### On Time Advisory Committee Comment List Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region Meeting

Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee AC 1 Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee AC 2 Yukon Flats Advisory Committee AC 3 Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee AC 4 Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee AC 5 Noatak & Kivalina Advisory Committee AC 6 Delta Advisory Committee AC 7 Fairbanks Advisory Committee AC 8 Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council AC 9 \* Stony Holitna Advisory Committee AC Dec. 6 AC 10 Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee AC 11 \* Lower Yukon Advisory Committee AC 12 Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee AC 14 Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee AC 15

\* Denotes Federal Advisory Committee

### Alaska Department of Fish and Game Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

### 10/30/2012

Start time: 9:05 pm

Attendance: 26 people

Advertised: Nome Announce, Nome Nugget, KNOM, KICY, flyers posted in the post office, Sitnasuak, emailed Ads to all of the AC members

A quorum was present of AC Members, which had 11 of 15 members present: Vernon Rock, Stanley Tocktoo, Clifford Seetook, Tom Gray, Paul Kosto, Jack Fagerstrom, Daniel Stang, Nate Perkins, Adem Boeckman, Charlie Lean, and Roy Ashenfelter

Members not present: Chuck Okbaok, Sheldon Nagaruk, Charlie Saccheus

**Fish and Game Staff:** Subsistence-Nicole Braem, Assistant Wildlife Biologist: Letty Hughes, Area Biologist Wildlife: Tony Gorn, Area Game Manager: Peter Bente, Sport Fish: Brenden Scanlon, Commercial Fish: Jim Menard, Commercial Fish: Scott Kent, Commercial Fish: Justin Leon, Biometrics: Dan Reed

National Park Service; Ken Adkisson & Jeanette Pomrenke KNOM Margaret Demaiorbus

**General Public;** Kenny Hughes, Kevin Knowlton, Howard Farley-Commercial Fisherman, Michael Sloan-Nome Eskimo Community Biologist and Tom Sparks

NSEDC: Fisheries Biologist: Kevin Keith and Tiffaney Martinson

Alaska State Troopers: Jay Sears

#### Motion for approval of the agenda:

#### Additions to Agenda

Charlie: Stuff in the news about Bob Bell getting off the hook for not destroying his antlers of musk ox

Stanley Tocktoo: Musk Ox 22E discussion

Discussion for Elections, 3 AC seats are open they are; Mike Quinn, Bob Madden, Jr., & Dan Stang

#### Motion to Approve the Agenda: All in favor, No opposition, Motion carries Agenda Approved

Elections: Conducted by: Roy Ashenfelter, Identifies the parties that are running

Electorates: Dan Stang, Tom Gray, Kevin Knowlton, Kenny Hughes, Robert Madden Jr.

Elected Individuals: Kevin Knowlton, Tom Gray, Dan Stang,



#### Motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 12 and 13, 2011

#### All support, None opposed, Minutes Approved

#### **Motion to consider Game Proposals**

## Proposal # 41&42 Antlerless Moose Reauthorization, motion to support, Unit 22(C) is the only unit with a cow hunt

**Comments**: The ADF&G gave an update on the moose population goals in Unit 22(C) which included bull to cow ration, recruitment of calves. There was a brief history about a moose biologist that reported on the amount of winter grazing area in Unit 22(C) would could sustain a limited moose population. A high moose population will eat more that than is possible to re-grow during the summer season which could result in moose starvation. His report requested that the AC support an antlerless moose hunt which would be applied to Unit 22(C).

Tom Gray: Antlerless moose hunt I have voted against for years, I feel that the moose came from Fairbanks, Yukon River, the moose will move around they are not going to die in this area from over grazing. Fish and Game put out a paper that said you kill one cow moose you kill 200 moose throughout its life time. We have moose population problems in other Game Units here in Seward Peninsula and therefore will not support the antlerless moose hunt.

Majority of the AC members support antlerless moose hunt where needed to prevent over grazing winter habitat by moose. **Action on antlerless moose hunt reauthorization,** 10 support, 2 opposed, Motion carries

**Brown Bear Tagging Fee Exemption**: motion to support, ADF&G Game Biologist Tony Gorn: explains reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption. We have reporting through the sealing of the fur, most people comply with the regulation.

Comments on Bear Tagging Fee: A AC member wanted to have a brown ear tag fee because it provides a report who is out hunting, plus the number of bears taken and the fee is nothing for people here. Kenny Hughes: License registration fee clarification, there are too many brown bears we need to have as many bears taken as possible so I support the brown bear tag fee exemption.

Tom Gray's point, there should be a brown bear tag fee so that the public understand who is hunting bears not requiring a brown bear tag fee omits this important information.

Stanley Tocktoo: Explains the bear issues. Explains brown bear attacks in Shishmaref, which had two brothers' get mauled. People are getting attacked when they are out or fishing hunting and he supports the brown bear tag exemption to make it easier for taking of brown bears.

Kevin Knowlton: explains having people to purchase a tag, buying a tag that everyone will buy a tag and the numbers will be skewed. It won't give a good indication of who is actually hunting because everyone is going to have one.



Tom Gray: a registration hunt, gives who are the cliental that are hunting the bears. In the long run this information is going to be needed. Ignoring it will not be a good thing.

Kenny Hughes: What affect will this having on the population? Do we want to reduce some effort or increase it? I have been interested in bears for a long time. We need to restrict bear hunting a little bit? Why does it make sense? The biggest predator of the bear population is male bears, but we are taking all of the bears out all of the bear and sows been destroyed. By reducing the amount of male bears, we reduce the predation on baby bears leading to an increase in male bears. I say allow the fee

Charlie Lean: I think we should waive the fee for brown bear. We are seeing a gradual increase over eight years. We are harvesting less than the population can stand.

#### Motion on Brown Bear tag fee exemption Proposal; 10 support, 2 do not support, Motion Carries

Tony Gorn: Gives Game Presentation

Caribou Report: 10-20,000 caribou currently the Death Valley area and around Granite Mountain

Musk Ox: Last year refers to the graphs in 2012, we did a range wide survey 13% annual decline between 2010 and 2012. We followed up by range wide composition surveys. Declining bull cow ratios, expanding range to the east. Far as musk ox are concerned they pretty disappointing. In 22A where there is no hunting, that is where the composition is the best. The Western Seward Peninsula ratio was what it reminded me of in 22A, good bull cow ratios. A product of the declining the musk ox population putting us back into tier II. We are trying to build bull cow ratios. Not that many musk oxen to harvest these days in comparison to five years ago. Hunting seasons open August 1<sup>st</sup> now that know we are going to be hunting tier II. Application period opens November 1<sup>st</sup>-December 17<sup>th</sup>, will go to villages to fill out applications for the tier II hunt. In 22E has its own unique ANS.

Letty Hughes: Explains application process.

Tony Gorn: there is a statewide application period. We are back into tier II we have to be available 29 animals available. A hundred musk ox were harvested last year. Two other things are, we got rid of helicopters it is easier on the animals and easier on staff; there are very high mortality rates for cows greater than three years of age. The last thing we need to get you guys to do. We are still basing the information on the musk ox management plan from 1998. The first draft we want available to the public. Before we can bring it to the public we need to get the agency on the same page. We spend an unbelievable amount of time on musk ox. We need a population objective for 22C. It is going to be a tough question to answer and you guys can help guide us through that. You guys we are asking you for how many musk ox you need.

Tony Gorn: explains selection of mature cows, darting a musk ox from a helicopter is an aerial rodeo. That is one of the nice things by looking at them from the ground; you can look at the horn bases better. I wondered when we were selecting the oldest cows to be selected for three year old cows. What is killing them it seems like a variety of things. Brown bears seem to be predating them. We need to find some balance between killing them all and sustaining them. Living with wildlife, if you live in Nome you



should not be surprised to see musk ox. We are in musk ox habitat. I am more concerned about airports with musk ox particularly in the morning and the evening. Animals hanging around city field and around the airport are more what I am concerned about where the chance for human casualty is possible. 29 animals available for harvest rate for musk ox 2% harvest rate. We cannot have a musk ox free zone around Nome.

Stanley Tocktoo: 22E there is a large increase in musk ox along the coastline and Serpentine, I take my family berry picking. I can't even get to the bathroom, it dangerous to see your family getting attacked by musk ox and brown bear. They are eating sour dock, black berries, some of our subsistence food. They are dangerous, I try to shoot above them and it just makes them madder. It is dangerous for subsistence hunting and berry picking. We see lots of antlerless cows. We hardly see any bulls they are up towards the hot springs.

Tony Gorn: We are collaring the caribou herd, we are in a transitional time and Peter Bente is going to talk about the Western Arctic caribou herd. Kenny Hughes: Explains that Nome is dealing things that the villages have been dealing with for a long time. Villagers are ok with musk ox herd declining. Villagers want to see the big black lawn mower decline in 22D Southwest.

Stanley Tocktoo: A few years back there was a study in a couple of regions Kotzebue area and Northern Seward Peninsula. Inquires about differences in tooth decay.

Peter Bente: on BOG proposal deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you want to act on the proposals. The books won't be consolidated until about July 1st.

Roy Ashenfelter: inquires about musk ox report.

Tony Gorn: We are not going to have that management plan available by May.

Tony Gorn: I will work with you guys as closely as you want to develop the proposals. I think it is most valuable when the department works with the ACs to submit proposals for comment. It is helpful to have a meeting date after the proposals have been submitted.

Charlie Lean: I am on the other side of the fence, I understand the conflicts. My wife picks Quivit it is better than gold mining. I am frustrated with the thumbing their nose at the information. I am frustrated with Bob Bell thumbing his nose at regulations at sitting member of the Board of Game. I thought we had a scientifically sound conclusion about the musk ox. What is happening at Bethel, there are many guys that are going to get cited and fined for not following regulations? There are many of us that are disappointed about how our testimonies are received by Fish and Game. We are here for window dressing for Fish and Game. I think local staff passed on the right information, a sitting member of the board of Game went out and shot a mature bull and went out and shot a trophy. All of my friends respect the regulation. It looks like an abuse of power to me. I hope you take this message to the superiors.



Jay Sears: I can't talk about the case, but there are serious loop holes in the trophy destruction. I would encourage you to file a complaint. There are always people that work loop holes. Do we want a trophy or not. We can do our investigation, but we need to have the eye cuts.

Nate Perkins: When we have a meeting and consider the proposals and then men Charlie Bell, what good a supposed support body. Have no regard, will the board of game going to do anything with it?

April meeting to discuss BOG proposals.

Roy Ashenfelter: A letter will be put together by Charlie Lean and Paul Kosto. There will be a letter sent around the AC for review and comment deadline will be set. Maybe we should also go to our legislators. (Discussion about where the letters should go).

Short Break from 10:30 am

Resume meeting 10:45 am

Peter Bente: Explains Western Arctic Caribou Herd report, explains jaw examination. 490,000 reduced 350,000 bull cow ratios have declined; the herd is in a steady decline. There are 15,000 animals taken for subsistence and 1000 animals from people coming into hunt. Herd is clean not as many diseases. We are just aware of population are in a steady decline. There is a good portion of the herd is further North. Herd migrating later in the fall. The caribou herd working group is taking place at the beginning of December 4,5,6<sup>th</sup>.

Adem Boeckman: Is it a healthy decline?

Peter Bente: Healthy in the sense of there isn't a major contributor, no outlier. Rain on snow problem for caribou for an order of a few hundred of the animals not the whole herd. We know that caribou population cycle; it gives a chance of the range to re grow. A steady slow decline is better and easier to respond to.

Adem Boeckman: Inquires about healthy cycle

Stanley Tocktoo: There are lots of white things in the meat; inquires about cysts in caribou. The cysts are inside the whole meat, the whole carcass.

Peter Bente: explains how the tapeworm parasite effects the animal and it won't make humans sick. The pellets will be in the meat or the whole carcass. The parasite does not affect humans.

Peter Bente: explains about range health. There is a standing crop of lichen, though it is in decline which could affect herd survival in the winter. Fire through the lichen takes 50 years to grow and cause herd problems.

Roy Ashenfelter: Fishery Reports

Action on Proposal #115 Norton Sound-Port of Clarence Customary Trade, Motion to support,



Public comments: Nicole Braem: Subsistence division supports this proposal. It is not like there has been a spike in customary trade. Increasing to \$500 versus \$200.00 does not seem like an unreasonable increase since inflation and other cost have increased considerably since 2007. The division of subsistence and commercial fish don't feel this is an unreasonable amount. This proposal is about raising the limit on the cash sales, the people who want to do it have to get a permit from Jim Menard and to report what they sold to Jim Menard and you need a permit.

The proposal would add or increase opportunity to catch pink or chum when there is increased number of either pink or chum during that season. ADF&G Fish Biologist, Jim Menard: Explains customary trade permit for selling dry fish. There has been little participation in it. The people who advertise things like dried fish are contacted to remind them they need a permit. There has been little participation reported. I don't know how much is going on under the table. There were several citations issued by the troopers during salmon season for selling subsistence caught salmon without a permit.

Action on Proposal #115, All in favor, motion carries

**Proposal #116** Create a new commercial fishery for pink or chum salmon to be opened by emergency order (EO) in Subdistrict 1 of Norton Sound. Move to support

Comments: The intent is to allow for commercial fishing of chum or pink when there is a known significant number of either salmon present in subdistrict 1. A review of even year escapement of pink salmon in Norton Sound which includes subdistrict 1 shows a potential for a limited commercial fishery for pinks.

Action on Proposal #116. All in favor, Motion Carries

Proposals #92 Allow large hooks for fish other than salmon, Move to support

**Comments:** Charlie Lean: People who oppose this are going to be worried about snagging. It has to do with overlap of seasons so if you are out there with a monster hook; people can claim they are fishing for whitefish.

Stanley Tocktoo: explains the use of large hooks in Shismaref a lot people are fishing for grayling after freeze up. We use large single hooks and a lot of fish are caught for fish to be eaten with seal oil. Does this include ling cod hook? They are single bone hook. Our ancestors did this for hundreds of years.

Action on proposal #92 All in favor, motion carries

Proposal #95 Prohibit putting fish parts in the water, motion to support

Comments: This proposal was originally thought to be Statewide, upon further review it specific to Kusko and Goodnews area. The AC decided to act on it after a brief discussion.

Action on Proposal #95 All in favor, Motion Carries



<u>**Proposal #102**</u> allow for subsistence take of grayling in the Nome River by use of jigging with hook-andline gear thru the ice. Move to support

ADF&G staff comments were that there is limited amount of large grayling even with current regulation to release all grayling caught. Therefore the department is not in support of this proposal.

Charlie Lean: I think the reason the grayling disappeared on the Nome River is because chum and pink fry eat a lot of grayling even if they are the same size as the salmon. I am going to oppose this proposal

Action on Proposal #102 All opposed, Motion Fails

**Proposal #103** Place holder for possible regulatory changes based on results from Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Project (WASSIP) Motion to support

Comments: Salmon Stock Identification Project

Charlie Lean: WASSIP due to come out later so we are not able to comment on proposal 103

Action on Proposal 103, motion to table, all supported the motion

**<u>Proposal #117</u>** Allow commercial fishing in Subdistrict 1-West of longitude of Cape Nome for all species of salmon. Motion to support

Comments: ADF&G Jim Menard: There is a on a stock of concern for chum in Nome subdistrict. West of Cape Nome is closed by regulation for all salmon. The proposal was written to create a commercial fishery for salmon west of Cape Nome. Pink salmon fish is not closed. We can fish pinks and silvers east of Cape Nome. The commercial chum salmon fishery, however, is closed by regulation throughout the Nome Subdistrict.

Howard: Over the years that Nome has not had a commercial fishery for salmon. The salmon are coming back; just letting them go up the river and die it doesn't make sense. There could be a pink fishery. There are not many people out netting.

Charlie Lean: I think I am opposed to this; it is not that I don't like Howard. Explains differences between East of Cape Nome versus West of it by differences in Escapement goals. There is also a tagging study that has occurred. There is a big mixing zone a Cape Nome. Those that go east of Cape Nome go east those that go west end up in Western Streams. I think that sub district should be divided into two management zones and the west of management zone should be closed.

ADF&G Fish Biologist Jim Menard: Explains where the chum and pink salmon power is in the sub district. Over the past twenty years, we have an estimate 70% of the chum salmon production is east of Cape Nome. In contrast, 80% of the pink salmon production west of Cape Nome. If the western half of the subdistrictis open, we can designate specific areas within the subdistrict where commercial fishing can occur based on existing regulations. Right now west of Cape Nome is closed by regulation so we could not open commercial fishing. Menard explains possibilities of using areas within existing regulations to manage the fishery. Commercial Fisheries division is going to support this proposal.



Adem makes an amendment to add beach seining in Subdistrict 1 under 5 AAC 04.330

All in favor of amendment , None Opposed , amendment passes

Action on Proposal #117 as amended, 10 support, 1 oppose, motion passes

**Proposal #118:** Allow a commercial set net gillnet fishery in Golovin Bay once 4,800 Coho salmon have escaped into Niukluk river. Motion to support

Comments: Jack Fagerstrom: what is the current escapement level for Coho's?

ADF&G staff Scott: 2400-7200 escapement goals has been made consecutively since it was established. We got knocked out this year early because of high water but were projecting to easily reach the goal as of August 16. Refers to the escapement goals. There were a record runs in 2008 and 2010. We counted 2,408 last year; we barely made it last year.

Jack Fagerstrom: I walked around Golovin and the consensus was that at that level of escapement goal there isn't going to be a commercial fishery in Golovin. We have limited jobs and limited fishing opportunity, I am against this proposal

Tom Gray: This proposal it came from our cooperation. If you look at the fish runs in the Niukluk, it should be written slightly differently. Commercial fishing should be opened once you hit the middle of the escapement goal. We don't' believe that the fish are actually meeting the escapement goal If you pay attention for the escapement goals they are being lowered continually. These stocks need a break. We need to do something different. Fish and Game need 2400 fish and got 2405 fish. There is no reason to managing the fishery so closely. Our intention is not to punish the commercial fisherman we are trying to manage the stocks so everyone can have fish. Again our intent is we want to help that resource and put some safeguards

Tom Gray: would like to make a amendment to have 4,800 as a projected number.

Tthe amendment was made and seconded, that we hit a projected number 4800 for commercial fishing for Coho ; vote on the amendment; \_Support: 7, Opposed: 2

Action Proposal #118 as amended, Support 3, 8 opposed, motion fails

**PROPOSAL #119:** Allow for a commercial Coho fishery when there would be no impact to the chum salmon escapement goals in subdistricts 2 & 3, motion to support

Comments: The AC members recognize the intent of this proposal which to allow commercial fishing for Coho in Subdistricts 2 & 3, while avoiding subdistrict 1, which is the area that has stocks of concern for chum.

Department of Fish and Game supports this proposal

Action on Proposal #119, all in Support, motion passed



Proposal #122 Allows subsistence fishing in Norton Sound subdistrict 1 unless restricted by EO

ADF&G Comments: Jim Menard: Proposal 122 Requests subsistence gill net fishing 7 days a week in subdistrict 1. Explains harvests in Subdistrict 1 in tables 1 and 2 (see attached documents). Comm Fish, would support up to 5 days a week in marine waters during chum season. Also during a Tier II season reduce to 3 days a week in the marine waters for both chum and silver salmon season. In freshwaters the weekly schedule is 2 fishing periods at 48 hours each. Proposer is asking for 7 days a week for all salmon. Comm. fish feels more comfortable going up incrementally. Comm. Fish prefers the 2-48s in the river, and a doesn't have a problem going up to 5 days a week for chum season in marine waters. Based on table 122 (3), we didn't think that the net use would be too excessive so going up a couple of days is ok but not to 7 days a week.

Adem Boeckman: I would like to make an amendment to 122 to mirror the silver opener to be 1 pm-6pm.

No second on the amendment, amendment fails.

Jim Menard: In the even numbered years the majority of salmon caught are pink salmon and those are being taken by hook and line in Subdistrict 1. Seining is not allowed in the Nome River

Subsistence fishing should be open when there are quality days to subsistence fish. The days that are best to hang fish are warm sunny days which generally happen in early July. Subsistence fishing methods and practices should be accommodated when creating opportunity to seine in the Nome River. The 2 days-48 hrs is currently used by ADF&G staff to manage fresh water fishing.

Action on Proposal 122, All in support, Motion Carries

Proposal 123: Allow subsistence fishing with beach seine nets in Subdistrict one. Move to support

Comments: ADF&G Jim Menard: In 2010 and 2011 We would support on the front end during chum season but have concerns during the silver salmon run. Commercial Fish is ok until coho salmon season starts until July 26th being a problem. Give it a shot in chum and pink season. Commercial Fish can give it shot if the weather cooperates. Explains graphs with the number of permits that beach seine, rod and reel harvests, pink salmon, broke it down by location of fishing by subsistence users, chum net caught fish were dominantly in the marine waters.

Charlie Lean: Seining is used in mass production or to specialize the catch. There is a very short portion of the Sinuk River that is open for subsistence. Seining has an advantage over gill nets. You have a better chance of release fish alive. I think seining gear has a place.

Action on Proposal #123 All Support, Motion Carries

**Proposal 124:** Change boundaries for subsistence fishing on the Sinuk River for retention of sockeye by beach seine in the Sinuk River up to Boulder Creek. Motion to support



**Comments:** Generally the preferred fish to catch at Sinuk River is sockeye or silvers depending on what time season you are fishing. The current open area just above the month of Sinuk River is discouraging because a lot of other salmon are caught when just trying to catch either sockeye or silvers.

ADF&G Jim Menard: Comm fish supports the proposal 124, explains graphs and maps with the black flag marking with the proposed boundary and the present and lower river boundary.

Proposal 124 moves the boundary marker further up river where there is a better separation of salmon species. The additional distance up the river will have fishers catching the salmon they prefer at the same time prevent handling of other salmon.

Action on Proposal #124, All Support, Motion Carries

**PROPOSAL #125** Proposal by Dan Reed The proposal is to allow a dip net for fishing for salmon NOT chum salmon in the Pilgrim River. It may be an effective economic way to catch salmon or be good for targeting a specific salmon. Motion to support

Comments: Jim Menard: gives department comments and data on the Pilgrim River. Department supports this proposal.

Charlie Lean: the King salmon are really going down on the Pilgrim. Makes suggestion for having Kings put back.

Dan Reed: I talked with people around town about dip netting and people were wondering why I didn't put cast nets on there too? People have expressed interest in using cast nets too. Said that he could not change the proposal but the AC can.

Amend to add cast nets to the proposal, All in favor of the amendment, none opposed

#### Action on Proposal #125 as amended, all support, Motion Carries

**Proposal 126:** Allow for extension to the commercial fishery for Coho salmon in the Norton Sound Subdistricts by EO, the intent is for a season with a high number of Coho's which have met escapement in Subdistricts 2-6

Comments: ADF&G Scott Kent: Wes Jones submitted this proposal to extend the salmon season by emergency order. The Department supports this proposal, it would not affect the management of the late fall season. The Department has extended the season by emergency order in 2006, 2008, 2009, and for one period in 2012. No harm in allowing increase in period of time when bulk of run is in river or there is late season surge in abundance of Coho salmon.

We believe that it technically requires a commissioner's order to extend the season. The proposal if approved would add flexibility to local fish managers to make in season changes when warranted.

Action on Proposal #126, All in support, Motion carries



**Proposal #127** Gill net specifications and operations, allow for an increase in amount of commercial gillnet gear in the Norton Sound pink salmon fishery by EO, pink salmon mesh size would stay the same this proposal is to extend the net by 150 to 200 fathoms. Motion to support

Comments: ADF&G Scott Kent: department supports the proposal. Market interest in pink salmon has increased.

Charlie Lean (NSEDC employee): We tried to buy pink salmon commercially this year however there would have been a boom in market if people could have caught more. This is a cleaner easier way to increase the value of commercial fishery. This is a more workable solution.

Scott Kent: It would help increase pink salmon harvests during the non-peak fishing times and help mitigate losses from forgone harvest opportunities (i.e., weather, chum salmon conservation concerns).

Action on Proposal #127, All in support, Motion carries

Proposal 128 Use of pink salmon for bait in the Norton Sound Port Clarence Area

Comments: ADF&G Scott Kent: Allows pink fish commercial fish for personal use as bait and gives department comments and data. Permit holders would require permission from the department to exceed the 2 ton salmon amount.

