have to made the decisions about whitefish. Questions about the Western Arctic Herd, it was geared for the reindeer herders. It needs to be public use of public money. There are people with commercial interests and it should be focused towards people who really need it. The real need of the Western Arctic Herd are the people who really need it.

Scott Kent: No further comments. You conducted a good meeting today. Wish you, the board, and staff well.

Art Ivanoff: I know we have taken action on several proposal. I think there needs to be some flexibility to give some discretionary flexibility to the representative. It is an important idea because you get a lot of new information that allows you make a more informed decisions.

Michael Sookiayak: Inquires about who is representing Southern Norton Sound.

Art Ivanoff: I think it is better to not go alone but have a couple people to go to bounce ideas off of. I would like to have funding to have people go to the AYK meeting the AK Peninsula and the Statewide Finfish meeting. I recommend we get two representatives but we get people who want to press the issue.

Michael Sookiayak: Considering what we just heard. I think our past shows that Art does well on our behalf. I would like to see him continue to advocate on behalf of our communities.

Motion: I would like to motion to send Art to the board meetings to represent us. If there is additional funding to have another person to take part in the meetings.

**Discussion:**

**Art Ivanoff: I think the representative needs to have some flexibility.  
I think there are other times it could have a greater impact a lot of communities.**

**Question:**

**All in favor**

**None Opposed to support the flexibility of representative.**

Art Ivanoff: I think we need to choose an additional person assigned to go to these meetings.

Peter Martin: Motions to have Michael Sookiayak represent the advisory committee

Michael Sookiayak: Declines the position to attend the meetings

Art Ivanoff: I would like to advocate to have Michael Sookiayak attend, based on his schedule and have an alternate for meeting attendance.

Question: Motion carries

Art Ivanoff: Requests an alternate

Peter Martin: Wade Ryan as an alternate

Motion to have Wade Ryan to attend

Michael Sookiayak: Suggests Henry Oyoumick

Amended to have Henry and Wade serve as alternates

All in favor

Discussion

Question for the main motion

All Support

Motion Carries