Department opposes this proposal as written because this fishery should be opened by emergency order rather than at any time. Department may authorize other uses of salmon.

The department opposes the proposal as written because there may not be surplus available for this fishery in years of low pink salmon abundance. In years of low abundance, all surpluses will be needed to provide for subsistence uses. Additionally we are not comfortable with allowing this fishery to occur at any time, irrespective of abundance. This fishery should be opened by E.O. Supportive of the idea of utilizing pink salmon surpluses for bait in years of high abundance.

Paul Kosto: Requests an amendment to reflect the change in the proposal keep the proposal the same but include a clause about by Emergency Order Only.

Amendment seconded, All support the amend, amendment passes

Action on proposal # 128 as amended, all in support, motion carries

**Proposal #129:** re-open a sport fishery for chum in the Nome subdistrict with a bag limit of three chums, motion to support

**Comments:** this proposal aligns with hook and line as legal subsistence gear. Adoption of this proposal would allow people to fish outside the subsistence zone using rod and real. Refers to figure (see attached). The Department is neutral on the allocation effects, but would be in support if given an EO for the Nome sub district. The sport harvest would go into effect when escapement of chum can be met.



Charlie Lean: West of Cape Nome is in different shape than East of Cape Nome. I could probably support the E.O. to do that. If commercial is closed and so should sport fishing be closed. Subsistence should take first priority. The Nome and Snake River chum salmon still have concerns with meeting escapement.

Charlie Lean: wants to make an amendment, I don't like the idea of a blanket opener. It should be open the sport fishery when adequate subsistence harvest is allowed. That would include meeting the escapement goals. My concern if the El Dorado fishing is good, but it is not true for the Snake and Nome that the E.O should account for that. Amendment seconded

Action on the amendment, All support the amendment, amendment passes

Action on proposal #129 as amended, all in support, motion carries.

Roy Ashenfelter: should act on 179, 180, 181, maybe 216.

Roy Ashenfelter: These proposals have been submitted to allow some measure of control in the June fishery at Area M fishery to reduce the by catch of chum either through time tables or through an actual cap.

What the BOF has supported in the past was the chum cap, there was one year that there was a window of fishing in the area M fishery. It is necessary to have some direction on the fishery other than the fisherman themselves. It is important to comment on these to have an AC direction, so that when I go before the BOF I can comment on what the AC would like to support.

All of the proposals are a variation are the same idea. In 1978 Area M fisherman really developed the fishery from a sleepy little fishery to one of the most lucrative fisheries in the state. They will catch a portion of fish bound to western Alaska each week with no question of whether the chum run is strong or weak. The chum cap when it was in place was from 350,000 to 700,000 on chum, it depended on the attitude of the board and it used to change a lot. If we support proposal #179, it aligns us with Bristol Bay who has a similar issue with red salmon. The June fishery needs to be regulated based on salmon abundance and not just how many days there are in the month.

I would to offer to the AC we just deal with 179 and forgo 180 and 181.

Proposal 179 has a 400,000 chum cap and 8.3% for sockeye allocation to be applied to the area M fishery.

Action on Proposal 179; All in Support, Motion carries

Proposal #180 and 181 defer to 179, All in support of motion, motion carries to defer to proposal #179

**Proposal #216** Require statewide adherence to salmon fishery management plans as follows: motion to support

Comments: Roy Ashenfelter: inquires about his proposal being statewide.



Jim Menard: It seemed like to set some escapement goals outside the management plan, and it was made by Kenai sportsman fishing and they grabbed a bunch of different areas.

Action on Proposal#126; All opposed to proposal 216, Motion Fails

**Proposal 218**: Establish a sustained escapement threshold (SET) for stocks listed as yield or management concern as follows: motion to support

Charlie Lean: there should be a bottom line for escapement; it would include some streams in Norton Sound. This should occur, the downside to this it could be used as an endangered species act thing. The Nome River failed to meet the SET river threshold, it might close fishing for everything in the Nome sub district. It is something that the Bering Sea fisherman's association wanted me to bring to the AC. It is a double edged sword. This will tie Jim's hands, it would completely closed everything down. If were that low it would be below the escapement goal.

Jim Menard: Sub district 1 was listed as stock of management concern and Golovin and Elim were listed as stocks of yield concerns. We have never been that low again in sub district 1 as when the management concern was declared by the board in 2000. We did not establish an SET. We are (Nome) still a yield concern in sub districts 1, 2. and 3.

Action on Proposal 218, None Support, Motion fails

Motion Ajourned: 3:14 pm.



### Minutes of the Minto Nenana Advisory Committee Meeting November 9, 2012 Nenana Tribal Hall

#### Meeting called to order at 11:14

Victor turned over his co-chair to Tim McMannus as chair due to personal obligations. Unanimously supported.

Members Present: Nenana Victor Lord, Henry Ketzler Jr, Henry Ketzler Sr, Rondel Jimmy, Tim McMannus Minto Philip Titus, Rocky Reiley, Freddy Titus,

#### Elections

Ray was elected to fill the Undesignated seat Nominations for the 5 Nenana seats will be taken at this meeting, and then those names will be forwarded on to the Nenana tribal elections to be held on December 17, 2012.

#### Guests

Tony Hollis- ADFG WC, Dayna Norris- ADFG CF, Nissa Pilcher ADFG BDS, Ray Heuer- public member, Ray Stevens, Robin Campbell- tribal administrator, William Lord; William Ketzler; Dennis Arnold; Donald Charles-Chief of Nenana, Chris Charlie, Moses Paul

Approval of minutes from December 28, 2011 meeting-a minute of silence was held for the late Wayne Charlie who the AC will miss

Agenda approved with the addition of a whitefish discussion

#### **Old Business**

Ray Heuer was asked to speak on the airboat proposal that was up on the BOG last year and his and Tim McManus' role in getting that proposal to not pass. Ray noted that the AC needs to watch next interior BOG for this proposal to come back up.

#### Update on this year's fishery.

Rocky noted that he his family has volunteered to go without kings the last year and expressed concern over the ability to overfish in certain areas. Rocky said he thinks that the river needs to go to a quota system (Teir II fishery, discussed). AC members mentioned several times that there are other fish that can be targeted besides the kings, such as the fall silver runs. Moratorium was discussed- the AC was not for this at all, but it was noted that the river needs to start regulating ourselves or we might not be able to fish at all.

#### Proposals before the BOF for March Statewide Finfish meeting

#### Proposal 217

The AC expressed interest and concern with this proposal- we are concernde with the Chinook stocks in the Yukon drainage, but since staff comments have not been formulated as of yet our questions cannot be answered at this time.



#### Proposals before the BOF during the January 2013 AYK meeting

Proposal 99 & 100 AC supports these proposals to remove the burdensome restrictions on subsistence fishing Unanimously Supported

#### Proposal 130

The AC noted that they realize that the current information is old, and that the intent of the of the proposal is to not factor any years where there was subsistence restrictions, but this AC is not comfortable with this proposal at this time. There is the potential for even in years that subsistence is not restricted does not mean that as many fish are being taken from the rivers as needed due to conservation methods.

Unanimously not supported

Break for moose head soup and birch smoked strips for lunch. Thank you Nenana!

#### Proposal 131

First pulse should go by. If it is a big pulse, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> is normally big to, and since those are the first fish we can't know if it is going to be big or small and we have to be careful. Concern over the potential for overfishing at the mouth of the river, and that area should be more regulated. Unanimously supported

#### Proposal 132

We did not accept any of the downriver caught bycatch kings that were offered, we want to catch our own. We believe there should be no commercial openers for any fish if there is a chance that kings are caught if there is a population concern with kings at all. A dead fish is a dead fish, but we will leave this for the people of the area to work out.

#### No Action; 8/Not Support 1

133

AC concerned that since the lower commercial fishermen can't go after the Canadian bound fish that they use to go after, they are now going after Tanana river bound fish, which we think are still abundant. There was concern expressed over the commercial fishermen having to purchase new nets, but the AC did not want to comment on something out of their area without understanding the proposers intend better.

**Unanimous No Action** 

#### 134

Proposals 133 and 134 sound like these guys are trying to protect their fishery, which we don't blame them for. They are worse off than us, and down river they have less opportunity to get out of dependency on commercial fisheries- they don't have roads or mines, or the North Slope to turn to for other jobs like we do. We understand that commercial fishing and the people employed by the processors is a huge part of the economy down there although we have our own concerns with the CDQ program- we don't qualify for money, but we deal with the end result of less fish. If the people of the lower river want to regulate themselves, then that will work for us, but they need to understand as well that more than likely at some point in time we are going to have to work together closer with them. Unanimous No Action



#### 135 Lower River issue, we will let them work it out No Action

#### 136

This AC typically does not weigh in on commercial fishing issues in the lower districts, but their fishing directly impacts us. We are concerned with the Chinook stocks, and we feel that this proposal might be a place to take a stand and put our foots down. We are concerned for the livelihoods of the commercial fishermen and their families, but we think this proposal is a good idea. **Support-8**/Oppose-1

#### 137

The AC noted that this proposal is establishing an escapement goal above pilot station, which is above the commercial fishing areas, so there is confusion over what the composer is after exactly. The Minto Nenana AC would like the board to keep in mind that as there is less and less Chinook salmon in the river, we become more and more reliant on summer and fall chums to fill our needs. Unanimous No Action

#### 138

This will cut into fish available on Tanana River Unanimously not supported

#### 139

If this gives subsistence fishermen more chance to catch fish, potentially will help out Elders who don't have family to fish as well. Why open something twice when you can open it once Unanimously supported

#### 140

King Salmon Management plan-Concern over limiting subsistence No Action-

#### 141

If this gives subsistence fishermen more chance to catch fish, potentially will help out Elders who don't have family to fish as well. 8 support/I abstain

#### o support/rat

#### 142

The AC noted that these guys are the ones that get cut off every year. WE feel for them, but everyone needs to give up something and if these guys get to fish why doesn't the lower river get to right the first pulse. These are experienced fishermen, and they know how to maximize their fishing efforts. Unanimous unsupported

#### 143

The AC noted that last couple of years there have been really good fall chum runs. This schedule would be in place even if there was a bum run, but since it concerns Distrists 1, 2 and 3, we won't weight in on it.



Unanimous No Action-

144 We would all have to buy new nets again. Unanimously not supported

#### 145

See our comments for proposal 144; this AC already supported the first pulse protection Unanimously not supported

#### 146

Drainage would have to buy new nets again. In support of the first pulse protection. Unanimously not supported

#### 147

There is a big bluff by Galena, good current, no snags. Drift nets are too effective, and in these times of stock concern this AC believes passage of this proposal is. a bad idea. Unanimously not supported

#### 148

Drift nets are too effective, and in these times of stock concern this AC believes passage of this proposal is a bad idea.

Unanimously not supported

#### 149

We like proposal 150 better, that the stakeholders hash something out. Take no action

#### 150

We believe that these ideas are good- getting these harvest numbers quickly and correctly are very important to the management of the river. Unanimously Support

#### 151

Do not like the 'family consumption' part. What about the elders next door? Would we not be able to share? Unanimously no support

152 Lower River issue, we will let them work it out No Action

#### Wildlife Update

Update- Minto Hunt, early season & antlerless season update

Concern over outsider's behavior- an AC member told of a whole cow left in the river. Other members like the early hunt, and one noted that it you get an august moose, you know it will be fat.



AC all in favor of a GMU 20A joint meeting on moose management, but concern with money to send all members to Fairbanks. They were assured that the department would defray the costs of sending people to the meeting.

Incidentally Whitefish caught- can we sell it? Subsistence caught fish are illegal to sell.



## Yukon Flats Advisory Committee meeting minutes Stevens Village School, Stevens Village November 13, 2012

Meeting called to order-5:13 pm

**Quorum Established** 

Guests introduced; Aledia Trainor (DFG- SUBS Div), Eric Newland (CF Div); Nissa Pilcher (BDS Div); Vince Mathews & Steve Berendzen (FWS), Members of Stevens Village, including Peter Hjelm, Josh Tess, Robert Joseph, Chief Randy Mayo, and Debra George.

Prayer lead by Harold Simon

Elections for Stevens Village- 2 seats Nominations & Elections: Robert Joseph; Peter Hjelm, alternate Harold Simon

Officer Election Nominations: Andrew Firmin- Declined; Larry Williams; Peter "Earl" Williams; Ron Yatlin Elections: Ron is the new Chair, Earl is the vice-chair

Approval of minutes from November 23, 2011 Approved with no corrections

#### Joint Board Discussion

After some discussion on the 15 different seats and which community has what seats the AC decided to not pursue submitting a proposal at this time on the committee makeup. Not all the communities were represented and the AC did not feel comfortable changing the makeup of the committee without input from everyone.

#### **ACTION ITEM**

Draft Letter to Chalkyitsik and Venetie to let them know that their community needs to find representatives. If the given representative cannot go, then that member is responsible to find a replacement.

#### Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Brief explanation of MOU- Ron questioned Andrew on if he was comfortable with the document as is. The AC is comfortable with the document as amended by the RAC's.

#### Summer Season Yukon Update- 2012 given by Eric Newland, ADFG; Summer Chinook-

#### Concerns:

The AC expressed concern over the pollock fisheries and now that is managed by the NMPFS and the industry's Chinook bycatch, how the October symposium on Chinook went, the late run timing and how that affected the sonar counts. The AC expressed their concern several times that they didn't believe that the fisheries managers understood that a week closure on the lower river did not equate to a week



closure in the upper river, but it is more like a several week closure in the amount of fish that would then be lost to the fishermen. Concern expressed over the cultural and spiritual effects of fishery closers on the people who lived on the river over the supposed fish friendly fish wheels used by Kaltag, over why the Commercial Division was handling subsistence fishing, when the Subsistence Division should be handling it, and why there is no place at the management table for tribes.

#### Suggestions

- Ideas about giving the people who live on the river a quota per person or household so one fishing gear isn't taking all the fish.
- Instilling a quota system in the rapids, and creating a separate district in the Rapids since they fish differently and more effectively.
- Once fish pass pilot station should be able to catch a certain amount of fish, say 100 fish. We let the lower river folks catch all the fish.
- Why not let us fish the first pulse, and the lower river fish the second. That way everyone gets fish.

#### Questions

Canadian escapement, why we should be concerned when we are not filling our fish racks, Where ADFG's jurisdiction of the river extends to, current sonar locations,

The AC was pretty clear that they did not want a memorandum on Chinook fishing.

#### Summer Chum & Fall Chum Summery- Eric Newland, ADFG

Questions on Kaltag fish wheel process- Department presence during the fishery; Chinook 'friendly' gear- the AC would like to see more regulations in place on the acceptable gear for the fish friendly wheels including an increase of the distance between each wheel- reason being if the same Chinooks are repeatedly caught every 100 feet in fish wheels, then they will have a harder time getting up the river due to stress.

#### **AYK BOF Proposals**

#### Proposal 130-

**Review amounts reasonable necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area** Even when there is times of no restrictions, people might still be restricting themselves, so the numbers might not be accurate if we update right now. The amount we used in 1990-1999 is still the amount we need today, and they reflect when there was a lot more fish in the river. We don't want the number to be reduced.

No support -unanimous

#### Proposal 131

#### Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan.

"They" say that the first pulse is full of Canadian bound fish and females when they enter the stream. We catch big males at the beginning so we are not seeing the big females and don't necessarily agree with what "they" say. This is already being implemented, by supporting this proposal then we will just be backing them. We need to fish the first pulse, when the fish are going by.

No support -unanimous



AYK AC 03 3 of 6

Proposal 132-

Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a direct king salmon commercial fishery

This is currently done by the department by Emergency Order and we like this idea.

Support unanimously

#### Proposal 133-

Allow for a direct chum salmon commercial fishery in districts 1, 2, and 3 in the Yukon area during times for king salmon conservation efforts using 5 ½ inch or smaller mesh size. Proposal 134-

Require 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets with a maximum depth of 30meshes, diring June to July in District 1 if king salmon are a stock of concern and revert back if king salmon are no longer a stock of concern.

#### Proposals 135

Allow for a commercial summer chum salmon fishery with 6-inch or smaller mesh size in See the point behind it, but to keep it fair across the board we don't think this is a good idea. We still use the summer chum, but we won't be able to if they are overfished before they get up here to us. No support- unanimous

#### Proposal 136

Cap bycatch of king salmon in the summer chum fishery in Districts 1 and 2 at 2,000 fish That sounds like a reasonable proposal to support

Support-Unanimous

#### Proposal 137

Develop an optimum escapement or inriver goal for the Yukon River summer chum salmon stock that originates above Pilot Station

This is a good idea, but it has the potential to backfire for the commercial fisheries if they take too many fish, and this AC is concerned over Chinook being caught in the chum commercial openers anyway. Take **No Action** 

#### Proposal 138

#### Modify the fall chum salmon management plan trigger point from 500,000 to 400,000 This is setting us up to fail. The kings are going, and when they are gone, the chums will be

This is setting us up to fail. The kings are going, and when they are gone, the chums will be the only salmon we have left to eat.

Not supported-Unanimous

#### Proposal 139

Align Yukon subsistence regulations in Districts 1-3 with current management practices, adjusting closures around commercial fishing periods, and allowing concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing by emergency order.

This will give extra subsistence fishing time to the people downriver, and the opportunity to sell more chums, although we believe enforcement would be difficult.

Supported- 5 in favor/3 against

Proposals 147 & 148

the ones we currently have.

### Proposal 146

Allow only 6-inch stretched mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage

# Unanimous support

We prefer proposal 144. This proposal would mean having to purchase new nets instead of modifying

Restrict depth of subsistence and commercial nets in Districts Y1-5 to 35 meshes This is similar to 144- see comments for that.

This would be expensive and/or time consuming to the people who fish on the river to change this regulation at this time, BUT for the sake of conservation we are willing to do it.

Proposal 143

throwing half of them away since they are inedible.

5d lower- -15th 5d middle- -18th 5d upper- -21st

Proposal 140

Open Yukon River District 5-D from July 4-18 for subsistence fishing This is our proposal, but it needs to be amended to reflect the dates that the fish are present by the communities The fish we get now are at the tail end of the pulse. They are black and mushy. We end up

Proposal 142

Remove restrictions during the subsistence fall chum season in Districts 1, 2, and 3 of the Yukon Area It the lower river overfish for chum, then the Department will close Districts 4 & 5 down. Sometimes

Take no action

Proposal 141 Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River Area Similar to proposal 139.

## Revert back to a windows-only fishing schedule in the Yukon River

#### This AC would like to support it, but it won't work for us. 18 hours of fishing in the lower river equals 36 in the mid river, 72 hours up by us. These windows don't work for us.

No Action

Support as amended

Unanimous oppose

Unanimous support

**Unanimous Opposed** 



## these chum are the only fish we get.

#### Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage Members of the AC received 45 meshed net in the net exchange when the mesh size changed in 2009.

Subsistence fishing for kings will close no earlier than the following:

## Proposal 145

## Allow drift gillnets as legal gear in the subsistence fishery in District 4-A of the Yukon River upriver to the community of Ruby

## Extend Sub districts 4-B and 4-C drift gillnet area downstream from the mouth of the Yuki River for king salmon

Drift gillnetting is a very effective way of fishing, and passing this proposal is just going to further to decline the stock. The way you get a good clean drift is to use your net to clear spots of debris. It is a good chance that clearing these new spots, people will loose nets. Lose nets mean ghost fishing. Both of these two things make us uncomfortable with the passing of this proposal.

Unanimous not support

#### Proposal 149

#### **Create a harvest reporting system subsistence-taken salmon in the Yukon River drainage** This is burdensome to the user, and nearly impossible to actually do in practice.

Unanimous not support

#### Proposal 150

#### Create a harvest reporting system for subsistence taken salmon in the Yukon River

Something has to be done, although we do not like the idea of proposal 149. There are people coming in from Anchorage and fishing all summer then taking their fish back to anchorage, where they can go to Safeway and Fred Meyer. This AC would like a chance to comment on the options the Department and Board comes up with. You have to get a moose tag to go hunting, what is the difference with fishing? Unanimous support

#### Proposal 151

## Require primary use of subsistence-caught salmon within the Yukon Area be for direct personal or family consumption as food

We share. The passing of this proposal might mean that we are not allowed to share with our friends and neighbors, and we feel that this proposal is targeting the subsistence users specifically, although we do like the thought behind it if it will keep someone from catching subsistence kings and selling jarred fish, but it isn't worded right.

Support- 6/oppose 2

#### Proposal 152

#### Open Archaron Channel in the Yukon River drainage to salmon fishing

The AC does not think there needs to be open more areas to commercial fishing, concern over why it was initially closed- is it a mixed stock area? But the AC noted that the members have a lack of familiarity with the area and it is a different country down there.

No Action

#### Proposal 153

### Repeal the regulation that closes Fielding Lake to salmon fishing

Same principle as 154, which is our proposal

**Proposal 154 Close the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for king salmon** This is our proposal- we believe the current sport fish limit is too high.

Unanimous support

**Unanimous** Oppose

Andrew Firmin has unanimously been approved to attend the BOF meeting in Anchorage

#### **Federal Proposals**

FP13-06

If this passed, and the king run was good run, then this would still be in place and this would be bad. Unanimously not supported

#### Fp13-07

This proposal gives more flexibility then fp13-06; it notes only in times of shortage, and can still sell fish but just to the other folks on the river. The AC would also like to note they understand that this addresses only whole fish in the round. Passing this proposal will give enforcement a line, abet a vague line.

Unanimously support

FP13-08 & FP13-10 We discussed this under proposal FP13-07

No action

#### Fp13-09

This is a parallel proposals to the proposal before the BOF as proposal 151

Not supported- 6 against/2 in favor

#### Fp13-11

\$750.00 is pretty low, but it you make it too high it might encourage people who otherwise wouldn't do this to go throw a net in the water. Difficult to enforce. There are people out there that are just fishing to sell the fish. Then there are people who are eating it that are lucky to get one fish. Population is down. Can still barter for other things besides cash. Unanimous support

Next meeting in spring in Venetie- last week of February. In the morning!

Peter Williams- need community support, and thanks for having us here.

Ron Yatlin- wish all the villages were here. The communities have concerns, go home and talk to your folks.

Get more community input. Only got notice a week ago

Nice flight down, saw a couple moose.

Like public input, maybe have meeting earlier-

Not too many fishermen out there anymore- regulations are shutting them down. Having a hard time. By the time you start fishing you have to pull your net out. Fines, gas, they all add up. Almost impossible to go fishing, but we still try "grandpa give us some fish" if we regulate ourselves right out of fishing. Smart kids in our school, need to give them the right start. Battle to keep the right to live the way we do. Fight the state and federal government. Teach our kids to hunt and camp out, need to get the fish we need and the education they need we'll be okay.

Make motion to adjourn-11:06 pm



Southern Norton Sound Meeting in St. Michael

Minutes 11.13.12, Meeting start time 12:10 pm

#### 1. Establish Quorum and Attendance

AC Member Attendee	<b>Representative Info</b>	ADF&G Attendee	Representative
Norbert Otten Jr.	Alternate St. Michael	Letty Hughes	Wildlife Biologist
Art Ivanoff	Unalakleet	Tony Gorn*	Area Biologist
Merlin Henry	Koyuk	Brendan Scanlon*	Sport Fish Biologist
Peter Martin Sr.	Stebbins	Scott Kent*	Comm. Fish Biologist
Henry Oyoumick*	Unalakleet	Jim Menard*	Comm. Fish Biologist
Wade Ryan*	Unalakleet	Nicole Braem*	Subsistence
Michael Sookiyak Sr.	Shaktoolik		
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\*Indicates Telephonic participation

#### AC Members not present:

Allen Atchak-Stebbins Milton Cheemuk-St. Michael Kris Mashiana-Unalakleet

#### **General Public:**

Vera S. Niksik James Niksik Sr. Frankie Myoumick Andrew Lockwood James Niksik Jr.

#### 2. Elections

There was supposed to be an alternate for St. Michael that Milton Cheemuk arranged, but we don't know who.

Norbert Otten elected to serve on the St. Michael Advisory Committee serve next to Milton Cheemuk...(CALL MILTON TO SEE ABOUT RE-ELECTIONS)

Vote on establishing Norbert Otten as the representative from St. Michael.

#### 3. Motion to Approve the Agenda

Michael Sookiyak requests addition to agenda Item four to include a prayer

#### Motion to add a prayer

Motion to approve the meeting minutes

All approve



#### None opposed

- 4. Invocation prayer-Michael Sookiyak
- 5. Approval of last meeting minutes

Motion to approve minutes

Question:

All support

None opposed

**Minutes adopted** 

6. Game Report

Letty Hughes

Gives paperwork for updated meeting materials

#### Tony Gorn gives Unit 22 Wildlife Report

Gives information about the moose census 545 moose in 2012. In 2008 and 2012 the percent yearlings was complete there was a series of years in 2008 there was 21 % short yearlings in 2012 there was %19 short yearlings. It is encouraging we still have to remember the amount of moose densities is terribly low less than .25% moose per square mile. From where we were a decade ago we are doing better but they are still low.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about past suggestions for having moose surveys in the St. Michael-Stebbins region. Mr. Ivanoff will write a letter to have financial allocation for additional surveys to take place on the Southern portion of Norton Sound around St. Michael and Stebbins.

Tony Gorn: Recalls receiving the letter about having moose surveys in St. Michael and Unalakleet. The next time we can come down to Unalakleet in 2015. Gives response, I took another two super cubs with me to Unalakleet. The idea was to get a good solid Unalakleet census. The intent was to send two super cubs south to collect data on St. Michael and Stebbins but that didn't happen because of weather in the region and additional data had to be collected on the Seward Peninsula musk ox census. Explains we cannot do a moose census at this point, but we can do a trend count. We can't do a moose census, but we can do a trend count. We are interested in looking at the moose count in the lower Yukon it is getting really high.

Peter Martin: Questions about only have antlered moose hunts. Inquires about getting an antlerless moose hunt in Southern Norton Sound (St. Michael-Stebbins Region).



Tony Gorn: That is another good reason to look at moose in your back yard if you want to be having antlerless moose hunts. Would consider having an antlerless moose hunts based on information.

Letty Hughes: Gives past fall harvest report from 22A. With the increase in the moose population it increased the number of possible moose harvests to 22. That was with the city of Unalakleet to extend the season to the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. We had 16 moose taken as part of that EO, part of that EO plan was to have a winter moose hunt. The plan was that if there was enough moose left over in the quota to allow a winter hunt in Unalakleet. This is not for 22A it is for the Unalakleet region only. Answers question about the hunting with the general season hunting harvest times.

Tony Gorn: I don't know if you remember going back and forth over the past couple years.

Peter Martin: Explains the reasoning for the hunting season extension each year because of the bad weather and not being able to get the moose quotas.

Letty Hughes: Explains that it is necessary for Unalakleet to send in a request to have the moose hunting season extended.

Peter Martin: in the past five years we have requested extensions. We may need to request extension again. We need this subsistence moose meat for our community.

Tony Gorn: We have been responding to the questions of St. Michael and Stebbins to extend the season throughout the winter. We should look for a solution so that St. Michael and Stebbins don't have to keep reapplying for an extended season.

Merlin Henry: I never have heard anything about 22E I have never heard anything about the moose. I didn't see any bull moose in that area only cows.

Letty Hughes: We have been focused our moose census for 22B was West of the Darby Mountains. In the eastern portion in the Koyuk area. There are a few moose taken from Elim and Koyuk, but I am not sure .

Tony Gorn: 22E is a really big area. We focus our energy in the scariest areas. There isn't any biological concerns in Koyuk and Elim and the harvests are relatively low. IF you look at the reg book that the moose seasons are really long in that region because there are no biological concerns. I have heard a lot about a lot of female moose and not a lot of male moose. I thought that high it was linked to the high water causing a change in distribution the male moose. The areas where you see most of the male moose was underwater this year. The Koyuk River area we try to get to, it has been about 3 years and we try to do trend counts.

Merlin Henry: There was a lot of high water this year in the Koyuk River from all of the rain. The people who got moose were lucky to get their moose. Inquires about getting a proxy permit for hunting for elders.



Inquires about barren female, How come it is not in the reg book. I have heard about barren females and I heard we can get them. How come I don't know if I can get a barren female.

Letty Hughes: I have the paperwork for the hunting by proxy permit and I can help you fill that out, there is a winter hunt right now from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31 for the Koyuk-Elim area

Letty Hughes: For 22B there isn't a regulation for an antlerless moose hunt. There would need to be a proposal put in for an antlerless moose hunt.

Tony Gorn: There are a couple of spots in the area in 22C we have an antlerless moose hunt. In an area like 22E, from the trend count we have completed. From talking to people from flying around it doesn't sound/look like 22E that the density of the moose population is not that high. Moose are like people, moose as they get older they get less likely to be able to have a calf. That does not mean that the older female moose cannot have calves. It would be better to leave that cow in the population so it can try again in another year. When we have low moose densities it is hard to justify an antlerless moose hunt.

Art Ivanoff: We can ask for more resources to conduct surveys so we can increase moose hunts and to consider more time hunting. It sounds like the resources are spread too thin to allow information to be collected to allow various hunts. If you had more funding would you be able to get more information on the moose populations in this area?

Tony Gorn: That is a loaded question. It is always good to have more data on an area. Right now 22B has the longest hunting seasons with four months of hunting opportunity. The reason why we focus on energy on places like Unalakleet is because we have higher harvest rates We have two and half people in the Nome office, we can't get everywhere that we want and that is just the way that it is.

Art Ivanoff: I think that this region needs to have more money thrown into the koffers so that they can do their jobs sufficiently. Though there are long hunting season in Koyuk, it sounds like they would like to have more hunting opportunity same with St. Michael and Stebbins. I would like to write a letter to our senators and representatives to seek additional funding for the Department of Fish and Game to conduct more research so that people in the villages can have more opportunity. 24,000 sq miles is a big area and it sounds

Michael Sookiayak: The hunter's in Shaktoolik are talking about having very high ratios of cows to bull ratios in Unit 22A. Comments there are more cows than bulls in unit 22A, there were no real concerns for the moose populations in Shaktoolik. The cow to bull ratio according the hunter is not good.

Art Ivanoff: I like the idea to engage the senator's, representative and the Governor's office.

James Niskisk Sr.: Wonders when the last moose census area in the Stebbins/St. Michael area.

Tony Gorn: We have never completed a moose census, it estimates the number of moose per square mile. It is a project that takes a very long time to do. We do trend count surveys in the spring and fall time. I am willing to share all of the data that I have from trend counts from all of the years that we have done it. We were in the South part of A was about four years ago. We did a trend count not a



census. The census gives you the number of moose per square mile where as the trend count gives you an idea of bull:cow ratios, the number of calves, and a lot of times trend counts you can do in a day or two day. The population survey can take the better part of two weeks. We have a five week period to conduct surveys in this region. If you give your name to Letty, I will give you all of the results that we have. I'll get them to you. The last trend count we did was last fall. It was a trend count not an abundance survey. Population surveys are useful to determine population density. You can do trend count in two days versus two weeks.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about having a long enough time to hunt for the moose. We took direction last year to submit a letter to get future moose hunting in the region. We will do it again to get resources allocated for surveys so that the St. Michael-Stebbins area can have a more liberal hunt. Our question is if the data is sufficient.

Tony Gorn: This is a great dialog, you want to have more surveys and know more detail about the populations. We want to do more surveys. I just want everyone to understand, that what your implying is that more surveys are going to lead to more liberal hunts. Take a look the regulation book. You have more liberal hunt times and if you add more surveys it is possible that the hunts may not be more liberal. I want to perfectly clear about the possibility. We respond to the squeaky wheel and if you look at the regulation book that often means that there are more stringent regulations. If we get more information that very well lead to more stringent regulations.

Art Ivanoff: Having the data is important to have the management of the resources. I think that is a really good point and it is important to have good conservation like around the Unalakleet River. Are there any other

Wade Ryan: I have no further comments

Letty Hughes: Musk Ox management

What you see in front of you is the hunts, last year we went back into tier two hunts with the exception of 22E except the Koyuk Elim area. There hasn't been any musk ox harvested in that area. The tier II has opened. I was in Koyuk last Tuesday at the IRA helping people fill out Tier II permits with supplements for 22B, 22C, 22C, 23 you have until December 17 online.

Art Ivanoff: Tony would you like to add to what Letty had to say.

Tony Gorn: Basically the musk ox population on the Seward Peninsula it is in a bad shape between 2010 and 2012 the population declined 13% annually so between 2010 and 2012 it decline in total by %25. That is why we are now in tier two. Recruitment rates and bull cow ratios are low. The Seward Peninsula musk ox situation is not great. Over the years we know that musk ox has moved in to the Nuvallik Hills, it changed the way we did the surveys. We estimated 84 musk area. We went back to the Mullato Hills and landed next to every group of musk ox that we could find and took down data on the groups aging them. The results were very encouraging. The bull cow ratio went up as well as an increase



in the number of yearlings. The total number of animals is still quite low. The ones that are living in that area are doing really good even though the population is low right now.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about musk ox

#### Wade Ryan: Inquires

Tony Gorn: We do not want to overharvest bulls. We need to be very conservative. We have learned that. In 2011 I told the board of game that we found these animals. We need 100 musk ox for the subsistence, we can't kill 100 musk we are in Tier II, we have 39 musk ox allotted. I would expect to be in tier II for the foreseeable future. If we started a musk ox hunt in 22A we would start in tier two and everyone in the state of Alaska could hunt. Explains tier two selection and the point system. This means that all Alaska residents can apply for these permits and the hunts are determined by where you live, how much you pay for food and gas etc.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about action items.

Tony Gorn: The only thing that you need to think about proposals for having a hunt need to be submitted on May  $1^{st}$ . The next meeting will be on January 2014. The tier two time application is now. This is a slow process; there is a population of 80 to 100 musk ox. I would think you would want to put a lot of thought into what you are doing and take it into the Board of Game. We have been very successful as a group working together.

Wade Ryan: Inquires about the time frame for when the regulations would go into action... I don't have any problems with this idea

Tony Gorn: Explains I know this process is slow. I think we are going to want to think very hard about what we want to do and getting it right the first time. You have been very patient and I think that if we work together as a department and AC we have been very successful with getting proposals put together in the past if we work together.

Wade Ryan: I don't have any problems with the regulations because the population is so low right now.

Michael Sookiyak: I put this question to my community during the last annual meeting. There was more questions than interest in the musk ox hunt. They agreed at the last annual meeting to wait for additional information from the meeting in their behalf.

Henry Oyoumick: Wants to know how often we have these survey's

Tony Gorn: We have these surveys every two years. Explains the details of the survey methods.

Art Ivanoff: I want to welcome and introduce Henry Oyoumick to the group. I think Tony and Wade should work together to get a hunt on for a proposal.

Letty Hughes: Explains brown bear tagging fee exemption waiver fee for 22A.

Art Ivanoff: We need to cover the tagging fee



Letty Hughes: Explains brown bear harvest data for Unit 22. I have the upper bar graph for the total number of bears harvested. I have it broken down by subunit. From 1990 to 1997 we were harvesting ....., explains the total number brown bear harvests. Without the tag fee we increased are harvest to 93 bears a year and increased our harvest by 80%. This information is taken by brown bear sealing. Explains the number of bears harvested (Refers to data included in the handout).

Tony Gorn: Thanks for the opportunity. I didn't hear everything that Letty said. The Southern Norton Sound needs to vote on the brown bear tagging fee.

## Proposal 40 Continued Exemption for the brown bear tag fee. We are asking the \$25 fee be waived or otherwise it defaults back in.

Motion: to support the proposal

Second: Question called All supported None opposed Motion carries

**B.** Fisheries

Scott Kent: I am not sure what you want me to focus on. Summarized what has been happening Southern Norton Sound. We have the lowest king salmon return on record. We have just under 3000 king salmon for the entire Unalakleet drainage. We did make our escapement goals this year and we didn't make them last year because of high waters at the towers. This year the counts were good at the towers. The weir counts was much lower. The forecast for a muThe magnitude of the run was extremely weak this year.

Michael Sookiyak: Requests information from the Shaktoolik River and when it will be available.

Scott kent: 800-1200 chinook. We are still in the process of finalizing our data.

Art Ivanoff: it seems like the count wasn't there. It didn't pan out in 2012. It wasn't a good year

Scott Kent: There were a lot more reds in the river. It got to the point that there weren't many chum, there were many kings. Explains issues with difficulty with miscounted fish. The projected harvest was over 130 fish.

Art Ivanoff: you did suspect that we did make our escapement for 2011.

Scott Kent: They were using both tower counts and wier counts and there are problems with both because.



Art Ivanoff: Explains the necessity for escapement goals, and the establishment of making these stocks making them stocks of concern.

Henry Oyoumick: do you have data taken from Golovin on down. The amount of fish taken from Golovin on down.

Scott Kent: you don't want to have it go to tier II. We have almost 30 years of comparable data. It is hard to project.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the test net necessity. How valuable is the data you are collecting from the test net.

Scott Kent: I don't the value at the moment that being said that the data may be more profitable long run. If we can figure out the way to get the kings in the bag and allow people to conduct better subsistence.

Art Ivanoff: I would like to take up the opportunity to sit down with you. I wanted to sit down the village of Unalakleet for the test net. Perhaps a pre-fisheries meeting in the spring time to see if the test net is necessary. The question is if we aren't making escapment goals what is the point of the test net.

Scott Kent: my understanding about running the sonar in the Southern Norton Sound Area.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the Chinook salmon in the Southern Norton Sound. What I heard from NSEDC because escapement wasn't met. The reason it wasn't operated by because of escapement goals was not met. They took one male and one female. The kings met the escapement goals.

#### 14:20 Meeting Break

Tony Gorn: Summary Robert Bell incident. It is part of musk ox provision, and how we have administer the musk ox hunt. To allow the appropriately musk. Seward Peninsula has a positive customary and use finding. What does the Seward Peninsula musk ox hunt look like? Explains no trophy use of the horns of the musk ox. There has always been some level of trophy destruction.

Michael Sookiyak: I was very disturbed by Bob Bell's actions. I felt disturbed about his actions. The people that I shared this story with in Shaktoolik had the same feelings.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about Northern Norton Sound actions.

Michael Sookiyak: I think it would be beneficial for this board to consider action on this incident to prevent further incidents versus for other incidents to happen. It may be worth it work with the Northern Norton Sound AC meeting.

Peter Martin: Inquires about the Bob Bell incident.

Tony Gorn: There have been several hunters that are being investigated for the trophy destruction.

Art Ivanoff: inquires about taking action



Michael Sookyiak: Makes a motion to work with Northern Norton Sound to draft a letter about this incident.

**Motion Seconded:** 

**Question called:** 

Motion Carries to draft a letter.

**AYK Finfish** 

**#115** 

Nicole Braem: Gives information about customary trade.

Comments:

Michael Sookyiak: Suggests that the Southern Norton Sound supports this proposal

Henry Oyoumick: I would oppose this because of the low numbers for Chinook versus other species

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.

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

Motion

Discussion:

**All Support** 

**None Opposed** 

Motion Carries Proposal #115.

Art Ivanoff: Inquires about the committee participation on the proposals.

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

Proposal #120

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. It is important information to report king salmon and when they get them.

Art Ivanoff: Requests about the changes that department wants.

Scott Kent: explains the midpoints of the range and the necessities of using different parts of the range.

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

Art Ivanoff: We are only voting on proposals that effect Southern Norton Sound

All support

None opposed

Proposal #126: 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 are running late and the season is running later. 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 mesh

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 changing

Art Ivanoff: I like the idea of allowing people, 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.

Art Ivanoff: I think your concern is a good one and I think for those people who are well equipped.

Motion to support proposal #127

Seconded

Question:

All support

None opposed

**Motion Carries** 

Proposal #128-Use of pink salmon as bait

Scott Kent: Presents the proposals



Gives department comments: Department doesn't support this proposal, the department supports on years of abundance.

Art Ivanoff: The department was neutral on this proposal

Michael Sookiyak: inquires about the effect on herring fisherman for bait.

Scott Kent: The data would say no.

Henry Oyoumick: Could you explain the Port Clarence Area

Scott Kent: Explains Norton Sound Port Clarence Area

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

Wade: It sounds like basically people want to use this for crab. My only concern is overharvesting the pink salmon. I support this.

Scott Kent: Claifies 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 Sookyiak: 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 53 that were harvested.

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 5.5 and 8.8% death rate for hooked fish.



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 of the sport harvests is Alaska residents and half non-residents.

-All of the regulations are the same

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

Brendan Scanlon: says that there is only one in the marine waters.

Art Ivanoff: There is statutory language to give residents first stab. 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: 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%.

Art Ivanoff: There have been more reports that mortality rates are higher. I can't remember that the study by Susiski was higher if it was sockeye. I don't like the idea of the sports fishing up the river along the subsistence fish. 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

AYK Genetics:

Scott Kent: this years there were 3 collection trips for Norton Sound Port Clarence Chinook Stock for the Igallik and Shaktollik Rivers. We 53 samples on the Ingallik we are just shy of 100 total. We working towards getting more samples and putting new markers on the fish.

Michael Sookiyak: Inquire about if Fish and Game is working with the Northern Norton Sound Aquatic Association.

Scott Kent: Not really. They are not really involved. Genetics requires certain things that aqua culture does not. It is pretty much the department is one.

Henry Oyoumick: I have always been interested in the genetic influence.

Scott Kent: The AYK Chinook salmon symposium and there is a research topic about (((SEND FLYER TO HIS NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)))

Art Ivanoff: Some of the people in Barrow are catching Chinook Salmon, and there has been a complete regime shift.



Scott Kent: It is not too far to suggest that salmon species are expanding their range. My trip to their was very eye opening. I thought that the Ingallik should have a lot of Chinook salmon. A lot of fish in the Ingallik were large. It is possible that things are change. Salmon are good at finding a new habitat.

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.

Scott Kent: Your river is probably the healthiest in Norton Sound. 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.

Jim Menard: Nothing from our end.

Art Ivanoff: Maybe it would be good to go through the proposals Southern Norton Sound Supported.

Michael Sookiyak: there are a lot of new faces sitting around the table.

Proposal #183 Jim Menard gives presentation

There has been a lot of discussion and changes throughout the years.

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 wanted to prevent them from fishing for fish that were our fish.

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

Art Ivanoff: We submitted this proposal again to address our concern. Any question?

Proposal #180

Art Ivanoff: I think that window establishes a stand down and it gives our salmon time to. I think we want to be there at the Board of fish to present our proposal. Inquires about action taken a year ago.

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 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.

Art Ivanoff: We need a motion to support 183 and I think it would be great to give a representative some flexibility.

Michael Sookiyak: 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 when you change. The idea is to focus on conservation.

Is there support for the amended motion.

All in support for the amended motion

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

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. 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

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.

Michael Sookiyak: Inquires about the letter submitted and the response to the letter.

St. Michael Public: Inquires about whitefish commercial fishing.

Jim Menard: you can apply for a permit

Scott Kent: there is a good basis for possibly developing the whitefish fishery. We need data we don't have any data.

Art Ivanoff: I will carry on that dialog with Wes Jones. That St. Michael will would like to develop a whitefish fishery.

Scott Kent: There is not likely a massive fishery here, but there is potential for development.

Art Ivanoff: Is there opportunity for tom cod for bait?

Jim Menard: People would need to get a permit for collecting tom cod for bait. You can get that permit from NSEDC. If there is somebody fishing for tom cod with their permit.

Art Ivanoff: We do have several people who are taking up targeting fishing of tom cod it is a really good opportunity.



#### Michael Sookiyak: Joint Board Modification

I would like to make a motion to support the Joint Board Proposal

Discussion:

Questions:

All support

None Opposed

Art Ivanoff: What was suggested was something. There needs to be some modifications and overhaul for the AC systems to fine tune this machine. You control 40%/44 million miles lands based on our hunting and fishing history. The tools need to be sharped to get ACs involved in the decision making processes. The system is broken. The ACs should be involved in the deliberations. There needs to be more money put into these processes to make the ACs to support rural Alaska. It is difficult, but it needs to overhauled. 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.

Motion

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 Sookiyak: A agree that there needs to be more resource allocation to conduct more surveys in this region.

Amended motion to the board 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 Shaktoolik region Chinook salmon stocks with their own research and funding independent of Unalakleet

All support

None opposed

#### **Motion Carries**

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.

Michael Sookiayk: Musk ox when I posed the question to the people at home. They wanted to leave it to the next annual meeting. Hopefully we will have an answer from

Wade Ryan: 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 Wade Ryan might have

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

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

Henry Oyoumick: Cisco data needs to be looked at for a whitefish fishery. Questions about the Western Arctic Herd, it was geared for the reindeer herders. It needs to be public use of public money. 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.

Art Ivanoff: I know we have taken action on several proposal. I think there needs to be some flexibility to give some discretionary flexibility.

Michael Sookiyak: I would like to propose to send Art to the board meetings to represent us. If there is additional funding to have

Motion:

**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 Sookyiak represent the advisory committee

Art Ivanoff: I would like to advocate to have Michael Sookyiak attend, based on his schedule.



Question: Motion carries Art Ivanoff: Requests an alternate Peter Martin: Wade Ryan as an alternate Motion to have Wade Ryan to attend Michael Sookyiak: 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 Date and Time of Next Meeting April Meeting in Unalakleet in conjunction with the pre-fishing season meeting.



Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee Meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> 2012 7-9 pm Meeting Called to Order

#### Attendance

Pierre Lonewolf Pete Schaeffer Karmen Monigold Cyrus Harris Enoch Shiedt Alex Whiting

#### Not in Attendance

Michael Kramer Victor Karmun Eugene Smith

#### **General Attendance**

Justin McGinnis-Wildlife Trooper Charlotte Westing-ADF&G Claude Wilson Jr.-Kotzebue Resident Guy Adams-Kotzebue Resident Marci Johnson-NPS Tina Moran-USFWS Meghan Nedwick-ADF&G Jim Dau-ADF&G

Approval of Agenda Delete AYK Genetics Item A, Item C Move Elections to January

Motion to approve Agenda Second Inquires about additional items for agenda among the public Add presentation by Jim Dau and Charlotte Westing Question: All in approve of the agenda All Supported None Opposed

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes Alex Whiting Motion to approve meeting minutes Seconded None opposed All Supported Minutes Approved



Elections will be held in January

#### **AC Questionnaire**

Carmen Daggett: Explains questionnaire to AC members

#### **Charlotte Westing Gives Moose Updates**

We did a geospatial estimate of the Lower Kobuk which was down a bit from 2006. 2,546 Moose estimate in the spring. We just finished fall estimates and I am still working on the numbers for that survey for composition. On the Noatak 50 bulls/100 cows 10 calves per hundred cows.

Seward Peninsula Musk Ox Survey in the Spring, reduced number of musk ox is 2,200 musk ox Because of that estimate because of the changes in the way we administered that hunt, we moved back into tier II for musk ox. Because the amount requested for subsistence was higher than the harvestable surplus. If you are interested in hunting for musk ox in the fall you need to apply for the tier II permits. I brought applications with me and you can apply online till December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Pete Schaffer: Inquires about the moose bull cow ratios and what are the healthy levels.

Charlotte Westing: Our bull cow ratio in unit 23 are around 50 bulls per cow. 30 bulls per cow is the lowest level. With populations with low recruitment and low density it is important to have higher bull cow ratios to allow recovery. When recruitment and density are low.

Pete Schaeffer: Inquires about Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Atmuk Sheidt: Inquires the drainages that were included in the current survey.

Charlotte Westing: We were flying on Friday we just finished for the lower Noatak. We were flying on Friday it was our last day of flying. We cannot look everywhere so we do a sampling scheme to look at the number of moose. We have to take samples to apply to the greater area. If you look at the raw numbers of moose you can get some information from that. Explains musk ox permit application process and details.

Jim Dau: I have two files one about the overview and the road results about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd

-Trends and counts and mortality

-Explains minimum counts of the caribou herd

-We are running our numbers based on the collars we find from the herd, gives 95% confidence interval for the minimum counts. I am glad we have this technique. No matter how you come up with your population estimate it is pretty close. It has gone down 4% each year.

-When the herd started to go down and we lost a bunch of the herd from starvation.

That is the same population chart, I just color coated it. Explains fluctuation in the herd population level.

-Explains chart that shows herd growing and declining, shows adult cow mortality and calf mortality rates.

-the last couple of years the cow mortality has been increasing, we may see an increase in decline at %18.



The huge herds in Canada have declined from 500,000 to 50,000 now. Pete Schaeffer: Inquires about hydroelectric. Jim Dau: Development is a huge problem it fragments the habitat. I don't know much about the health of the Canadian Caribou Range. 28:07

We are going to try to photograph the herd next July.

The thing that is happening sliding calf and cow survival rate during the summer. Once you get to the fall they are doing ok.

Pete Schaeffer: Inquires about the effects of harvest

Jim Dau: Explains that he doesn't think that it is harvests that are driving the declines, but the rain on snow events that are causing the mortality.

Jim Dau: Explains the bull cow ratios have been declining since the mid 90's. I threw that out to the working group at this point if we slide much below 40 bull cow ratios we could have a problem. I think bulls have higher mortality rates in comparison to cows. If the cows decline.

Atmuk Shiedt: Explains the caribou that are in Buckland-Deering in early fall.

Jim Dau: We do the census we do it by radio collars. We know there are caribou on the Seward Peninsula which was about 3,900. We found 1200 caribou on the Baldwin Peninsula. I don't think we have ever found 5-6 thousand caribou in that region during the summer.

Atmuk Shiedt: Inquires about caribou health. Are they healthier.

Jim Dau: Explains methods for taking blood samples and health ranking. We have also brought a veterinarian up for a couple of years and she checks parasites. We see fewer skinny caribous now than we had in the 1990s. She didn't see any problems that caused the veterinarian concern. Here the BLM has a great data set on lichens, there has been a %13-14 increase in grasses shrubs, the range in this region is good. The hunter's are saying that the caribou that they are getting look good and healthy. The veterinarian said these were the healthiest looking caribou in the state.

Karmun Monigold: What about the impact of wolves on caribou

Jim Dau: I have not seen as many wolves. I don't have any data for that. We do have data from the slope. They have seen numbers really taking off. I don't think that means we know nothing. When hear are lots of people say there are more wolves and I see a lot more wolf tracks.

Jim Dau: Explains that we are seeing fewer Skinny caribou now than we did in the 1990s. We have had a few die offs when caribou are coming off the North Slope in tough condition and get caught in Cape Thompson and the Cape Lisborn and they die. Last spring I saw lots of bears digging up dead caribou out of the snow. Lots of them some bears had between two and three dead caribou dug up. We got a helicopter from Red Dog to look at the dead caribou. They hadn't been killed by wolves or bears, the bones were still intact. I am curious how many random die offs are occurring throughout the extent of the heard.

Atmuk Shiedt: Inquires about Cape Lisborn, that is where caribou beginning of their life for the winter. Inquires about the beginning of the wintering growns.



Jim Dau: They head through Anauktuvuk Pass, sometimes they go to the Lisborn Hills and stop. Lichens don't grow up there very well because it is so windy. The wind blows the snow right off of the ridge tops and the snow that is there is like concrete. If they stop there and are in bad condition to begin with they made a bad choice and they die. I know that caribou that didn't stop in the Lisborn Hills they do ok, but if they stop for the Lisborn Hills they die. The bones that I broke it looked like they starved. We had veternarians look at the caribou and they said they just look like they starved. I got reports from people in Point Hope around the 100s. We don't think harvests started the decline. We have little data on brown bears and wolves. Everything that I have seen says that predators are increasing. The role of predators may steepen the decline.

Jim Dau: I have one more thing Pete is the Movements around Red Dog. Last time we met roads were a hot point of discussion. I looked at all of our satellite collar data on their migration around the Red Dog road. I looked at the points around the Red Dog Road. I noticed all of the points above the Red Dog road and not as many before. I have never not seen thousands and thousands of caribou cross the road. I mapped every caribou that came within 30 miles of the road. We don't have any criteria to represent the reaction to the road. We have people working on that. Explains the speed change in the movement of caribou. You can see after they cross the road their movement is pretty darn straight, after they crossed the road they increased their speed to 14 miles a day prior to crossing their speed they move about 7 miles a day. Shows and explains different senarios of caribou movement around the Red Dog road.

Atmuk Shiedt: Inquires about age and data on the caribou.

Jim Dau: Explains that he collected data and samples from the caribou in 2011. When we get a tooth we get a real good estimate.

2011 there were 72 collars, 21 collared caribou were affected by the road and three of them died. All of the caribou that stayed up above the road they died. What happens with animals that don't go by Red Dog Road. I never saw any pattern where they paused or back tracked when they migrating. The average distance movement around the road was 300 miles average 13 days longest 3 months.

Explains 2012 Data-less sample data because less went through the Red Dog Road region. We had mixed results of reactions to the road. Some sped up, some stayed the same, and some decreased their speed.

Presents the summer time data for the movement of caribou. Shows movement of the caribou during the summer. In 2011 not a single caribou crossed the road. In 2012 the top of the road was completely blacked out with the number of caribou that crossed the road.

Atmuk Shiedt: I am wondering if this is effecting the migration and why people are not getting caribou. I am still sending caribou to Kivalina.

Jim Dau: The caribou were in the region and people were getting them this week cause we saw snow machine tracks around the caribou trails.

Atmuk Shiedt: Explains the migration in relation to Red Dog Mine. Inquires about the actual road versus the activity on the road.



Jim Dau: I think there is noise especially at night, I think that they can smell. It is possible that caribou that reacted to the road were they are responding to the leaders. I am really less interested in the impacts of the Red Dog road in comparison to the new proposed road. It is an ideal situation, it is a relatively low use road and how much impact it can have. I think the effect of the road is a bigger one than the mine.

Atmuk Shiedt: Inquires about the role of messenger caribou.

Jim Dau: the cost of not making across the road last year was perishing.

#### **Board of Game Proposals**

#### Antlerless Moose Reauthorization

Charlotte Westing: Gives presentation

Department: We think that our populations can support antlerless moose harvests that we have. People have gotten pretty good about reporting. The harvest is pretty small, normally we say that our population can support it. Doing the Noatak moose survey we are seeing lower numbers of moose in the Noatak River system than what we have seen in the past. We are going to do a spring population estimate, make sure we get a really solid count. We may need to make some changes in Unit 23 based on what we find. That may also be true in other areas of the unit The Lower Kobuk population was lower than what it was in 2006. People have been telling us that the moose population has been declining.

Cyrus Harris: Inquires about the spread of moose

Charlotte Westing: We see a range of distribution of groups of moose. We single moose up in the river drainages and sometimes there are groups lower in the drainage. All of the pilots were struck by how few moose we were seeing. I am just concerned because the antlerless moose is considered is a luxury item and it is possible it may need to be cut back. If you reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt we may have that option. We recognize that antlerless is a subsistence option, it may be better for the population to shoot a bull moose. We need to talk about the education message, that cows are a subsistence resource. Inquires about educational messages to encourage people to take a bull instead of cows to get the population back on track.

Alex Whiting: talks about bears and wolves eating moose instead of people eating moose. We haven't had to the discussion. The discussion has started when people are sick of feed bears and wolves and not feeding people.

Charlotte Westing: I can't spear head that conversation.

Karmen Monigold: Discusses using videography from the youth and elders to create educational tools. Amy Aiken does computer production, I don't know about being culturally sensitive. Maybe getting elders involved with those kids, because they can do some amazing things.

Atmuk Shiedt: Do you see what the sport hunters saw. Explains that caribou and moose are used interchangeably.



Charlotte Westing: The harvest data is somewhat preliminarily. North of Kelly River there was not many moose. I think the park service closure may have impacted the moose hunts. There is not a lot of pressure on the lower Noatak which includes the Squirrel and the Aggy. They may have a been a little influence. There were 5-6 moose were hunted by nonresidents in that region. I only talked with a few hunters about what they saw.

Atmuk Shiedt: I talked a few people in the Noatak region people just didn't see any. Maybe the caribou are just heading North.

Charlotte Westing: We have two data points one in the spring and this fall. We hope to get a clear picture at that time. We may need to emergency order the season closed.

Atmuk: Inquires about emergency order closure if the antlerless moose hunt isn't reauthorized and the control by the area biologist.

Alex Whiting: The caribou are going other places and the wolves and bears are eating moose instead of caribou and people are not able to take the moose and the caribou. Sport hunting also goes when people are having a hard time eating. The western arctic herd built up a large predator population and now they are looking other food. That is why I am saying there are a lot of predators, and they have to eat. They are sacrificing predators across the state. It is small take of the population the first thing to go is the antlerless moose hunt and the second thing to go is the sport hunting.

Charlotte Westing: The board has to see an incremental reductions antlerless moose, reduction in nonresident sport harvest, reduction in resident harvests.

Next fall we may have to shorten the antlerless moose season.

Alex: makes a motion to approve antlerless moose hunt All support Antlerless moose authorization None Opposed

#### **Brown Bear Bag Fee Exemption**

Charlotte Westing: Explains brown bear tag fees. In unit 23 we do not have tag fee. You have to have the head and the hide sealed. You don't have to fork out \$25 to shoot a bear Explains traditional uses and harvest of bears. It made it easier for the user.

Alex Whiting: I think we should give people free hunting licenses if they promise to kill a bear.

Charlotte Westing: Explains the meat salvage/hide depending on the hunts.

Alex Whiting: Makes a motion to keep the exemption of the fee Seconded: Atmuk Shiedt Discussion: All Support None Opposed



Proposal #92 Use of Large Hooks in All Waters Alex Whiting: Makes a motion to approve proposal #92 Seconded: Atmuk Shiedt Discussion All Support None Opposed Motion Carries

Carmen Daggett: Explains Statewide Fish Proposal situation.

#### State Wide Finfish Proposals Moved to the January Meeting

#### Other

Charlotte Westing: Explains questioning about education and trying to educate people to favor bulls over cows. Encourage people when there is a bull

Alex Whiting: I think the education needed to have a wolf and bear hunt.

Karmen Monigold: Education is important. Last winter there were people chasing caribou around and there were babies left behind people's houses and the babies froze to death. There is good information in education.

Karmen Monigold: With times changing we take for granted that other people are raising their kids that way. Not everyone is hunting in a conservation and education. People not are always hunting in a responsible way.

Charlotte Westing: The people are taking cow moose that are doing it very opportunistically. Only taking a cow when it is needed.

Alex Whiting: There are specific reasons and times that people are hunting for cow moose. There is a reason taking cow moose. With some of the issues that Karmen has I agree with that. I feel people hunt cow moose when they hunt cow moose. There is an opportunity to take cow moose during that season.

Alex Whiting: it is a numbers game.

Charlotte Westing: I'll talk to Amy at the school to address the cow moose issues and appropriate behavior towards wildlife.

Pete Schaffer: Explains that it may be interesting to include historical background.

Jim Dau: For a number of years a map of caribou of collars is no longer online. We are going to send a map to the reindeer herders, for a variety of different years. It was inconsistent with statues, the reindeer herders want to know more information around Serpentine Hotsprings. We are looking at ways to get tissue samples. I am convinced that the caribou are summering down there every year. For the last two years I have tried to get tissue samples of caribou/reindeer. We may try to put a project to figure out what the make up of Serpentine Hotsprings. I have talked to the people in Shismaref about getting samples.



There are 13 heards, less than 6 have reindeer any more, only 2 have greater than 1000. The old Kikaruk herd has around 1000. The Davis heard is down to 450 reindeer. There are fewer than 3000 reindeer herd that are under control.

January NEXT MEETING Meeting Adjourned.



#### Noatak & Kivalina Department of Fish and Game November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 10:30 am

Quorum Established 10:51 Joe Luther Jim Dau Charlotte Westing Mike Adams Ramond Hawley Leslie Vern Wendell Booth Don Booth Wendell Booth Sr. Ben Sherman Senior Alvin Ashby Paul Norton LeRoy Adams-Kivalina

Enoch: Reviews the Agenda Items Additional Items for the agenda Agenda Approved

#### Elections

Chair Enoch Mitchell Vice Chair: Joe Luther Add Janet Mills for the Secretary position Nomination for Janet Mills back on Second Janet Mills for Secretary Secretary: Janet Mills Nominations for Member Seats Nomination for Frank Onalik Sr. Motion Seconded Motion for Melford and Thurston to add for seats Melford Booth and Thurston elected as members

Enoch Mitchell: Wants to leave the remaining seats for Kivalina

#### Approval of last meeting minutes-minutes not located

AC Questionnaire Carmen Daggett: Explains questionnaire include for AC members



#### **Charlotte Westing: Game/Moose Report**

Explains musk ox permit application system-Paula Mills has the permits

I have been surveying the musk ox population every year it seems to be expanding up the Noatak River. We know that allowing 6 permits is appropriate.

Moose we looked at the Lower Kobuk last year fall and spring.

Michael Adams: Inquires how Tier II permits work.

Charlotte Westing: Explains point system for tier two permits. It is important to apply for a permit each year and it is important to include how many times you have eaten musk ox and other various game. You can also use the oldest member of your household and how much they have eaten musk ox. The maximum number points is 13. The musk ox hunt starts August 1<sup>st</sup>. It would go all the way to March 15<sup>th</sup>. It is specific just for this hunt. The next board of game I would like to include the Aggy, right now it is just North and West of the Noatak.

Enoch Mitchell: Inquires about giving subsistence users priority over other hunters.

Charlotte Westing: The state doesn't distinguish between subsistence users in the villages or in urban communities. It does consider cost of gas and food that is more expensive and awards points based upon that.

AC Member: The caribou availability has gone down so we are eating more moose. There was an old man who said that a hunter knows no laws, and I agree with him.

Charlotte Westing: Our surveys on the Lower Kobuk were 50bulls:100 cows our calf: cow ratio 8-10:100 cows. We are not getting big bumper crops of calves making it through the winter. It doesn't allow the population to replenish as quickly.

On the lower Noatak River counts 48 bulls: 100 cows good level 12 calves: 100 cows, we would like to see more calves coming into the population. I am wondering what you are seeing in the moose. We are not seeing as many moose.

AC Member: it seems like there are less moose and lots of wolves.

AC Member: Inquires about where the moose surveys took place.

Charlotte: We saw moose on the Kelly and Wullik, but not that many. We used to see many more moose in that area than now.

AC Member: Inquires where you will see moose.

Charlotte: Explains you can find them in the Mograve Hills. Most you see on the North side of the Noatak River.



AC Member: You see moose all year round and you don't see any moose during hunting season you don't see them. In the last ten years, they are going down I don't see as many. There used to be quite a few moose at the lake next to town and now there is only one.

Charlotte: Explains the reasoning for the validity of spring counts. I wanted to talk with you and see what you are seeing and if what we are seeing is consistent with what you are seeing.

AC Member: maybe it is because of the bears, the fish run was messed up this year and they don't have fish to eat.

Charlotte: We don't have good data on bears and wolves, but we do have traditional knowledge. Jim logs the number of bears he sees. Red Dog did some studies on bears. There are two to two and a half times the number of bears. This can affect the calf survival, we can expect the predators to increase in numbers if the Western Artic Herd was as big as it was. Now it is decreasing and they are eating other things. I am not sure what to do about it, but we are going to have to work together on it.

AC Member: A couple of years I have seen animals just lay down and die in deep snow.

Charlotte: If we find a dead moose we try to land and cut the bones, and check the marrow to see if the moose are starving. The long bones that we cut, we haven't seen too many starving moose.

Comments: Dead moose found in the deep snow

Charlotte: I don't think that the winters are particularly hard on moose. We take bone marrow samples from dead moose to check whether they have died.

Comment: Wonders what effect the plant/habitat health is.

Charlotte: Doesn't seem like a habitat limitation, other agencies have done some work on this. I haven't studied habitat limitation specifically. We do fly and see how many moose have twins. The more twins the better the habitat. It is different than just looking at the actual plants. We are looking at the useable plants. I would like to do that. Money is always a factor for getting that sort of work done.

Jim Dau: inquires about getting fat moose in fall?

AC Member Comment: moose seem to be in good shape

AC member Comment: Moose are pretty fat from another person

Jim Dau: One thing you see in the spring if they had a hard winter. When we look at moose when they are really hungry they just lay there. The moose look healthy and active. I am seeing 4ft 3ft stringers of willows that they like to eat, not being eating. There is plenty of stuff to eat.

Comment: there are healthy moose in the spring.



Charlotte: explains moose interactions of grooming of moose on plants and willow health. You can look at how much the plant is groomed. You can see long wispy pieces of willows versus short stubby willows you can identify if the plants have been groomed.

Comment: Inquires about female moose, I don't go for male moose. I know what to get. There are a lot of fat on the females in the all (September, October, December) that is what I use for eskimo ice cream. Is there any other way to me I go for female moose? Alright, like that I can get female moose.

Enoch: you can get male or female moose.

Charlotte Westing: that is one thing that I want to talk about, if we find that population has really declined it is a way to get the population to be replenished. The antlerless moose hunt may have to be tweeked to allow the moose population to be replenished. We are going to talk about reauthorizing the antlerless moose and this is something that might need to change if there are conservation concerns.

Raymond Hawley: Where are the moose, musk ox, and the caribou just came around? We hardly see musk ox or moose. There has been a lot of water in the spring or fall. Usually we have a lot of musk ox right above us. All of these animals are being affected by high water.

Charlotte Westing: It was definitely a high water year.

Jim Dau: Explains how Kivalina has never had as many moose as there is in the Noatak side. There used to be a lot of bulls in the winter in the Kalatavik. The moose are right here right by town. The Wullik and Kivalina are the margins of the moose population and may not be able to sustain moose as much when the population levels are low. Those habitats are margins of the moose population where there are always moose they are stronger in numbers and stay together when the populations get low. There is a population of musk ox outside of town in Kivalina. Cape Thompson used to have high numbers, at Uvatoruk Creek but not anymore.

Alvin Ashby: There used to be a lot around the fishery

Charlotte: There are a lot of cows and old bulls. The hunt is for the bulls and most people want a younger bull.

Jim Dau: The musk ox use an area for 5-10 years and they give it up. There used to be a lot of musk ox in the Inuchuk hills. Then they gave up on the hills. All of them walked down to Cape Krusenstern. I used to be able to see musk ox in the hills on Ceiling point. They will use an area really hard for a series of years and then they will pick up and move. I don't know why the do that, but they seem like they do.

Joe Luther: Musk ox is really good, there were a lot of musk ox at the camp and my friend said that I could take whatever I wanted. I just wanted a piece of ribs, they had a lot of fat on them. They tasted just like beef. One year some years back I was going through a valley I ran into 10-12 moose while they were mad. I couldn't go through so I turned around and went back. Maybe there was a wolf bothering them.



Frank Onalik: I worked at Red Dog in the past and I saw moose and caribou going to a tailing pond. Inquires about testing and results for moose and caribou going to the tailings pond.

Charlotte:Explains health assessments on caribou and not moose for some time. I haven't seen anything that was out of the ordinary.

Jim Dau: I have heard that moose go towards the tailing pond. We shot a bull moose from that area, and we took a sample and that moose had been there several months. The caribou has brusellouses one of his testicles was larger than the other. I don't remember anything strange about his tissue of the moose.

Frank Onalik: We shot a moose and there were cysts on the outside of the moose. They were green and black on the outside of the skin.

#### 58:15

Jim Dau: Explains his son got a moose with a wart on it. It could be moose warts. There was a guy who works for Fish and Game found a moose who the whole side of the moose was covered in warts. He left it. They can hang from the moose. There were so many warts on this moose. The warts on the bottom were infected. He said it smelled really bad. The meat was fine.

There are other things that make cysts, you can get cysts in the testicles called Brucellosis. In the males it gets into the testicles and it makes abbesses. If you get something like that and you want to know just call us.

Frank Onalik: We got some sick caribou last fall. The meat looked not edible so they threw them. The foxes walked across the bridge and died on the other side after they ate the meat.

Charlotte: We are always interested in getting samples from the meat from animals are sick.

Comment: We should make posts in the store about sick animals and put them in the store.

Comment: Moose go to the islands to make small moose, so that the wolves and bears won't them. I watched the small moose and the mother it took three hours for them to get out there.

#### Jim Dau Caribou Report

Population Overview and Red Dog Road-Some of the recording was missing because of dead batteries.

Displays all of the data from the caribou census's. Explains the census during the summer. Explains confidence intervals. In 2003 we had 490,000 caribou, the caribou have declined 6% annually. In 2011 in July we got to 325,000 caribou. We have lost more caribou from this heard to put this in perspective we have lost more than the entire porcupine herd.

We are not getting as many caribou has we had in the past.

The movement patterns are different and the caribou from 2-6 weeks later than before from the North Slope. There are two things are affecting you the pattern of migration and the timing of the migration.



AC Members: I finally went all the way up the river and you can see Thompson's cabin. Inquires about hunters and funneling the caribou towards us.

Jim Dau: Explains you have a controlled use area. Where you cannot use an airplane to take hunters in there, there is a chance you may extend it. It was a major concession for the board of game to give you the controlled use area.

Enoch Mitchell: Explains the effort to get the controlled use area. We have it settled now I think we shouldn't touch it.

Jim Dau: Explains the reasoning for the transporters hunting where they were hunting. There wasn't a place to land where there wasn't a controlled use area.

Jim Dau: Explains that it would be better have wait to the board of game meeting in Kotzebue where you can get a lot of public testimony in Kotzebue.

Charlotte Westing: You may want to do this this fall because the board of game is this fall.

AC Member: Inquires about if old female caribou reproduce

Jim Dau: Explains that caribou can have a calf when they are a year old, but they are bad mothers they could just leave their calf behind like they didn't even know they had one. The older caribou cows are better mothers. We have had radio collars on cows and I don't remember seeing older caribou cows and thinking that they don't have a calf.

The female reindeer are bigger with much larger antlers in the front.

Raymond Hawley: inquires about collar on musk ox. We found a dead musk ox on the collar, when we checked the collar there were small scorpions around the collar. We had to burn the neck to get rid the scropions.

AC Member: inquires about old insects that have been cryogenically frozen for thousands of years and they are now coming out.

Jim Dau: Says that I want the collars back and I really would like to get the jaw. I just need to know the sex and where you got it.

Enoch Mitchell: if I get lots of jaws I can buy a drum of gas for a non-profit, like search and rescue.

Inquires about fisheries.

Carmen Daggett: There are no fishery reports to be given at this time.

AC Members: inquire about people getting arrested down the Kuskokwim.

Carmen Daggett: Explains the situation with the emergency order.

Melford Booth: Explains that this is our livelihood.



Enoch Mitchell: Explains that fish and game management is important.

AC Members: inquires about the rods for ice fishing and people telling us that we can't fish.

Carmen Daggett: explains the process for creation of regulations to allow more freedom.

Enoch Mitchell: Explains the need for the current process about more and more regulations.

Jim Dau: that is why we went to the regional approach.

Thurston Booth: Inquires about why there aren't fishery people here to give reports.

Thurston Booth: There is always a cycle of little fish trout and next couple years there will be big trout. Last year there were only small trout. This year we finally got good ones.

Raymond Hawley: What I heard from other people they come in small here and get big and they become rainbow trout. That is what he always say. The fish come in small here and become rainbow trout.

Proposal Number 40 Antlerless Moose Hunt

Charlotte Westing: Explains Antlerless Moose Hunt Reauthorization

This year is a little different, because we have gotten some information because the moose population has decline according to the fall data. After the spring we will know what we need to do. If you reauthorize the antlerless moose option it gives you more options.

Enoch Mitchell: This is a good option for people in Noatak when the caribou populations have declined.

Charlotte Westing: We recognize that the female moose are important for subsistence, but the single best way to get the population to go back up is to not shoot female moose. The season would change to an antlered bull season.

Enoch Mitchell: Says that we need the meat.

Requests what Kotzebue AC said about Antlerless moose hunt

We go with Kotzebue on this decisions. They always go with us for our proposals. What do you guys think?

**Motion Anterless Moose Hunt #40** 

**All Support** 

**None Opposed** 



#### **Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption**

Charlotte Westing: Explains the Brown Bear Tag Exemption Fee and you have to have the bear sealed.

AC Member: There goes my box of shells.

Enoch Mitchell: Inquires about the tag fee for brown bear. Too many bears anyways

All Support

None Opposed

**Brown Bear Tag Fee** 

Artic Yukon Kuskokwim Finfish Sport Fishing Proposal #92 Carmen Daggett: Explains the proposal/reads the proposal for the AC Enoch Mitchell: Reads the proposal. Confusion about the proposal. Carmen Daggett: this regulation is to take away regulations on the hooks not give you more regulation. Charlotte Westing: Reads the fishing regulations and interprets. Jim Dau: Doesn't make snagging salmon legal, but it allows you to use different size treble hooks.

No Action All Support for no action None Opposed Discussion

Carmen Daggett: Explains the genetics research briefly. Encourages the AC to look at the proposals more closely.

Charlotte Westing: Further explains the genetics research.

Enoch Mitchell: I would sure like to learn about the results of the research.

Carmen Daggett: Explains page 103 is the location of the next proposal.

#### Enoch Mitchell wants to go to AYK meeting

Carmen Daggett: Explains the finfish comments aren't due till March.

#### STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMETAL ISSUES

Carmen Daggett: Reads proposal

Table the issues on this



## Delta Advisory Committee vote on2012 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Fisheries Proposals

**Proposal 88-** Motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve, 8 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained

Proposal 89- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor

**Proposal 90-** Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor with recommendation to remove Harding lake from this proposal

Proposal 91- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor,

**Proposal 92-** Motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve, 11 in Favor

Proposal 93- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor

Proposal 94- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor

Proposal 95- Motion and 2nd to approve, 10 in Favor, 1 abstained

Proposal 96- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor

**Proposal 99**- Motion and 2nd to approve, 11 in Favor Amend to not include Volkmar and George lakes



#### FAIRBANKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON ARCTIC YUKON KUSKOKWIM FISHERY PROPOSALS

The Fisheries subcommittee, consisting of Virgil Umphenour, Mike Kramer, Bob Maloney, Vince Holton, Lee Hazen, Al Barrette, and Andrew Glasgow, met to review proposals of interest for the upcoming Board of Fisheries meeting for the Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim region. Representatives from sport fish and subsistence divisions were present

- Proposal 149&150: Support. We recognize the benefits of additional data on subsistence harvest. A catch calendar will conveniently and timely provide harvest data.
- Proposal 130: Support. Revisit ANS for Yukon salmon.
- Proposal 131: Support. Requires pulse protection for Yukon Kings.
- Proposal 132: Support. Prohibit sale of Yukon kings caught in non-directed fisheries. All incidentally caught fish shall be subsistence fish.
- Proposal 133: No action. Smaller mesh size and shallower nets reduce by catch of kings, especially larger kings. This proposer, when working for the Department, consistently denied that larger mesh size targeted larger kings.
- Proposal 135: Oppose. This proposal seeks to justify the incidental harvest of 4,090 kings in 2011, and seeks to increase harvest under the theory that the commercial fishers can simply donate the kings to subsistence users.
- Proposal 136: Support. This is a hard cap on lower river king harvest. Without a hard cap, it is easy to overharvest on the lower river and then overly restrict the upper river.
- Proposal 137: Oppose. Do not agree with lowering the escapement goal for summer chum.
- Proposal 138: Oppose. This would increase commercial opportunity when kings may be caught.
- Proposals 139-141: Support. This needs to be placed in regulation rather than managed under E/O authority.



- Proposal 143: Oppose. This would provide more lower river subsistence opportunity. Subsistence opportunities should be consistent throughout the river. Proposals 144-146: Support. Reducing depth of nets to protect larger kings. Proposals 147&148: Oppose. Drift netting exploits threatened King salmon stocks. This would expand drift netting upriver. Proposal 151: Oppose. This is already in regulation. This is a proposal from commercial fish interests that seeks to shift attention for the king collapse from the commercial fleet to subsistence fishers. Propose 152: Oppose. This proposal seeks to expand commercial opportunity in the Yukon and would lead to increased King harvest.
- Proposal 153: Support. There are no salmon in Fielding Lake.
- Proposal 154: Oppose. Closes Black River (Upper Yukon) to salmon fishing. There is no biological justification for closing a river that is simply not fished.
- Proposal 88: Oppose. Closes ice fishing in Rainbow Lake. Difficult access in summer reduces pressure.
- Proposal 89: Support. The FAC supports road accessible pike fishing, and with Little Harding used as a spawning habitat, the population of Big Harding may rebound to sustain a fishery.
- Proposal 90: Would remove a number of trophy lakes. The committee decided to defer this proposal to the full committee.
- Proposal 91: Support removing Little Harding and Summit Lake (Parks Hwy.) from Trophy Lake designation.
- Proposal 92: Support consistent hook gap restrictions, and eliminating unknowing violations of law.
- Proposal 93: Oppose by a split vote of 8-6 Would eliminate the common practice of fishing two flies on one line.
- Proposal 94: Support. Consistent hook gap requirements.



- Proposal 95: Oppose. This seeks to ban chumming and arose due to competing fish camps. If the Board prohibits chumming as broadly defined by this proposal, we fear that cleaning fish in the river will also soon be banned. Proposals like this, when approved in a local area, tend to have a domino effect.
- Proposal 96: Support. Again, FAC generally supports increased pike fishing opportunities, particularly when we continue to face extreme shortages of stocked fish.
- Proposal 97: Oppose. This appears to be a "NIMBY" (not in my backyard) proposal. Absent a demonstrated conservation concern, the FAC generally does not support such proposals.
- Proposal 99-100: We support the legal retention of pike by-catch.
- Proposal 104: Support. Review of ANS for salmon in the Kuskokwim.

### SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSALS

- Proposal 237: Take no action This would remove Rainbow Lake from Trophy Lake designation. We opposed closing the winter fishery (88) and prefer the current year round opportunities for quality fish.
- Proposal 241: Support. Allows harvest of excess chum while protecting threatened kings.



#### Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Phone: (907) 787-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898 Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

#### RACWI12020.CJ

## DEC 0 7 2012

Karl Johnstone, Chairman Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) met October 10-11, 2012, in Holy Cross, Alaska. The Council is one of ten regional advisory councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to, among other things, provide a forum for discussion of subsistence use of fish and wildlife resources in the region. The Council took public testimony, addressed various subsistence related management issues and also reviewed Alaska State Board of Fisheries Proposals. The Council discussed and took action to several Yukon-Kuskokwim proposals. Those proposal recommendations and comments are enclosed.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to assist the Department of Fish & Game to meet its charge of utilizing and conserving Alaska's rich fisheries resources and to comment on these fisheries proposals. We look forward for continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users in the Western Interior Region. If you have questions about this correspondence, please contact me via Melinda Hernandez, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), at 1-800-478-1456 or (907) 786-3885.

Sincerely,

all Carls

Jack Reakoff, Chair

#### Enclosure

cc: Peter Probasco, Assistant Regional Director, OSM Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, OSM Steve Fried, Fisheries Div Supervisor, OSM George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, OSM Interagency Staff Committee Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Jennifer Yuhas, Assistant Director, ADF&G Administrative Record



#### Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendations on Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for 2013-2015

Note: All recommendations below were action items from the Council's public meeting in Holy Cross on Oct. 10-11, 2012. Complete meeting transcripts are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website: http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/racdetail.cfml?rac=06

## Proposal 97&98 Northern Pike Recommendation: Support

**Comments:** There has been overfishing and waste of Northern Pike in the area. Placing limits would ensure that the resource would be there in abundance in the future to provide for subsistence opportunity as well as to fulfill important cultural uses.

**Proposal 104** Revise Amounts Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for Kuskokwim River Chinook Salmon

**Recommendation**: <u>Support</u>, with modification that the ANS for Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim River be reviewed, but not reduced.

**Comments**: At this time of hardship, it is not appropriate to modify ANS for Chinook salmon on the Kuskokwim, providing additional commercial harvest opportunities. As escapement continues to drop, it may force subsistence users to shift to other types of salmon – such as coho, sockeye, and chum – to meet subsistence needs. This drop in harvest numbers should not be used as a justification for dropping the ANS for Chinook salmon.

<u>Proposals 105</u> Kuskokwim River Salmon Rebuilding Management Plan Recommendation: <u>Neither support nor oppose</u>

**Comments:** There was not sufficient dialogue with the various user groups in preparing this proposal. Additionally, the plan needs to be more detailed to include specific numbers. There are also several issues that are not raised in the plan that should be. It is uncertain whether this plan, as revised, would help meet subsistence needs. The Council has particular concerns about subsistence needs being met on the upper Kuskokwim River. There needs to be optimum escapements of salmon and adequate densities to allow for subsistence. There is no need for increased commercial harvest while the runs recover; this can only intensify user conflicts for an already-dwindling resource.

<u>Proposal 110</u> Gillnet Mesh Size Recommendation: <u>Support</u>

Comments: Larger mesh size has been shown to be detrimental to female Chinook salmon.



<u>**Proposal 130**</u> Revise ANS numbers for Yukon-Northern area salmon species. **Recommendation:** <u>Oppose</u>

**Comments:** With the declining Chinook salmon run, there will be more reliance on chum salmon by subsistence users. The Council is concerned that reducing the number for ANS on chum salmon at this time does not consider this shift in the needs of subsistence users. This proposal also raises concerns of reallocating harvest of summer and fall chum salmon to commercial harvest, and would consequently increase pressure on other species of salmon, particularly in the fall. The Council is satisfied with the ANS numbers (45,000 – 66,704) currently in regulation.

<u>**Proposal 131</u>** Yukon River pulse protection for Chinook salmon **Recommendation**: <u>Support</u></u>

**Comments:** This could be another useful conservation method for improving the Chinook salmon run. The Council supports efforts to promote conservation, working towards restoring the Chinook salmon runs.

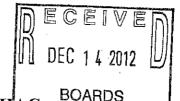
<u>Proposal 132</u> Sale of King Salmon Recommendation: <u>Support</u>

**Comments:** The preclusion of sale of Chinook salmon in the fishery provides a disincentive to sell bycatch. Disseminating the bycatch into the subsistence system helps to provide for subsistence use of Chinook salmon.

**Proposal 138** Fall Chum Salmon **Recommendation**: <u>Oppose</u>

**Comments:** With declining Chinook salmon runs, people are increasingly relying on coho and fall chum salmon to meet subsistence needs. This reliance on fall fish would not only continue, but likely increase in the future. This proposal is designed to increase commercial harvest of fall chum salmon. Increased commercial opportunity for fall chum and coho through reduction of the trigger point is unwarranted at this time.





Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee / SHAC-<u>Minutes</u> of Dec. 6, 2012 Teleconference <u>with Comments</u> to the Board of Fisheries for 2013/ Jan. A-Y-K Meeting and March Statewide Meeting

## **Minutes**

#### Call to Order -

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Doug Carney at 1:05 P.M.

#### Roll Call & Quorum – There are a total of 8 members from 4 villages

(At the start of the meeting chair asked Lorraine to phone David Bobby of Stony River, but he had other commitments.)

Present were 5 members & quorum was established-

- Barb Carlson & John Zeller Red Devil
- Lorraine Egnaty & Doug Carney Sleetmute
- Faron Bobby Lime Village

Absent were - Rick Breckheimer, Charlie Bobby, & David Bobby

#### Others Attending -

ADF&G Area Fisheries biologist Kevin Scheburg

#### Other Business / Members' Concerns

Chairman, Doug Carney said that any members or others present could voice any matters they wanted to discuss, in addition to those on the agenda, and they would be brought up under "Other Business" later in the meeting.

- Any agenda additions to Other Business for this meeting? None voiced.
- Anything for future meetings? <u>None voiced.</u>
- BOF &BOG Proposals for 2014 will have to be put in by this summer, so we will need to have a regular meeting before then, if SHAC members have any to consider.

<u>Approval of Agenda</u> – There were no additions suggested, and so it was approved. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made, seconded, and approved to defer the reading of minutes from the Dec.19,2011 SHAC meeting.

# The Chair said that SHAC would be going over, discussing, and making comments in support or opposition -

- On proposals for January, 2013 Fisheries meeting
- On proposals for Spring, 2013 Statewide meeting

- Most proposals deal with Chinook Salmon - There is no need to report poor harvest, when we all know that stocks are down statewide.

So let's spend this time there discussing, giving, or withholding support for these proposals.



The Chair gave the Wildlife Safeguard number and said the committee would not be spending time discussing violations.

#### High Points of 2012 BOG Meetings/ Chair

- Jan, 2012 Statewide/Anchorage
- March, 2012 Region 3/Interior /Fairbanks
- Black & Brown bear were added to the Intensive Management pred control in 19A modified by ADF&G –(took out snaring and using Dept. personnel only) designated a 500 sq.mile area to use helicopters and firearms. TKC approved it, the legislature has funded it, and now ADF&G & TKC are working on language for a liability waiver agreement.
- John Zeller said that wolf predator control participants should be told that the islands in mid-river on the Kuskokwim are not TKC land, and could be hunted. This must be checked out for accuracy.
- Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation management Plan added to 19A &B
- Several <u>anti-predator</u> control proposals were shot down.
- There was discussion about having the bear predator control program extended to include the area around Lime Village in future years. Everyone seemed to think it was a good idea. There are plenty of bears, and seldom any moose or caribou seen near Lime Village.

#### Fisheries Area Research Biologist-Kevin Sheburg

Kevin gave an overview of this past fishing season on the Kuskokwim with a special emphasis on King salmon. The tributaries from Aniak on downriver did not meet escapement goals this past summer, even with the extensive closures. These tributaries have not met escapement in 3-4 of the past years. The Kogruguluk (Holitna) has been meeting escapement goals, although in 2012 the data was lacking from the weir due to the long periods of high water/flooding when the weir was not functioning.

Kevin also gave ADF&G's arguments for the proposals that had been submitted by ADF&G, as well as answering our questions concerning definitions, data and current regulations that helped in our discussion of other proposals.

#### Read / Discuss / Vote on support of - Barb Carlson led the proposal discussion.

Comments on proposals for January, 2013 Fisheries meeting Comments on proposals for Spring, 2013 Statewide meeting

Barb confirmed that all members had a proposal book to use for the meeting Each SHAC member who had fished on the Kuskokwim last summer gave a short report of what they had observed during the season in their village.

#### Faron / Lime Village -

- said there were worms around egg sacks in Reds & Kings/ Kevin said they should freeze & send some to ADF&G
- Fishing was slower and later this year, almost all were reds
- There was a good silver run, but later than usual this year in Lime.



#### Barb / Sleetmute & RedDevil -

- A late run with some Kings in early July, but small fish & not a good run. Spawning females are not getting this far upriver.
- Reds and Chums were average an run
- Silvers had good runs
- Caught an extreme number of pinks, usually 3 or 4 a year, this year a couple hundred never has seen this many pinks.

#### John – Red Devil

- Everything was 2 weeks late, but I had good catches of all species.
- I caught Kings & Reds in good numbers.
- I used 4 inch mesh possibly why lost Kings were small.
- . Caught unusual numbers of both pinks and suckers.

#### Kevin – (Biologist)

• King size has come down the last few years, but not that much – a couple of inches.

Most of the meeting was spent explaining and discussing proposals for both the January 2013 BOF meeting concerning the Kuskokwim proposals and the March 2013 BOF meeting concerning statewide proposals. Comments are Below

#### Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

### **Comments**

#### Proposal 104 - Oppose Unanimously

- SHAC doesn't want to see the escapement goals lowered.
- We question the validity of the change in harvest estimation method in 2008 being applied retroactively to previous years.
- There is concern that a change in the ANS will benefit Bethel and the larger villages at a cost to the much smaller villages further up the river.
- What data will the new ANS be based on? With the continuing decline in many of the salmon species since 1990, the lower subsistence harvest data may fewer salmon then were needed for subsistence. Some years, these lower harvest levels also reflected poorer fishing years and closures during prime fishing times.

#### Proposal 105 - Oppose Unanimously

(SHAC supports Part (a) through (d)(5) but strongly opposes the remainder of this proposal.)

• King salmon are not meeting escapement goals on many of the tributaries of the Kuskokwim and at such a time it seems unwise to allow a commercial chum

Fishery. A commercial Chum opening would <u>further</u> deplete the Kings, rather than help in regeneration of stocks.



cannot fish because of age or are otherwise incapable.

#### Proposal 110 Support Unanimously

- Removes any hope or temptation to allow gear larger than 6" mesh to be used in District 1 commercial fishery.
- We need the larger king females to be making it up to the spawning grounds to improve our returns <u>8" mesh targets these specific fish.</u>

#### Proposal 219 – Support Unanimously

- When discussing <u>anything</u>, it is paramount that word and term definitions have the same meanings to all parties involved.
- Using the same terms, but with different definitions for a certain purpose in a certain area is absurd! Different terms should be used.

#### **Proposal 224 - Support Unanimously**

• <u>As stated above – anything that improves and clarifies communication between</u> any participating parties, is a positive thing.



Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898 Toll Free: 1-800-478-1456

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## DEC 2 1 2012

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Mr. Karl Johnstone, Chairman Alaska Board of Fisheries Alaska Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 115526 Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Dear Mr. Johnstone:

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) met October 16-17, 2012, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Council is one of 10 regional advisory councils formed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and represents subsistence users along the Yukon River and its tributaries from Tanana to the Canadian Border. The Council provides a public forum for discussion and recommendations for subsistence fish and wildlife management and, as a result, also reviews Alaska State Board of Fisheries proposals. At this meeting, the Council reviewed numerous Yukon-Kuskokwim proposals and developed proposal recommendations; a summary of those recommendations and supporting comments are enclosed.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to provide input to the Alaska Board of Fisheries on these proposals. We look forward to continuing discussions about the issues and concerns of subsistence users in the Eastern Interior Region. If you have any questions regarding this



#### Mr. Karl Johnstone

correspondence, please contact Eva Patton, Subsistence Council Coordinator, Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) at (907) 786-3358 or 1-800-478-1456.

Sincerely,

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Sue Entsminger, Chair

Enclosure

cc: Peter Probasco, Assistant Regional Director, OSM Kathy O'Reilly-Doyle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, OSM Steve Fried, Fisheries Division Supervisor, OSM George Pappas, State Subsistence Liaison, OSM Carl Johnson, Council Coordinator Division Supervisor, OSM Eva Patton, Regional Council Coordinator, OSM Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Jennifer Yuhas, Federal Subsistence Liaison, ADF&G Interagency Staff Committee Administrative Record





#### Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendations on Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for 2013- 2015

Note: All recommendations below were action items from the Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council (Council) public meeting in Fairbanks on October 16 and 17, 2012. Complete meeting transcripts are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website: http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/racdetail.cfml?rac=09

<u>Proposal 97</u> reduces Northern Pike bag and possession limits in the Yukon River from Holy Cross to Paimute Slough. **Recommendation**: Support

**Comments:** The Council made specific comments in support of the companion Federal proposal 13-03 and applied that same discussion in support of this proposal. The Council discussed at length what the conservation effect might be as well as debating the impact to local users as opposed to the impact on all federally qualified subsistence fishers who use the resource. Council members supported this proposal in part to concur with the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council support for this issue in their region and also noted that they felt the conservation concern cited in the proposal warranted action.

**Proposal 130** reviews Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) numbers for Yukon-Northern area salmon species.

Recommendation: <u>Support with modification</u>: extend data range considered to 20 years.

**Comments:** The Council notes that it has been many years since ANS was revisited and the current numbers are based on data from 1990 - 1999. The Council feels these numbers could be updated to reflect more current subsistence harvest data, understanding that those years in which there were subsistence harvest restrictions would not be used to evaluate normal harvest patterns. The Council supports re-evaluating ANS with the recommended modification of considering a longer time range of 20 years of data that may better reflect the range of harvest variability.

<u>Proposal 131</u> Yukon River pulse protection for Chinook salmon. Recommendation: <u>Support</u>

**Comments:** The Council is in agreement with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council that this proposal is a step in the right direction for Chinook salmon conservation and equitable management for all subsistence users along the river.

<u>Proposal 132</u> prohibits the sale of Chinook salmon. Recommendation: <u>Support</u>



### Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendations on Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for 2013- 2015 (Continued)

**Comments:** Prohibiting the sale of incidentally caught Chinook salmon in the chum salmon commercial fisheries would discourage targeting them intentionally during commercial openings and require retaining Chinook salmon for subsistence purposes only.

<u>Proposal 137</u> develops an optimum escapement goal for Yukon River summer chum salmon stocks originating above Pilot Station. Recommendation: Oppose

**Comments:** The Council believes lowering escapement goals and allowing a commercial harvest right up to the Optimum Escapement Goal (OEG) would be detrimental to the Yukon River ecosystem, citing the importance of spawning Chum salmon for fish and wildlife food and nutrient inputs in the system.

<u>Proposal 138</u> modifies the Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan trigger point, lowering it from 500,000 to 400,000 in the Yukon River Drainage. Recommendation: <u>Oppose</u>

**Comments:** The Council believes lowering the trigger point to allow more commercial harvest of fall chum would be detrimental to the Yukon River ecosystem. Additionally, the Council stressed the importance of fall chum and Coho salmon as the primary subsistence food in years of low Chinook salmon returns and felt upper-river communities would be harmed by expanding the fall chum salmon commercial fishery.

**<u>Proposal 141</u>** allows concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River.

**Recommendation:** <u>Support</u>

**Comments:** Aligning salmon management by conducting commercial fishing periods concurrent with subsistence openings would allow for longer windows of time for salmon to pass unhindered during closures. This proposal would eliminate the restrictions on subsistence fishers during commercial openings.

<u>**Proposal 142</u>** opens Yukon River District 5-D (Stevens Village to Circle) for subsistence fishing from July 4 - 18. **Recommendation:** Oppose</u>

**Comments:** The Council feels this proposal is counter to the conservation efforts on the river and would be a detriment to that pulse. Because Circle is located on the road system, this district may be subject to greater fishing pressures from users driving in from elsewhere if all restrictions were lifted only in District 5 at that time.

**Proposal 143** removes restrictions during the subsistence fall chum salmon season in Yukon Districts 1, 2 & 3. **Recommendation:** <u>Oppose</u>



### Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendations on Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for 2013- 2015 (Continued)

**Comments:** The Council sees the need to protect fall chum salmon and Coho salmon from increasing commercial harvest pressures due to its importance for subsistence. The Council stressed fall chum salmon has always been important to the subsistence way of life for upriver communities and is the only salmon many families are able to harvest for subsistence in years of low Chinook salmon returns.

<u>Proposal 144</u> restricts gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage. Recommendation: <u>Support</u>

**Comments:** The Council views this as an evident conservation measure needed to protect Yukon River Chinook salmon stocks for the reasons stated in the proposal.

<u>Proposal 146</u> allow only 6-inch mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage. Recommendation: <u>Support</u>

**Comments:** The Council views this as a necessary conservation measure to protect larger, older Chinook salmon and to support better quality of escapement for the reasons stated in the proposal. The Council notes from their own experience  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh is no longer sufficient as a conservation tool because it catches the remaining larger salmon returning to the Yukon.

<u>**Proposal 147**</u> allows drift gillnets in subsistence fishery Districts 4-A up to Ruby. **Recommendation:** <u>Oppose</u>

**Comments:** The Council feels this would greatly expand fishing pressure on salmon stocks that are of ongoing conservation concern. The Council notes from their own experience that larger Chinook salmon generally swim further out in the river and are likely bound for Canada. Fish wheels currently in use should be sufficient to obtain community fish needs.

**Proposal 149** creates a harvest reporting system for Yukon subsistence salmon. **Recommendation:** Support with modification: make changes to the wording of State Reg. 5 AAC 01.230 (pg. 138 ADFG AYK fish regulations book) as follows:

Fish *shall* be taken for subsistence purposes *with* a subsistence fishing permit.

 Each subsistence fisherman shall keep accurate daily records of historical catch, number of fish-taken by species, location and date of the catch, and other information that the department may require for management or conservation purposes.

**Comments:** The Council vote on this proposal was split with a vote of 5 support, 4 oppose and one absent. Council members in support of this proposal state it is an effort to achieve greater accuracy and daily recording of all subsistence fish harvests to assist in understanding harvest timing during the salmon run. The supporting members feel the



### Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Recommendations on Alaska Board of Fisheries Proposals for 2013- 2015 (Continued)

requirement to report will result in a higher return of subsistence fish harvest data than catch calendars or post season surveys currently do and will better track fish harvests. The Council members opposed to this proposal discussed the imposition the requirement may pose to subsistence fishers, stressing that the daily reality of rural life could easily result in a legal citation for inadvertent non-compliance and undermine the subsistence way of life. They emphasize that voluntary catch calendar recording and participation in post-season surveys is widely supported and reporting is generally honest and accurate.

**Proposal 154** closes the Black River and its tributaries to sport fishing for Chinook salmon.

**Recommendation:** <u>Support with modification as follows</u>: Close to all sport fishing for Chinook salmon: the Black River from Chalkyitsik upriver to the Salmon Fork and the Salmon Fork and its tributaries upstream to the Canadian border beginning July 1st to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Comments:** The local villages of Fort Yukon and Chalkyitsik have curtailed fishing for Chinook salmon in this area because of conservation concerns and efforts to allow the population to rebound for subsistence in the future. The communities are concerned that there are no spawning ground closures in place as a protective measure for these stocks. Sport fishing is currently allowed in the area during spawning and can intercept or stress the Chinook salmon on their spawning grounds or on their migratory path to Canada.



# Dec. 31. 2012 2:15PM

I. Call to Order- Vice Chairman William Alstrom

## Quorum Established: (YES/NO)

Andreafski- Bill Alstrom Hooper Bay- Eric Olsen Emmonak- Gretchen Kameroff Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr. Kotlik- Aloysius Uno Pilot Station- Evan Poutly St. Mary's- St. Mary's Tribal Council (Alternate)

- Introductions
   ADF&G- Miller, Yukon area management staff, Phillip Perry, Wildlife Division, Gene Sandone,
- III. Approve:

A. Roll Call

a. Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Edward Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>- Gretchen Kameroff

Vice Chairman has suggestions to move right into the proposals for the Board of Fish. Unanimous decision to carry forward

## **B.** ADF&G

I. Game Division

- a. Unit 18 Yukon-Kuskokwim Area Management Biologists:
  - i. Philip Perry, Bethel (<u>phillip.perry@alaska.gov</u>) Patrick Jones, Bethel (<u>patrick.jones@alaska.gov</u>) P.O. Box 1467 Bethel, AK 99559 (907) 543-2433 F. (907) 543-2021

Phillip Perry- The only thing I have is the Antlerless moose authorization for the antler less moose hunt.

LYAC- There was no objections or opposes to a unanimous vote to support to continue the Antlerless moose by the AC.



Bill Alstrom, Andreafski Question: What about the rest of the Andreafski River and the remainder of Unit 18

Perry: All of that is open in August through the fall and will remain open till February. 2 harvest tickets and 2 moose, all of the Andreafski drainage, reopened Dec 20<sup>th</sup>- end of February for 1 moose. If they got one this falls they can get another one this winter.

Gretchen- How long is the moose hunt? Perry- Till February 2013

VIII. New business:

Proposal 133:

Motion to support 133- Aloysius Uno 2<sup>nd</sup>- Will Alstrom Question/Discussion:

**Gene Sandone**- Explains Proposal 133; this is just for commercial fishing **Andreafski Bill Alstrom**- the community of St. Mary's, Pitkas Point, and Yupiit of Andreafski, opposed this proposal. The main concern for this proposal was a lot of fisherman doesn't carry 5 ½" gear.

Nunam Iqua Edward Adam, Sr. - will not support this proposal if this will limit the mesh gear to get smaller.

Gene Sandone- this is to add gear to the current gear types and not take any of them away.

Eric ADFG- Neutral, this size allowed fisherman to catch more chum and chinook catches were decreased.

Aloysius Uno, no matter what if they change the gear, we are still going to catch those king salmon and were not going to be able to sell any kings, it may take 10 years or so. I don't know how much loner it will take.

Edward Adam- Yak, you can catch kings at any mesh size, I was fishing for white fish one summer and I was still able to catch kings in my whitefish gear.

Roll Call for support: (5-support 1-yes 1-abstain) Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen- no Nunam- no Kit- Yes, only for commercial, but not for subsistence. Pilot Station Poutly- No St. Mary's- (Abstain Council Alternate)



Proposal 133: Fails, this proposal is not supported

Proposal 135: G. Sandone- This proposal sets a date no later than, the rationale behind this is to conserve Canadian or middle river salmon we can do that before July 1. Most of the salmon pass through district 1 would be upper river stocks. With the 6 inch mesh. To allow a summer commercial fishery to start no later than july1.

Motion to Support- Nunam Iqua Edward Adam, Sr. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff

Question/Discussion called- Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff

ADFG Eric Miller- the department opposes this proposal.

Andreafski Bill Alstrom-Pitkas Point, St. Mary's, 3 tribal councils from this area is all opposed for this proposal.

Kotlik Aloysius Uno- Gene Sandone, are these proposals trying to save commercial fishing for summer chums.

G. Sandone- Yes, these would be able to add additional options for

G. Sandone- yes, in times of king conservation it could occur earlier if the kings weren't in jeopardy.

Roll Call for support: (6 NO- 1 abstain) Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Iqua E- no Kotlik Al- no Pilot Station Poutly- No St. Mary's- (Abstain Council Alternate) Proposal 135: Fails, this proposal is not supported

Proposal 137: Summer chum management plan, it doesn't have a trigger at pilot station to start. Motion- Gretchen 2<sup>nd</sup>- Nunam Iqua Question/ Discussion:

ADFG- currently there is no goal, because of a lack of long term data. They have funding to do radio telemetry.



# Bill Alstrom-Pitkas Point, Mountain Village and respected councils opposed

Roll Call for support: 5 support 1 yes 1 abstain Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- No Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No St. Mary's (Abstain Council Alternate) Proposal 137: Fails, not supported

Proposal 138 (Commercial Only): Fall chum management plan for commercial fisheries from 500-400. There is a minimum ADF&G- allocation is neutral, but oppose for

VC- Pitkas Point, Mountain Village oppose this proposal Motion- Gretchen 2<sup>nd</sup>- Eric Olsen Question/ Discussion:

Roll Call for support: 5 support 1 yes Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- Yes Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No Proposal 138: Fails, not supported

Proposal 143: is that the mass majority of the fish is taken for table, windows fishing not be prosecuted in districts 3456, where as 12 are only taking 7% ADF&G: Neutral because of the allocation, this proposal will provide more additional opportunity, VC- Pitkas Point, St. Mary's Motion- Nunam 2<sup>nd</sup>- Aloysius Uno Questions/ Discussion:



Roll Call for support: Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- No Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No Proposal 137: Fails, not supported

Proposal 152: Open Christ point to black river to commercial fishing. This was put in place back in the 1900's to protect local fisherman from commercialized fleets over fishing the Lower Yukon.

ADFG- support of this proposal,

Andreafski Bill Alstrom- Pitkas Point, Mountain Village, They oppose this proposal because that is not their fishing area and

Motion- Emmonak

2<sup>nd</sup>- Nunam

Question/ Discussion:

Aloysius- If the proposal pass, will you reopen and extend the outside. ADF&G- this area of south mouth down the coast to black river; this is the only area that will be open for commercial fishing.

Aloysius Uno- there was no boundary on the north side, which part of the river were they closing this. They should also open the north side.

Gene- Even though I submitted this proposal, you can do whatever you want to do with this proposal.

Edward Nunam- I would support this proposal, this is my area this is where I fish, and I have no problems supporting this. Since, I'm not from your area. I don't understand you area, I only understand my area. From my area, I'm in support of this area.

Bill Alstrom- Pitkas Point,

Motion to amend and add the north side of the fishery

"To add north side to the original boundaries of where it originally was suppose to be."

2<sup>nd</sup>- Nunam Iqua

Questions/ Discussion:



Roll Call for support: 5 support 1 yes

Andreafski Bill Alstrom- yes Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- yes Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- yes Nunam Edward Adams- yes Kotlik Aloysius Uno- yes Pilot Station Evan Poutly- yes Proposal 152: Passes with Amendment

Proposal 151: List the main priority for king salmon for personal or direct consumption. This asks the state to list the priority use of Chinook salmon to be personal and direct consumption. This will give the managers of Chinook salmon across the drainage to restrict all other subsistence uses, but allows chinook salmon to be caught and used for food.

ADF&G- Neutral on the allocation of this, oppose to reducing opportunity for subsistence.

Motion to support: Nunam

2<sup>nd</sup>- Hooper Bay

Questions/ Discussion: Nunam- the way I understand this proposal, it does oppose customary trade, sharing your relatives that this. Can I get clarification? Gene- Customary trade is not legal under state, but it is under the fed. If you look at the wording, although it doesn't say anything about sharing for personal and direct consumption.

Roll Call for support: Andreafski Bill Alstrom- yes Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- yes Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- yes Nunam Edward Adams- yes Kotlik Aloysius Uno- Neutral Pilot Station Evan Poutly- Yes Proposal 137: Passes

Proposal 240: will use dip net and beach seines to commercially harvest chum salmon. ADF&G- This is something that Gene was working on that got submitted by ADF&G



VC- Pitkas point, St. Mary's and Andreafski
Motion- Aloysius
2<sup>nd</sup>- Gretchen
Question/ Discussion: Aloysius- if this proposal passes do the people will need to say that they use that new gear?
ADFG- Only a current permit holder will be able to use these gear types.

Roll Call for support: 4-no 2- yes Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- yes Kotlik Aloysius Uno- yes Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No

Proposal 137: Fails, not supported

Proposal 241: ADF&G this will give the department EO to closely monitor fish wheels. They would fish wheel shed the fish wheels and people would manly watch the fish wheel and release immediate caught Chinook salmon back into the river. They had a commercial fishery in Kaltag and they did pretty good. Motion- Nunam

2<sup>nd</sup>- Emmonak

Question/ Discussion: Aloysius- There was a comment about the fish wheels that were catching enormous amounts of fish that were jeopardizing the lower river commercial fishery. I don't' know how it is going to be in the future, if they continue to fish with the fish wheels.

Roll Call for support: Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- No Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No

Proposal 241: Fails, not supported



Proposal 131: Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Require pulse protection in the king salmon management plan as follows: This proposal would put pulse protections into king salmon management plan.

VC- Pitkas Point, Mountain Village, Andreafski Council, Algaaciq Tribal Council, Opposed this proposal Motion- Eric 2<sup>nd</sup>- Nunam

**Ouestion**/ Discussion:

Roll Call for support: Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- No Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No Proposal 131: Fails, not supported

Proposal 136: Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Cap by catch of king salmon in the summer chum fishery in District 1 and 2, at 2,000 fish as follows: When the by catch of Chinook in chum directed commercial fishery in Y-1 & Y-2 reaches 2,000 fish, the fishery will close until managers determine a higher cumulative proportion of Chinook passed has been met. Motion- Aloysius Uno 2<sup>nd</sup>- Hooper Bay Question/ Discussion:

Roll Call for support: Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff- no Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- No Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No Proposal 136: Fails, not supported

Motion to adjourn 4:20PM- Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 9AM 2<sup>nd</sup>- Emmonak Gretchen Kameroff



# 2 January 2012 Call to Order 1:44PM

## Roll Call:

Alakanuk- Raymond Oney Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom Kotlik- Al Uno Pilot Station- Evan Poutly Hooper bay- Eric Olsen Emmonak- Gretchen Kameroff Marshall- Andrew Tony Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr.

Proposal 130- 5AAC 01.236. Customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses. Review amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence salmon in the Yukon-Northern Area as follows.

Eric Newland- Explains the proposal VC- Pitkas Point and St. Mary's oppose this Motion to Support- Edward Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>- Aloysius Uno Ouestions/ Discussion-

Aloysius Uno: What do you mean by modern or long range, what do you mean by modern?

Eric ADFG- What they are trying to attempts to do is review subsistence levels. Currently the ANS is based on subsistence harvest number from 90-99, they would like to open this up to the board. It was noted that the ANS numbers have been taking

Roll Call for support: (5-no /2-Yes) Andreafski Bill Alstrom- no Hooper Bay Eric Olsen- no Alakanuk Ray Oney – Yes, ANS would be geared toward human consumption Nunam Edward Adams- no Kotlik Aloysius Uno- Yes



Pilot Station Evan Poutly- No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Proposal 130: Fails, not supported

Proposal 132: 5 AAC 05.360 Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Prohibit sale of king salmon from the Yukon River drainage unless there is a directed king salmon commercial fishery as follows: Motion – Aloysius Uno 2<sup>nd</sup>- Edward Adams Question/ Discussion

VC- Pitkas Point and St. Mary's- Opposed Oney- Alakanuk opposed in case the King Salmon Run's return

Roll Call for support: (7-no)

Alakanuk- Raymond Oney- no Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom-no Kotlik- Al Uno-no Pilot Station- Evan Poutly-no Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-no Marshall- Andrew Tony-no Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr-no Proposal 132 fails (not supported)

Proposal 134:5AAC 05.362. Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan. Motion to support- Aloysius Uno

2<sup>nd</sup>- Edward Adam

VC- Pitkas Point and St. Mary's- Opposed Oney- Alakanuk, Support if this was district wide Question/ Discussion:

Roll Call for Support (6-No 1-Yes) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-Yes, ONLY if it's district wide Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poutly-No



Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Proposal 134 fails in support.

Proposal 139: 5AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Align Yukon subsistence regulations in District 1-3 with current management practices, adjusting closures around commercial fishing periods, and allowing concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing by emergency order (EO) as follows:

Motion to support-Aloysius Uno 2<sup>nd</sup>- Edward Adams, Sr. Question/ Discussion-Martha Kelly- Will that be similar to what was going on last summer

Eric- Yes, there is a basically that we were having commercial fishing and subsistence fishing. The idea was to stream line the fishing and have both open instead of waiting for the time opening and closing period.

Al- through fish and game in the past and they closed the commercial and subsistence fishing.

Eric- prior to the ability to sale of king and summer chum in 09, we didn't have that authority d 1-3 separate from the subsistence periods with the intent that the subsistence fish wouldn't find their way into the commercial sale.

Roll Call for Support (1-Abstain 7-No) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-Abstain Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Emmonak- Martha Kelly- No Proposal 139 fails in support

Emmonak Martha Kelly was excused



Proposal 140- 5 AAC 05.360 (e) Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan. Revert back to a windows- only fishing schedule in the Yukon River as follows: Motion- Edward Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>- Aloysius Uno

VC- Pitkas Point and St. Mary's Opposed Oney- Alakanuk had opposed

Roll Call for Support (7-No) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-No Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper Bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Proposal 140 Fails

Proposal 141- 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Allow for concurrent subsistence and commercial fishing periods in Districts 1-3 of the Yukon River Area as follows: Motion to support- Edward Adams 2<sup>nd</sup>- Andrew Tony

Roll Call for Support (7-no) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-No Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Proposal 141 fails to support

Proposal 142- 5 AAC 01.210. Fishing seasons and periods. Motion- Eric Olsen 2<sup>nd</sup>- Edward Adams, Sr.



Question/ Discussion:

Roll Call for Support (2-Abstain 5-No) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-No Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- Abstain Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper Bay- Eric Olsen-Abstain Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Proposal 142 Fails

Proposal 144/145 \*be presented together Motion- Nunam Iqua 2<sup>nd</sup>- Hooper Bay

Proposal 144- 5 AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications: 5 AAC 05.331 Gillnet specifications and operations. Restrict gillnets to 35 meshes in depth in the Yukon River drainage as follows:

Roll Call for Support (7-No) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-No Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No Proposal 144-145 fails in support

Proposal 146- 5AAC 01.220. Lawful gear and gear specifications; 5 AAC 05.331 Gillnet specifications and operations. Allow only 6-inch stretch mesh gillnet gear in the Yukon River drainage as follows: Motion- Edward Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>- Eric Olsen Question/ Discussion

Roll Call for Support (7-NO)



Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-No Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- No Kotlik- Al Uno- No Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-No Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-No Marshall- Andrew Tony- No Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- No

Proposal 147/148

Roll Call for Support (6-Abstain 1- Yes) Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-Abstain Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom-Abstain Kotlik- Al Uno- Yes Pilot Station- Evan Poulty- Abstain Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-Abstain Marshall- Andrew Tony- Abstain Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- Abstain Proposal 147/148 Abstain to support

Proposal 149/150 Motion- Aloysius Uno 2<sup>nd</sup>- Andrew Tony Question/ Discussion

Aloysius- to fish and game, I oppose to this both proposals. Hunting license and fishing licenses to do all our subsistence Eric- right now in your area you don't have a subsistence license needed to go out subsistence hunting

Roll Call for Support (7-No)

Alakanuk- Raymond Oney-Strongly Oppose both proposals Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- Oppose (St. Mary's & Pitkas) Kotlik- Al Uno- Oppose Pilot Station- Evan Poulty-Oppose Hooper bay- Eric Olsen-Oppose Marshall- Andrew Tony- Oppose



Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- I strongly oppose like my neighbors in Alakanuk

Proposal 153- "Tanana River Area" 5 AAC 74.010. Season, bag, possession, and size limits, and methods and means for the Tanana River Area.

Andreafski- Oppose 153/154 Abstain Alakanuk- Abstain 153/154 Support

Andrew Tony- this sport fishing, does it obtain to any king salmon or any sport salmon?

Eric- This attempts to repeal to closing, department supports because there is no salmon in that lake

Motion- Hooper Bay

2<sup>nd</sup>- Nunam Iqua

Roll Call for Support ()

Alakanuk- Raymond Oney- Abstain 153/154 Support

Andreafski- William Bill Alstrom- Oppose 153/154 Abstain

Kotlik- Al Uno- Oppose 153/154 Abstain

Pilot Station- Evan Poulty- Oppose 153/154 Abstain

Hooper bay- Eric Olsen- Abstain 153/154 Support

Marshall- Andrew Tony- Oppose 153/154 Abstain

Nunam Iqua- Edward Adam, Sr- 153/154 Abstain

Proposal 153 (3-Abstains 4-Opposes) Fails

Proposal 154 (5-Absain 2-Support 1- Oppose) Abstain

Adjourn 3:17PM



#### NORTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### Unit 23 Game Season update Board of Fish Proposals Buckland, Alaska AGENDA December 10th, 2012

#### 12:00 pm

- I. Call to Order, Chair Ron Moto 12:30 pm
  - A. Roll Call / Establish Quorum
- II. Introductions
- III. Attendance

#### AC Members

- A. Marlene Moto-Karl
- B. Taylor Moto Jr.
- C. Nathan Hadley
- D. Ron Moto Sr.-telephonic
- E. Clyde Raymoth-telephonic
- F. Mona Washington
- G. George Sheldon-telephonic Percy Ballot Sr.-Absent

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IV.

- **Fish and Game** A. Charlotte Westing
- B. Jim Dau
- C. Carmen Daggett

#### VI.

- General Public A. Jimmy Geary Sr.
- B. Ernest Thrsuer

#### VII. Approval of Agenda

- A. Motion Approve the Agenda-Clyde Ramoth
- B. Marlene Moto-Karl-Seconded

#### Support-All

#### Oppose

#### VIII. Elections/Endorsement review of new AC members

#### Buckland AC Member Elections Held prior to the AC Meeting

Nathan Hadley Sr. Percy Ballot Sr. Mona Washington Delbert Thomas –Alternate

#### Carmen Daggett: I will talk to the IRA council and City about Elections need to be held in Deering.

#### IX. Approval of past Meeting Minutes

A. Carmen Daggett-Read past meeting proposals and decisions see the packet materials for specific minutes. Clyde Motion to approve meeting minutes Marlene Moto-Karl seconded

All Support

Minutes Passed

#### X. AC member questionnaire

- XI. Carmen Daggett: Explains AC questionnaire
- XII. Reports
  - A. Game

#### i. Charlotte

Explains Musk Ox Hunts-if people are interested in hunting musk ox for next fall, we have the materials here otherwise they can get it at the IRA with Mona Washington. Must apply online for next fall



Tier II-only a few people get permits

**Charlotte Westing**: Explains that there are not as many calves during spring, and the bull:cow ratios aren't as good.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about musk ox drowning may have led to their decline

**Charlotte Westing**-If you are interested in hunting musk ox you need to make sure to include all of the information about yourself and others in your household who have used musk ox. You can claim 13 years for musk ox. Our 800 number is: 1-800-478-3420

Marlene Moto-Inquires how many musk ox permits are available for next fall

#### Charlotte Westing: there are four

**Charlotte Westing:** We did our moose surveys last fall and spring in the Lower Kobuk there were not that many calves this year our bull cow ratios are healthy 50 bulls per 100 cows, there were 10 calves per hundred cows. With our most recent surveys we did not see as many moose as we thought we should have. We asked the Noatak-Kivalina about what they were seeing on the river.

-explains surveys in this region, it is a little confusing there are about 800 moose in the south western portion of Unit 23, explains what is excluded. 53 bulls per hundred cows. The population on the NSP there were not many calves 4-8 per 100 adults. It is the lowest calf ratio. The general thought there should be 15 calves per 100 to have replacement for the animals that are dying. This may mean that there is a decline. Inquiries to the AC members about the calf population and moose population.

Nathan Hadley- there were 14 wolves up by my camp, we saw a moose swimming out in the bay. The moose was bothering the moose. We have some lower 48 hunters that are going for heads and antlers. We saw some moose without heads, but there are bodies.

**Charlotte Westing:** there hasn't been a legal hunt for non-residents in this area since 2005, if there is someone hunting there and they are not residents of Alaska that would be illegal and should be reported to the trooper. Explains that removing the heads is illegal and if activity is seen like this that it should be reported to the troopers.

Nathan Hadley: there were lots of bears and that he is not seeing as many moose as he used to see.

**Marlene Moto-Karl:** this last winter there was something on TV for ERA Alaska, that are bringing people to the Seward Peninsula and they may have been in this area in a super cub.

**Charlotte Westing**: Explains that other Alaska residents can hunt moose, you can use a registration use permit or only federally recognized subsistence users can hunt on federal land. There is not a non-resident moose season, and if there is not full salvage of meat it is illegal.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about banning super cubs from coming into this area.

**Charlotte Westing:** We cannot ban planes from flying in the sky. Explains a possible controlled use area. Explains closing seasons. That is why we don't have a non-resident season. Explains the state constitution requirements, explains that All state residents are the same. If the calves aren't surviving so it is not hunter pressure, hunters are not taking calves. Fish and Game can close the seasons, but cannot do it for all Alaskans.

**Marlene Moto-Karl**: Says that maybe the problem is that the parents are getting killed and that is causing calf mortality. I like to eat the cows.

**Charlotte Westing:** Explains that predator, weather, etc. may be responsible for declines in calf mortality. -Explains the harvests from the Seward Peninsula-7 moose harvested last year -Most years there were not moose taken from the Kauk River Drainage. -Explains the information that she has and what is good to know.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Explains the bad vegetation in this area there was a cold winter and not much berries.



**Charlotte Westing:** I would like to look at the habitat and do a survey about the number of twins and indicator of habitat and if there are calves in the fall versus not. If there are not many calves in the fall then something is eating them.

Are there any more questions about moose, on the phone?

**Clyde Ramoth**: The moose population in Selawik are pretty healthy. The Unit 23 conflict-user group is a good place to take the transporter concerns. They listen to your concerns and take them into consideration. Explains the number of moose in Selawik are good.

**Charlotte Westing**: Explains that the number of moose in surveys and is glad they agree with what people are saying.

#### B. Jim Dau

#### Caribou Reports General Population Overview

First Census was in 1970 in 1976 the herd had declined to 75,000 from 1976 to 1990 grew at 13% a year after 1990 is grew to 2003 it grew to 425,000. Since then 2003 the decline occurring about 3-4% each year. When we saw the decline the calf decline as well as cow mortality decline.

If we keep seeing decline in both the calves and the cow decline, we are going to see a major decline in the calves and the cows. Next survey will be in 2013.

Mona Washington: Inquires about what is causing the decline and what needs to be done.

**Jim Dau:** Explains that in 2000/2005 where we get rain in the winter. We have always gotten midwinter thaws and we get rain that freezes causing ice layers. I broke a grain shovel trying to get to the collar that is how hard the ice was. The mid-winter rains have had a big impact. We have had over 400,000 caribou. The BLM has done research on range concerning lichens there have been declining with a corresponding increase in grasses and shrubs.

Everyone is talking about lots and lots of wolves and more and more bears. I don't think that wolves and bears started the decline, but they may be effecting numbers and possibly causing the decline.

Instead of trying to make you farmers we need to make you into trappers and snarers. People can get out and try and get some wolves. If you possibly can don't wait for the agencies to tell you what to do. If you can lay off the cows and only take bulls do that, if you can take 20 caribou instead of 30 do it and get your younger guys out hunting and trapping.

Marlene Moto-Karl: How many reindeer are out there now and how many reindeer herders are there now.

**Jim Dau:** Inquires about number of caribou to Nathan suggests about 2000 caribou. Reviews the numbers of caribou kept by people. I don't know of any new owners. Tom Gray might start managing the Teller herd.

**Marlene Moto-Karl:** Explains reindeer out on the Islands, but they increased and then crashed. Most of the island herds have not been very economically viable. The strong hold is on the Seward Peninsula.

**Jim Dau:** there has basically a flat line for the number of calves. We look at calves every June, we count numbers of bulls how and calves. The calf ratio has been declining. The calf ratio has been declining in the fall. It looks to me that calf survival is going down during the summer. It could be a couple of things, people say that global warming is having effects causing more warble flies, calves running around and not eating. It seems like the deaths are happening during the summer and not during the winter.

Explains Bull:Cow Ratios in the 1970s the ratio was 50 to 55 cows, the bull cow ratio is slowly going down. When the bull cow ratios go down, it is an indication of what the herd is doing. Some cows live as long as



AYK AC 13 3 of 9 twice as long as bulls. We want to maintain at least 40 bulls per 100 cows. This is just another indication that the populations are going down. We may not have any choice that you might only be able to shoot bulls.

Explains the proportion of skinny caribou through time. There are fewer and fewer skinny caribou. I don't think that the decline is because they are starving to death.

Subsistence take 14-16,000 caribou per year and sport hunters only kill 800 caribou. I don't think that the harvests are causing the decline. We still have over 300,000 caribou.

**Mona Washington:** We should start now with doing something about caribou, people are allowed to self-regulate.

Jim Dau: Explains that self-regulation and staying ahead of the agencies is a good idea.

**Nathan Hadley**: in the 50s and 60s were due to wolves and the native people got blame. There should be a bounty on wolves again to encourage people to go out and hunt them.

**Jim Dau:** I don't think that is going to work politically even from the state. I just don't think it is going to happen Nathan.

Nathan Hadley: There are hardly any jobs.

**Jim Dau:** in many ways it would be cheaper for the state to pay people to hunt wolves instead of getting helicopters and sending people to come in and hunt and kill wolves. I am not arguing that at all. In reality the politics are going to stop things.

**Marlene Moto-Karl:** A lot of young hunters are not being taught properly about hunting caribou and when my brother goes out he finds caribou with lots of small bullets in them. We need to teach our children about hunting appropriately.

**Jim Dau:** I have seen the same thing in Kotzebue there are small caliber hunters with lots of CCs and they don't always kill what they hit and we need people to train young hunters to be successful hunters.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Echoes what Clyde Ramoth said about letting the leaders go first.

Nathan Hadley: The old skin sewers are passing on and they are not demanding wolf hides, like they used to.

**Clyde Ramoth:** I know you guys do a lot of great studies on caribou. Have there been a lot of studies about range health? Is this affecting the ability to feed?

**Jim Dau**: Explains the Bureau Land Management, as long as there is not icing they are coming off the North Slope nice and fat during the summer. In four or five years we should have more information about winter and summer range from the Bureau. Weather affects caribou and caribou affect caribou. Caribou tend to go where they have been in the past because of the established trails.

Clyde Ramoth: I think that education is important, for having good hunting techniques.

Jim Dau: It seems like we to link numbers with actions.

**Clyde Ramoth:** I think it would be good to put articles in the Arctic Sounder about wolf, caribou, and moose hunting good practices.

Jim Dau: Explains die offs during Cape Thompson and Cape Lisborne. During these die offs we got veterinarians to come up and do necropsies on the caribou. Last year there was a die off around Cape Lisborne and I got the use of the Red Dog helicopter for a day to go up and look at the remain



were intact the necks and throat were intact. I was talking to Ted Frankson and last November there was a couple days of light rain that may have caused the animals to stave.

**Jim Dau:** Explains photo graphs of dead caribou from the die off. Explains that images show signs of savaging, but not being killed by bears or wolves. Gives a summary of vegetation research on the caribou range. There are short term effects of rain on snow events. I have heard lots of comments about brown bears and wolves that could be affecting the herd. The decline in the number of bulls is leading to the decline as well.

**Marlene Moto-Karl:** Inquires about in the 1990s where caribou ran off the Sullivan bluffs. I was wondering if there was anything documented on that. Inquires about stacks of caribou and being stacked by bears?

**Jim Dau**: Explains in the 1990s the caribou traveled from Sullivan to Cape Blossom and it took them 24 hours. For two years about 40,000-50,000 caribou and they were moving fast. We went out on the ice we did not see any dead caribou out on the ice. We were surprised how fast the caribou were moving straight across the ice.

**Marlene Moto-Karl:** There is a lot of mining and there are old practices. There have been problems with hydroelectric plants and how that affects the reindeer.

Jim Dau: When I go to meetings in Canada, the discussions are about roads and mines not about planes and transporters.

Nathan Hadley: Inquires about killing problem bears.

Jim Dau: Explains defense of life and property and the necessity of turning in the head and hide.

Nathan Hadley: Explains if they want the head and the hide they can come and get it.

#### Red Dog Road-Caribou Report

#### Jim Dau:

Inquires if people want to hear about the movements around the Red Dog Road.

-this isn't just about Red Dog, I was at a meeting in Ambler about the mining district.

-when they asked me to look at the maps around the Red Dog Road.

-If you guys on the phone want to take a break and hit the can.

-If you look at the Red Dog Road and see all of the dots above and below the road. You can see all of the dots above the road and not many dots below the road.

-Explains how caribou get funneled into the roads.

-I thought for many years I thought they got funneled, but crossed the road. I looked at the caribou

movement around the Red Dog Road. The caribou do several options, they change speed, direction of travel, or cross the road. I mapped the change in the speed, direction of movement.

-Shows several examples of the movement of caribou around the Red Dog Road.

-Some of these caribou don't have to go to the road to have an effect. Caribou affect caribou because they follow each other. If there are a bunch of caribou moving the opposite direction the other ones can turn around.

-the average delay was 41 days

-the least amount delay was 16 days

-the most was almost 3 months or 80 days.

-after they changed speed/direction 7 mi/day

-they doubled their speed after they crossed the road

-I wanted to know if the whole herd changed direction or if it was just a few.

-the movement of the caribou varied around the Red Dog Road.

-in 2011 was not totally unique with caribou migration patterns.



-Explains the summer migration patterns of the caribou around the Red Dog Road

-Summarizes the number of caribou that didn't make it across the road last year %100 died because of the rain on snow event.

-One thing that Red Dog does really well, the drivers don't have to be told to stop the driver's voluntarily stop.

-One thing that we could try is for two weeks say no trucks. We should inquire about if we can move the trucks all on one day. It seems like 40 small trucks round trip a day that are moving up and down the road. -Red Dog was a keeping a log of the number of 4-wheelers down the beach and go up the road, about 4-5 4-wheelers a day max during the two weeks before the ocean freezes up and they can't use their snow machines to get around.

-In summer 2011 none of the caribou crossed the road and 2012, ¾ caribou crossed in during the summer. -Shows a picture of the conveyor and the caribou, the caribou aren't worried but they are feeding but not crossing the conveyor.

-This is not about the Red Dog Road, it has had minimal impacts on movement patterns. The new road is supposed to go to Council from Ambler. The thing about that proposed road is an East-West Road they are going to have to cross it North. The Red Dog Road is an industrial road. If the road is built with public money the general public can use the road. The Red Dog Road is the best situation you could want. If you have a public road you are going to have hunters from Fairbanks and also hunters from the villages. It is going to be a busier road.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about making pass ways for caribou migrations to move over the road.

**Jim Dau**: all of the engineers on the pipeline say that they can only bury short sections of the pipeline. It has to be accessible for maintenance. When you get back the caribou do see it as a good place to cross the pipeline. When I was up there the over passes didn't really work. Inquires if Clyde, George or Ron on the phone..

(Phone participants dropped Carmen Daggett: worked to get participants on the phone)

#### XIII. Proposals

#### **BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS**

A. **Proposal #42 Antlerless moose hunt reauthorization**-Charlotte Westing presents the proposal and explains the antlerless moose hunt and the Kotzebue Department of Fish and Game's support for the Antlerless Moose Hunt to give you the most options for a valuable subsistence resource.

Marlene Moto Motions to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt

Seconded:

Support-All support

**Oppose-none opposed** 

Discussion-Explains the current concerns about moose population, Charlotte still recommends that antlerless moose reauthorization, it gives the most option.

Marlene Moto: Inquires about reducing sport hunting.

Charlotte Westing: The non-resident sport hunt is only for antiered bulls.

#### B. Proposal #44 Bear tagging fee reauthorization

Motion to support the brown bear tagging exemption fee

- **Marlene Moto-Karl Seconded**
- Support-All supposed

Oppose

Discussion:

Marlene Moto: inquires about subsistence hunt for brown bears

Charlotte Westing: Explains subsistence hunt, you don't need to send in the hide or the skull you just have to salvage the meat.

Ron Moto: I like that idea it is good the way it is.

Marlene Karl-Moto: Inquires about the non-resident hunters to have a fee, but subsistence hunters would not have to pay the fee.

6 of 9

#### **ARCTIC YUKON KUSKOWIM FINFISH**

Carmen Daggett: Reads proposals from proposal books to the Advisory Committee

- A. AYK Resident Species
  - a. Sport-Allowing the use of large treble hooks for catching non-salmon fish.

92 pg 94 Motion to support the proposal Seconded-Mona Washington Discussion: no comments Support: All Support Oppose

Proposal # 95 pg 96 Prohibition of addition of bait addition to the water "Chumming". Discussion: Ron Moto: I think that we should leave this as is. Carmen Daggett: Clarifies the proposal. Support: All support Oppose: None

#### AK PENINSULA/ALUEUTIAN ISLANDS FINFISH Carmen Daggett: Reads appropriate proposals.

## A. South Alaska Peninsula Salmon June Management Plan 179 pg 184-Reinstate the Chum Cap and Change commercial fishing times Discussion: We use Chum Salmon a lot.

There are a lot of people in Nome that have experienced salmon closures, then people in Bethel are not getting their King Salmon, they have bigger boats because there is more open water. Kuskokwim fisherman have smaller boats.

Marlene Moto-Karl: Inquires about fish that they might need and us limiting the amount of fish that they get. Charlotte Westing: They are not as fishing for Chum salmon as much down there as they are for other species that may be more valuable.

Mona Motion to support the proposal Marlene Moto-Karl- Seconded Support- All support Oppose

180 pg 185-Shaumagin Island June Management Plan Incorporate a Chum Cap of 350,000
Carmen Daggett: reads the proposal, clarifies the difference between this proposal versus 179.
Marlene Moto-Karl: Motion to support
Mona Washington: Seconded
Support: All support
Oppose-none
Discussion: we are not the only ones competing for these fish beluga etc. I attended several of the elder meetings and that the people were raping the sea before the fish get here.

183 pg 187 South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan; Northern District Salmon Fisheries Management Plan Discussion:



Marlene Moto-Karl: Motion to Support Mona Washington: Seconds Mona Washington: Motion to table the issues and do teleconference Seconded: George Sheldon

This proposal was not voted upon because we lost quorum Support-Oppose

#### STATEWIDE FINFISH AND SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUES (TABLED TILL THE NEXT MEETING TELECONFERENCE)

A. Statewide Allocation, Management Plans and Policies 215 pg 215
Discussion
Support
Oppose
217 pg 217
Discussion
Support
Oppose
218 pg 219
Discussion
Support
Support

#### Oppose

- B. Commercial
  - a. General Provisions 225 pg 224 Discussion Support Oppose
- C. Sport

227 pg 227 Discussion Support Oppose 228 pg 228 Discussion Support Oppose 229 pg 229 Discussion Support **Oppose** 230 pg 229 Discussion Support **Oppose** 232 pg 231 Discussion Support **Oppose** 233 pg 232 Discussion Support **Oppose** 234 pg 232



Discussion Support Oppose 235 pg 233 Discussion Support Oppose

#### JOINT BOARD PROPOSALS

- A. Moving Selawik from NSP to Lower Kobuk AC
  - Discussion Support
  - Oppose
- B. Modification to Robert's Rules of Order
   Discussion
   Support
  - Oppose

#### OTHER

### NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Telephonic prior to March to Discuss Statewide Finfish proposals



<u>Tanana – Rampart – Manley Advisory Committee</u> <u>SUMMARY of T-R-M AC actions on Proposals submitted to the Board of Fisheries for the</u> <u>January 2013 meeting</u>

The Tanana – Rampart – Advisory Committee met on Dec 3, 2012 to consider the proposals listed below.

The members of the TRM Advisory Committee believe that the Yukon River Chinook Salmon run is in serious trouble, and have watched from our vantage point on the upper Yukon as Chinook numbers and size both decline to the point where drastic action is needed.

The members of the TRM (and some fisheries biologists of substance) also <u>do not</u> agree that this is mostly an "Ocean" problem, but believe that in-river fishermen and managers bear a large responsibility for overfishing the Chinook run and for over-selecting for large females over the past 30 years, and that we all jointly bear responsibility for fixing it.

<u>The attached paper by Dave Daum (a USFWS fish biologist, recently retired) has been</u> formally endorsed by a unanimous vote of the TRM AC, and we wish hereby to enter it into the public record as reflecting our view of the dire situation that the Yukon River run is in, the inappropriateness of proposed "catch-and-release" methods for Chinook bycatch, and blueprints for recovery.

## The TRM AC also voted unanimously to pass TRM AC Resolution 2013-01, as follows:

"The Yukon River Chinook Salmon subsistence and commercial fisheries shall be entirely closed to fishing for the 2013, 2014, and 2015 seasons to allow the Chinook run a chance to recover, after which time fisherman's groups, Advisory Committees, ADF&G, and other interested parties shall meet to revisit what success has been achieved in terms of rebuilding the run, and what steps should be taken next to bring the Chinook fishery back to health and sustained yield.

The Chinook run shall be shut down just prior to the first major pulse of each of those years, and opened just after the last major pulse. During the closures, 4 inch mesh or less may be used for subsistence seven days a week, no fishwheels may be run, and no fishery will be allowed to occur in-river, commercial, subsistence or otherwise, that has the potential for allowing any substantial bycatch of Chinook.

The TRM AC realizes acutely the hardship that this closure will bring to themselves and their fellow fishermen on the Yukon River, but considers the alternative-- which is to run the Chinook fishery past the point of any recovery by our inaction—to be unacceptable."



What follows are the TRM Advisory Committee's responses to certain specific proposals:

Proposal 130 - proposed by ADF&G

## Revise ANS (Amounts Necessary for Subsistence) (downward)

ADF&G has a series of ranges of numbers of fish that have been the highs and low catches for 1990 – 1999, that provides the board with an "unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of Yukon River Salmon populations and stocks". The Department wants to lower that number to reflect the average subsistence takes for the last 10 years, which has shrunk.

In the upper river, restricted fishing times (certainly justified in light of the problems with the Chinook run on the Yukon) have reduced fishing effort so much that an estimate of the true subsistence needs is impossible. Just the term **ANS** (*Amounts Necessary for Subsistence*) is vague. What does necessary for subsistence mean? It should be the amount necessary to meet <u>all</u> customary subsistence needs. The "customary" has been lost by regulation and restrictions. Less and less people are fishing because of the Chinook run failure and the few people who do fish very rarely meet their needs 100% of the time.

To take a survey of these few people who now fish and call that the ANS for all future subsistence allocations is to deal a stacked deck that will destroy subsistence. It is unfair, inaccurate, and biased low. So, the question is: can a realistic estimate of the true subsistence need be made? The answer is NO. So if an accurate number cannot be made, don't do it. Subsistence needs data that is a lot closer to reality is gathered informally every week in-season at the weekly YRDFA teleconferences. Our experience has been that metrics like this are frequently revised downward, almost never upward, and that this has the potential to inadvertently allocate fish away from subsistence users to the benefit of the commercial interests. The AC also sees it as a blunt tool of uncertain utility, and <u>opposes</u> proposal 130 unanimously.

Proposal 131 – by Stakeholder group, YRDFA

## Put pulse protection formally into ADF&G's king salmon management plan.

If Pulse protection was faithfully adhered to, the TRM AC feels it could be helpful in rebuilding Yukon River Chinook stocks. In practice however, it is too easy to succumb to political pressure inseason: later pulses inevitably don't get properly protected because of pressures from commercial interests; because of this, it has lost its usefulness as a conservation tool.

# The TRM AC unanimously <u>opposes</u> this and recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (TRM AC Resolution 2012-01)



Proposal 132 - Fairbanks Advisory Committee

## No sale of kings caught incidentally during the lower river summer chum fishery.

The lower river fishermen catch kings (as bycatch) during the summer chum commercial fishery, and although there is a volunteer effort for Kwikpak fisheries to not buy these bycatch kings when the king commercial season is closed, it hasn't shut that door by any force of law. This proposal would give it force of regulation.

## The TRM AC unanimously supports this proposal.

## Proposal 133 – Gene Sandone

# Give lower river fishermen the ability to have openings with smaller mesh (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " or smaller mesh ) nets for summer chum while the kings are running.

Mr. Sandone's proposal is saying that by using the smaller mesh in districts1,2, and 3, not very many kings will be caught as bycatch. This as a doubtful proposition, and unacceptable at this point in time, because at the moment, every king on the spawning ground counts.

He justifies this bycatch by saying it will only be small kings, and that they can be shipped to the upriver communities for their subsistence use. The TRM AC finds it to be insulting and counter to our interests to accept this kind of charity. TRM AC at this point opposes any fishery that will result in significant bycatch of Chinooks.

The TRM AC unanimously opposes 133 and recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (TRM AC Resolution 2012-01).

Proposals 134 and 135 – Authored by Alstrom and Sandone (districts 1, 2, and 3)

## Mandate a directed summer chum season in 1, 2, and 3 no later than July 1

The TRM AC opposes these propositions because there may be significant Chinook pulses still in those districts which may result in unacceptable bycatch of Chinook, and recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, <u>(TRM AC Resolution 2012-01).</u>

Proposal 136 - Authored by Ruby advisory committee

Cap bycatch of king salmon caught in the District 1 and 2 commercial summer chum fishery at 2000 fish.

This is a reasonable concept, but the TRM AC recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (<u>TRM AC Resolution 2012-01).</u>



## Proposal 137, 138 – Authored by Gene Sandone

In essence, lower BEG's (biological escapement goals) for summer and fall chum.

The TRM AC takes the view that the arbitrary lowering of BEG's to make things more politically convenient in the past is one of the management mistakes that led to of the decline of the Yukon River Chinook Salmon. The TRM Advisory Council strongly disagrees with the view expressed in these proposals that there have been run failures due to "over-escapement"—too many fish on the spawning grounds. This hypothesis has NO BASIS IN SCIENTIFIC FACT—except for possibly red salmon which are reared in lakes with limited nutrients. (No Red Salmon in any significant numbers on the Yukon River). TRM AC unanimously <u>opposes</u> 137 and 138.

Proposal 139 – Authored by ADF&G; Proposal 141 - Authored by the Eastern Federal RAC

# Provides more flexibility for ADF&G to manage the subsistence and commercial fisheries in Districts 1, 2, and 3.

ADF&G has worked cooperatively in our districts (5A, 5B) to avoid having commercial openings run in a way that restricts or interferes with the subsistence fishery (as used to happen). The same courtesy should be extended to lower river subsistence fishermen. **TRM AC unanimously supports Proposals 139 and 141.** 

Proposal 140 – Authored by Fairbanks advisory committee

## A recommendation for pulse protection.

The TRM AC unanimously <u>opposes</u> 140, and recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (<u>TRM AC Resolution 2012-01</u>)

Proposal 142 - Authored by Yukon Flats Advisory committee

No closures on subsistence King salmon fishing July 4 – 18.

TRM AC unanimously opposes 142

Proposal 143 - Authored by Gene Sandone



Do away with fall chum and Coho subsistence windows in 1, 2, and 3 in times of shortage, because "harvest is already small", so the windows are therefore not needed.

TRM AC believes that equal protection should be extended to all the districts with all districts sharing equally in the "pain" of closures, even if the harvest is smaller. TRM AC <u>opposes</u> 143.

Proposal 146 – Authored by Fairbanks AC

Limits mesh size to 6" river-wide.

The TRM AC submitted this proposal in 2010 and continues to <u>support</u> this proposal, but recommends at this time adopting the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (<u>TRM AC</u> <u>Resolution 2012-01</u>), as the situation is now more dire.

Proposal 147 - Ruby advisory committee Proposal 148 - Middle Yukon advisory committee

Extends boundaries for drift net fishing area for kings in 4-B and 4-C, from out of federal waters into state waters.

Residents of Ruby, Galena, and Koyukuk, and Nulato travel to one area near Koyukuk to drift because it is in federal waters. They now want to do this near their home villages rather than having to travel so far to fish.

The TRM AC supports the concept that drift-netting for subsistence should be extended to all areas of the Yukon River as a fairness issue, but where the Chinook fishery is concerned, recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (TRM AC Resolution 2012-01)

Proposal 149 - Fairbanks AC; Proposal 150 - stakeholder group, YRDFA

Create strict harvest reporting requirements for subsistence caught salmon, including marking the household that it will be given away to, on a calendar available for inspection by law enforcement, etc. Targets customary trade and in particular trade in smoked strips in excess of what is used by the household of the fisherman, which the proposal calls "commercialization".

This proposal is in direct opposition to the concept of "Customary Trade" as outlined and protected in Federal Law.

One of the classic events that happens during stressful conditions of shortage is that the users begin to act irrationally and seek to find something to blame, or a user to exclude, both to improve the situation for themselves, or simply to get the sense that they are "doing something". We witnessed this happening during the fall chum shortage a decade ago, where proposals emerged that called for



the definition of what size a subsistence chum-fed dog team should be. It seems laughable now, but fortunately wiser heads prevailed, and the sensible and enforceable course of simply regulating fishing time continued until the fall chum run returned in strength. It worked.

The view of the TRM AC is that the current targeting and marginalizing (and by implication, criminalizing) legitimate customary trade is a similar kind of "shortage hysteria" that is happening now, and also ineffective both in terms of putting real numbers of fish on the spawning ground, or being enforceable. It also plays into the hands of commercial interests who might be eager to "adopt" any "extra" fish freed up by the elimination of customary trade. One can certainly argue that the practice of customary trade between subsistence families is as ethical and beneficial to all the local residents of a Yukon River community in terms of diet, economy, "green-ness", and health of the community as compared to the practice of large commercial interests shipping Yukon River fish to the lower 48 states and Asia. And, from an historical point of view, customary trade and barter among local subsistence users

preceded Limited Entry, which Federal law appropriately recognizes.

The TRM AC supports the voluntary collection of subsistence data, and feels that it has been an accurate picture of fishing in our district, but there have been breaches in confidentiality in the ADF&G subsistence division that showed up in a very obvious way in 2010 when specific catch numbers of several upper river fishermen were used by a third party to make a political point in the lobby at a BOF meeting. ADF&G was contacted about this breach, but declined to make any substantive changes to protect confidentiality, and implied that lack of cooperation would lead to punishment: the implementation of a Tier II management system. As a result, trust among subsistence fishermen about the ADF&G maintaining confidentiality has suffered, but this trust is recoverable if ADF&G would make an effort to address it.

For these reasons, TRM AC opposes proposals 149 and 150.

Proposal 151 – Gene Sandone

"...the primary subsistence use of king salmon is for the direct personal or family consumption as food; all other subsistence uses..." (ie, customary trade) "...are secondary with no prioritization."

Again, this proposal targets customary trade. This proposal also sows confusion, brings dog food and other non-issues into the proposal.

The TRM AC categorically opposes the feeding of Chinook Salmon to dogs, which is against the law and unethical.

The TRM AC maintains that customary trade is a legitimate activity and opposes Proposal 151 and any other attempts to criminalize or marginalize Customary Trade.

The TRM AC recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium, (<u>TRM AC</u> <u>Resolution 2012-01</u>

Supplementary Proposal ACR 3 (Author Gene Sandone), morphing into Board Proposal 240, 241 Board Proposal 241



# Establish an open-ended dip net and beach seine summer chum fishery on the premise that the king bycatch can safely be released.

This proposal should give Yukon River salmon biologists unease, knowing what they do about how handling of fall chum salmon causes mortality. USFWS researchers were the authors of the study using the Rapids test wheel in District 5. The fragility of salmon was the big discovery of the decade, ground–breaking science. They do not handle crowding, banging into hard surfaces and time out of the water well. How can fishermen who are trying to catch summer chums be legislated (and enforced) to release kings safely? And, who is going to monitor that? Proposal 241 was added in as well for district 6, featuring a proposed "closely attended live release of kings"-- after a trip through what kind of unpadded baskets, abrasive wire netting, and big thumps against a hard unpadded chute?

The intention is good, but **the TRM AC maintains that this kind of experimentation is inappropriate at a time where every Chinook delivered safely to the spawning ground counts, and the TRM AC recommends instead the three year Chinook fishing moratorium,** (TRM AC Resolution 2012-01.



## <u>Comments on BOF Proposals 240 and 241, AYK Finfish, 2012-2013</u> by Dave Daum

**Background:** Yukon River Chinook Salmon (YRCS) are in trouble. For 15 years the YRCS stock has been depressed. The total run sizes entering the river in recent years are equal to or smaller than the historic annual harvest for most years before 1998. There is wide recognition among Yukon River managers and scientists that the size and age of YRCS have declined. The reduction in size and age, and a decline in female spawning percentages have caused a severe erosion of spawning quality. Less and less eggs are making it to the spawning grounds. The continuing decline in fish size is an indication of genetic change (as noted by Ricker 1972, 1980, 1981; and many others) from years of unrestricted large-mesh gill net fisheries coupled with other factors, such as, high mortality rates among *Ichthyophonus*-infected old aged females (Kocan et al. 2004; Zuray et al. 2012). The historic fishery, targeting the largest fish, has virtually eliminated the larger size classes from the present stock. The effects of selective harvest by freshwater Chinook salmon fisheries have been noted for over 100 years (Rutter 1904). This genetic damage can only be reversed by allowing the stock to recover without fishing pressure applied to it. As Conover et al. (2009) pointed out; this can take many generations to reverse.

Without an acceptance of this dire situation, the needed efforts to rebuild the genetic integrity of YRCS will not come to fruition. Every female Chinook salmon entering the Yukon River needs to be protected and allowed to spawn. The in-river bycatch of YRCS from other salmon-directed fisheries needs to stop. We are at a crossroads. Either we recognize the conservation restrictions needed to rebuild YRCS to their former health or we continue down our present path of allowing in-river mortality to suppress any stock recovery efforts. It is not an easy choice and in the history of collapsed fisheries, it has never been. But history has also shown us that collapsed fisheries can rebound. It takes time and recognition of the problem. Unlike other Chinook salmon fisheries in Alaska, the genetic size and age structure of YRCS have drastically changed. Blaming ocean conditions on this fact, as many have recently done, reduces our chances of successfully addressing these chronic structural problems with this stock. Everyone will have to make sacrifices, but the time is now. This can has been kicked down the road for way too long.

For the last couple years, Federal and State Managers have severely restricted the in-river harvest of YRCS. But other Yukon River salmon fisheries have been allowed to continue, with YRCS bycatch allowed to occur. For example, the 2012 commercial summer chum salmon fishery reported a bycatch of over 5,000 YRCS. The bycatch from subsistence salmon fishing is unknown, but reports from some drift net fishermen indicated substantial catches of large-size YRCS during restricted small-mesh openings (2012 YRDFA teleconferences). Commercial fish wheel operators (Y4-A and Y6) have been allowed to fish for chum salmon and return captured YRCS back to the river, without any understanding of the mortality associated with these releases. Now more proposals are in front of the BOF (#240 and #241) to allow more bycatch of YRCS to occur without understanding the mortality associated with these additional methods. If we are serious about trying to recover the YRCS run to its former abundance and age structure, these fisheries should not be allowed to become established without first understanding what effect they will have on mortality. Fishing



methods need to be scientifically proven to have little effect on YRCS mortality before they are allowed to continue. The challenge for fish managers is figuring out methods that allow the harvest of summer chum salmon during times of abundance while not impacting YRCS. Fisheries that release non-targeted Chinook salmon back into the river are no guarantee of spawning success. These fish are in serious trouble, and only by first recognizing that fact will YRCS have a chance of returning to their former abundance and health.

**Proposal 240:** This proposal, if accepted, would allow the use of dip nets and beach seines throughout Y1-3 to commercially harvest chum salmon during the summer season. All Chinook salmon would be released back into the river. There is no mention of the description of specific gear allowed, size and length of nets, net mesh size, net material, weighted nets, shore-based or in-river capture, release methods, etc. All these specifics can have severe impacts on the survivorship of released Chinook salmon. Without studies to address these potential sources of mortality, both immediate and delayed, we may be doing more harm than good in efforts to recovery the YRCS stock. The driving force here appears to be increasing the harvest of summer chum salmon for commercial purposes. But what is the cost to captured Chinook salmon? No one knows. More and more proposals are being presented to the BOF for consideration concerning new commercial capture methods for chum salmon. We need to step back and come up with a detailed, scientificallydefendable plan before more and more of these untested (unknown Chinook mortality) methods become written into regulation. We easily could be further eroding the chances of future recovery of the YRCS stock by legitimizing these unproven methods. Given all the unknowns concerning direct and delayed mortality of released Chinook salmon, and the future studies needed to try and address these concerns, I offer a suggestion: find places in the river where Chinook salmon do not migrate and then focus efforts to increase summer chum harvest (during times of abundance) in these specific areas. If a fishery has any bycatch of Chinook salmon, the fishery would be immediately stopped. This would require an extensive monitoring program which should be paid for by the commercial fishing industry. The recovery of the YRCS stock should be the utmost priority in decisions that come in front of the Board. The litmus test should be: if a commercial fishing method kills or potentially kills YRCS, then it should not be authorized.

**Proposal 241:** This proposal, if accepted, would allow the use of fish wheels in Y4-A and Y6 to commercially harvest summer chum salmon while releasing all captured Chinook salmon back into the river. There is no mention of any requirements for construction of "fish-friendly" fish wheels or the method of release, i.e., dip net, bucket, live chute, live box, trash can, etc. Studies have been done on the effects of fish wheel capture on Yukon River salmon (Underwood et al. 2004; Bromaghin et al. 2007). These studies concluded that: 1) there is a negative capture/handling effect from fish wheels; 2) up to a 5-fold decrease in capture probability of tagged salmon at distant upstream recapture locations; 3) fish wheel capture may be more harmful to fish than previously thought; 4) fish wheel construction and operation be done in a manner to minimize potential effects to salmon populations; and 5) develop alternatives to live box capture practices. Results from these studies brought to light the importance of developing "fish-friendly" fish wheel design and



operation. A video system was developed (Daum 2005) and installed on all research fish wheels in the Yukon and Tanana rivers, allowing the immediate release of fish with no handling or holding. Besides the video system, a new fish wheel design was developed to make fish wheels "fish friendly" (Zuray 2011; www.rapidsresearch.com). The importance of "fish-friendly" fish wheel design and operation projects have been recognized and funded by Yukon River R&E Fund, U.S. Yukon River R&M Fund, ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Federal Office of Subsistence Management. The support by these groups leads one to believe the importance resource managers and funding agencies place in proper fish wheel design and operation if captured fish are to be live released back into the river.

During the 2012 season, fish wheels equipped with live chutes were allowed to commercially operate in Y4-A and Y6. Captured Chinook salmon were released with no idea of the degree of postrelease mortality. No requirements were made as to the construction of fish wheels, definition of "live chute", or method of release. In all likelihood, most of these released fish never successfully spawned, especially in distant spawning grounds. To add some irony to the situation, the Yukon River Gold commercial fish wheel in Kaltag was designated a "green fishery" by Seafood International Magazine, while picturing in the magazine the wheel with a dead sheefish hanging from the webbing and a seven foot drop between the end of the chute and the raft logs below. During the 2012 season, fish managers justified the use of fish wheels to live- release Chinook salmon in Y4-A by saying that "even if mortality is high in released fish, very few Chinook salmon are captured in the area"; then proceeded to open up Y6 to live release even though Chinook salmon can be captured in high abundance in the area. We need to stop playing game and take our responsibility to recover the critically depleted Yukon River Chinook salmon stock seriously. If commercial fish wheels are allowed to live-release Chinook salmon, specific design and operation need to be spelled out in regulation. The blue print is available right now for building "fish friendly" wheels. If the expense is considered too great, then what is the price tag of a healthy Yukon River Chinook salmon stock? The commercial fishing industry should take some responsibility and provide funding for the proper construction and operation of "fish-friendly" fish wheels if they are allowed to continue livereleasing Chinook salmon.

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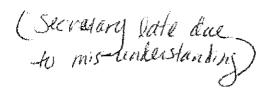
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LP



4:53 A.M.

introductions of board. Suckson Whis Akiak Mike Rilly - Bet-William Brown - EEK Church Chaliayak - NUNAP Dundra Michi - KEUT James Chille - Nunap Herrye Billy - Napat. Ihn Nicholas - KSG Ivillie Phillip - Tuladsole Phillip K. Peter - KKU + various quests from Bothelt rearby Hex Altoha Joseph- Leed paper in "Frequently Nice - In Fed. Disaster Declarations on Dome Vang Chinook Salmon Fisheries. (repr to paper) Vanslatty After Alisha (Alissa?) realing reak a section - alex nick translated into yustur. Ht. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Bethel Agency) ?4 Ans - Jackson Wons-Akiah Summer of "60 us a cold winter just like this past unter - He + his Jather went drifting-nothing, not day they did the same thing @ Akracina fishing areas, still nothing. After that date there

Was " abandant fesh from that day (

1 mm

When he obtained an fishing license he used a 60 mesh het - He drift ijielded no pulling og floaters but ahen he pulled in his met - he had caught some fish but they were all toward the bottom. I the net. He caught about full fish rack & upon guestioning they had set a net that huppened to be where the fish were running. (Right place @ Ke right time). Chuck C - " How about the fisters that trolley (?) drag the bottom of the fish, He's heard that in dragging the bottom maybe they are destroying the food source of the fish. Refer question to Travis Olson-(observors) are works & Dept. & Marine Resources - they no. If fish caushit, type auglet. Ilso, getting genetic information to determine the open they came from. and ?low impact Mitestokers returns, Bot Area Minay have fish bound for this a rea, Western 4K socheye, salmon petruns) Jacken Wars. There are interception problems With returning fish. Why are they not doing anything there but we are be

penalizing for those results locally. marther the studies well be released in succed months (will be intersting !!) In reference to jet boat concerns, there is no information cullaborating this. On the by alch 2081 120,000 chinook, in 2009 limt was reduced to \$5,000 John Midulas -. How How is the At King sulmon returns determined - Thered is a 10-12 gr. apple for where there is high //ow flucuation rehorns. Hule Um. Brown- Eek- th regards to the Japan earthquake, on TV the paw the La I liquids bee going into the acean, Discuentific Atulies he has a concern about this T - Most of the Fish stay in the sering la according to studies, Because the ocean is so huge the radiation is probably delated, disaster Cames - In regards to IN Parnell's declaration of -appetr Aupsistence user but also the commercial fishers CVRF buy the King Date min but the tipper lip-men fish buyer will not buy the ting sklmm. The fish processors with should buy all hypes of fish, like previously the mash size change shower allow he lies AY

late. et asain, Anhis fothers time he spick e one type of net + when the run changed he woned Change to a fideflecent / smaller mesh size in accordance & he arrent type I fish that is ramins, " Durie ppl header to apply for fishing disaster application. but do does not or may be applied to the sulisistèrier user. Sthen Winknew- Should speed up the process. Itm. Brown- if the commercial fish diaster are funded for how far back, etc., ctc. Travis- he does not have the second information. He thinks it is still being processed. Chuck C. His summer's 20D) the subsidie was closed too early, AVCP phoned begin the process of getting diasters relief Unker way Casey - are working on disaster relief -AVCF Atill working on it, Head to put dollar value on subsistance for & that would be of timbert. What is pest - some tore 6" + some for the help - RE With this problem.

Hen Nichtlas - IF the "agencies" would follow own advice + fallow our recommendations the fireres which be or mo, Bfish be deficient today. To those of us tand fishers we know the area and know the runs, hear the his wish is to work tagether. This yr he has no ælter fish & has 5 torsen I king almon in his preezen to get him Anodyk the word wholewater, Travis - He does try his best to write with and consider alker's ladvices. He does have regulations that they have to abide by. It is a difficient position to try and do both -me meet excapement agoals and listen to the local people as well. the file the Jackson Whose what much size is were for -test finheries. 53/8" 45 Leep test fisheres 35 mest deep 50 fatting This yr. They are measuring depth by to determine it that the river changed is Changenz - 4 Phillip- Thenks by recognizing the effers commendes + Concerns, Thank @

143 Storry Bill J @ AVCP office all here - attendees. Storking on a translator - In Fisht, Wildlife - due to time constraints to speed thing up. Mex Nick appointed to do - do as we go - trans latrons. Thank you Mex! Anry Pavilla = for the record Henry Tikiun is atternate for ) Carey - AVEP Carrie Stockdale Alisha desept - housedoppic IK Board IF Fisheries (packet) (at least one genson fm. A Board LK Advisory Committee St. J. AK Dept. Fish/El Should make pelections for of FISN theme an alternative Jackson Wins. Atrak at this time, Una nous mons? consent for. board.



packet Slips For Providing written Documents to the Board of Fisteries James Charles - Proposal 104 the village of Turnt - would like to change the orker of fish - chans 1st + Chinook 21 b) 142 Should be reversed. 1- 39,500 - 75,500 King chams 2-64,500 - 83,000 Kings Mm. Brown # 111 Other Michelas - poopsal from Kasiglack (Will be discussed tomorrow 11/3) Regulation there are propelly propased Forms available in the packet for use as a guideline. Shere is an agenta change form also. EK. Call for Praposals Im. Joint board & Fishe deabline Nov. 30, 2012. L'Herolence pink book- 2012-2013 Subsukinet Personal We Statewike Fisherics Regulations.



Missa Joseph verbal request to do 2012 Awards & Recognition 50 to be done in Saturday, NOV. 3, 2013. Okad by Dime. Charles 234 PM tobe head willage Reports AT man - in reference to size meshes: 41/2" & 6" meshes. Then there was to be a change in mesh size- when it was designated to be a 6" mesh, the late Herman Neck stated that there a 6" mest is not a chinost size net. Kasiglue - John Nicholas - Xk brugat a 8'2" mesto king palmon met the 6" mest net he has not bought because he can't apport to, The elders use to state that in the future there will be less king almon in the fucture & that is true today, when bigger fish ran into a Small het there is fatility for that fish t he has peen fish floating in the river. The 6" wis used It that beemed to eliminate the smaller fish that were destined to grow to be larger fish. He is prared for his younger family family members future. Is there starbation about of them? KWT- Dearron nicolii + John Andrew. Marin had Just a few fish driging on his racks this summer it is pitital - the didn't pone a chance to fish time summer, sup. com

John Andrew l'Hearing there to that not hat e peapement goals were not met.

by-cald,

Because there were closares - some have not been able to provide for other family nonliers as ligtore. Maybe, something for a meal but here + then but not for winter storage. Aher commi fishing was first introduced -the elkers sale we are going toward less fish in the future. He is asking for sparts fishing closure expedially since we are unalle to fish away to the future. Chuck Challak - Nunap

ZG

Church Chalvak - Nurap Due to early fish closures this past summer we were undele to putaway our yearly no. D'fish, expensive to get gas from . tunken villiges to the Kep to twith and back. It was a hardship esp. those that hel no money to bay gas for fishing. In sure it was and is a handship energodere as the delta. The Aeme good lighties by thuce that were unable to go more hunding as well to supplement our food Sources. Also, applies to purchasing Store oil.



Phillip Piter- KKi Akraelink -During the fish alosares we heard that Akiah was going to go fishing & pince some had not met their Evota, they went ahead & fisher there. The þ sudken fishely classices mere a hardship for thim to bothe mentally and physically, no fish for consumption on the be pet andy. "Signed one time he caught a very large king, The hasn't even one since, this late grand mother Use to have him get tings from the month. Kisaralik month to get tings to make into fish strips. He like the windows-he would Fish twice a week + that gave him a chance to provide the his forming + estended ones, she He was cautioned never to touch afish because it would want to its death. Chuck Challak verified the same applies to cautrons he had as a young men in regards, to not touching birds logge because the acult birds would not come back to the



332 back for recess -last mity, sponsored by AKP, during their palmon symposium, The were given options, attended by village reps, to take back to the U MILEges. Decause he did not see results Aide Not respond the cause that people hippened - all we had were complainers instead of being constructive planners. "Window of opportunity was came + went, the closer fish closures came above, Fell - Wm. Brown - this gast summer he did not go like the rolling closure + its one bit, he got complaints from his exten alter villages. It he would like to be open to look for plutions that if we write together, together we can. If we had plume that of the plus of bid somothing area had planned their of time & deld something constructively - we may have had less compaining this past summer. Bathel- Mypon Narens & Mike Rilby Aus gast week there where Court hearings +3 were found guilty. They put the blame on ppl to be informed but Myron suggested that there be bulleting posted in the VILLEGES. (Judge says).



7- Morth Micific Fish & Come 7- State gak Fish & Come responsibilition kycatch-) les were cited / + 11 were changed to violations August 12, 2012 wind spring duck harvest - inly the preast is to be Heturned home ( note explaint - should ended be when pronght to state - it stronged why bring it to us? 2007 - Some r brought to hunt by permits. When flown in theet hunter & entitled to hunt there also (moose?) and mathe There were be 2 closures on our behalf -but yet they can fish as much as they way (Deen fishing) Ite are trying to plant Ortentribal Fish Commission, Else helpus. We need monetary Support. Summer (2012) Started in Jutor 3 grs. ago, this is the ser yr. when Kustotwin is included, we are in the process Juorting on this,



DAFN Sen. Murtowski -Denate Select on Tatian Afficias ) commence committee (NOAR) dean side trying to work on reluction of by-catch. 2 nullin escapement on Tukon but yet because here were too many I clusures - some tot pubsistence idens did not put away any fish for ne winter Example - an aunt from Hoopen Bay 1st many closures imposed on them. C Alliak - Jackson Wms. not like it, the pame with 4 or 4 5" nesh. At The 4" we used only certain times of The years shere was a the big not gen Atrac this summer, he has "out Tow" Josh + that dresht give him or others a verygel. feeling Millie Phillip- I vluksak. The river channel changes because some barges will dump gravel, when stuck, and that changes to channel th the fish swim in. It makes fishing extra difficult at times.



He He used to use 8'2", than recently the has had to keep going down on this mesh size in order to cotch fish, he remembers his late fother saying "there will be no more fish "something the didn't Unkerstand in centil recently now that smiller mesh sizes and imposed. George Billy-Nap. foorway to prevent "tere ppl fm leaving, where are several starvation stortes on how how to go about when He in times of starvation. The do's and den'ts - being becoming cannibals, eating reart to Deting file gaments, eating only fish dried fish skin t not the meat, Let us work to perserve our food so we can prevent Starvation in the future, Carl Samuelson-Vapas Problems a fishing closures/ pol being cetek, etc. bit despete it all he is grateful for the fish he did (atch, il put away 2 Kings in his freezen this summer bet he asks how many ppl didut?", "titling the pituation on the "Other side - how about in Ance - they closed the stores (Ward pros the the) t Oht by the way - will teep it closed another 5 days, This is how we feet I how they would have feeling AYK Ane. 100, AYK AC 15

Johaip youth' diet is changing Several resolutions, Shit passed can help us locally lite or ample subsistence fishing for our elders. 39 culled the to order by chauman. St. JAK - Dept. of fish + 6 me Vatrick Jones - Must ox, mase, caribou report. Collars were put on neuborns - had a ligh survive Nate this summer. Dix aerial Augurys (mulchatra hards) had ga. rate of yearlings, + also did photo surveys + dill do country late. Must Ox - Nanivale Bland counted 741 - highest since Counting studed - will ask to have permit numbers alked on (more than lefore) On Nelson Dland there Will be a reduction in harvesting cous due to a smaller number in the herd, There is an estimated no. of 100 must ox that area, going up towards Yukon area als lk More hant acrial photo of caribon 15474 this summer -As & the Bound counting is still being confer

The estimated hered is about 3-40,000 The predator question on wolves -Yickon side seems to be constant put on the Kustokum sike there has been a decrease due to rabies ou Serve something else. On caribon tat collars - Phillip Peter Saw one that reemed to be bring problems breathing + not keeping up with the herd, He answered there are Small collars and one for bulls + they have clastic bands that acpand fall of It the youling grow out of them. Brandon Chipman. Repearch - in surveys (house to house) (goes to board of game) mterviews - Donlin Hold Projects - 8 central communities Phase IT, Phase II, Phase II-Lower Lustokwim Big Gome Surrey 2012 Comprehensive Survey done in Bethel E Local hires (2011 - April 2013)



An project 2009 5 Lusto Karminitie Communities Alle report will soon be published. Eccuse he is a first now employee. John W- whij are white fish not included - because they are it is done year long, & no resources airrently available, monetary wise. CC. What is the purpose of the surveys/questionairres chalide togethe what is being harvested US what is shared. Travis Elison - cscupement Tuluksah + George River had higher escapement this sammen these 2010, + 2011 Time. escapement goals-met @ Lwothand - Confused



Clock up into on sheet Charlie's question - on fish peale studies - what is the average age - marke mostly if yr. old returns, All Dalmon come into rivers to Spann - they don't go back + for the between olean + spawing grounds. "I much phoned be used for primarily white fish & 6" for king Rulmon fish. 6" mesh is used of primarily so that bigger ones will escipe to spawn. Dept. uses 53/8" + 8" for test fisheries they catch the different sizes because the fin are not all the pame sizex to be which size is more abundant. Dan-Y DNahmal Wildlife Refuse 2012 Projects + Pretiminary Results little fish grow faster in beaver ponds problem & 'gravel pard bar ponds -when it dries up - Kills the fish the Rearing Habitat - the fish compete for food . Thitefish -

Steve Miller - in conjunction & OVK kut Wier --lakes 4-6 yrs to set stantod # Porce funded to do projects. have video there, is a 24hr. operation but & mer-sets shut down for a trave, It's done egge everygr @pame Time, same location, etc So that to differences, pamenos is recorked for congarison VIDEOS pluses: 24/7 - more precision + accuracy, reduces costover time, can stop video (for side) & do approximate measurents, determine per, length, Kind & Species, can tetermine fish hatching is wild Salmon SII (recess) until 90 AM-NOV.3

11/3 25 in room. all Open fry Testimony (use blue bt) Chairman James Charles statted User Weph "pened mtg@ 251 allessa Steph did rull call o KK - Phillip Peter KKI Jackson WMS. 830 here ATM HENRY TIKIUM Eek - Wm. Charlie Brown Kesig - John nicholas Kut - Sandra Micori John Andrew Napak - George Billy Nurap - Chuck Chilliak Tunt-James Charles Yrop#95-(Pg. 96) Phillip Peter John Nicholas " by Sachson Wons, / Hall call because there was mixed voice vote 8 no, 2 yes - 2 absence Prop# 103 placeholder (WASSIP) Willie Phillpmoved to abopt Propanos Inf-Chuck Chabiak baset on genetic research - in turn can karmine tareans where species are going

Archic Yuton/Kuskotum ? by Alm and rew-kent raised right hand for adoption lift hand to reject. HIOH - right hands - won John W. Andrew moved to amend the passe as WG-amendment Wm. Brown - pecond the motion "Is called by Um. Brown roll call vote > 2ab, Yes- won Prop#105 -Phillip X. Peter make motion to adopt Prop #105 seconded - Chuck chilland discussion (ausile make a pt. to not adapt but put in language to accept an amendment to the prop. \$105. Jackson Whit - Wented effurther clarification of the proposal - If the proposal is amendes - there will be room to more E F+6 + F+WL to do better fish clasures, etc. un ptC, Making and working toward a better system so that all benefit! Subsistable user, F+G, F+WL, the fish, processors, buyers de

make a motion Phillip Peter - no - action - to to take to proposel & nite Ray make a motion' to take out the word rebuilding the title and late out the nord 'rebuilding' for from the heading (title). Phillip Peter make a motion to Withdraw his motion to table, The word J'rebuilding from the Ind - Jackson Wms, Atrick At ?- by John Withdow Keot



Proposal # 106 Jan- VSFWL Admes Churches - the working orp accepted this proposal - you may wolk the same or differently, it's up to you. JWA- make motion to accept #106 Chuch Chaliak - Dec. the motion. Py by Mike Riley - Bethel did voice vote but Chuck Chaliak wanted rall call vote: 7 yeas, 3 nos 3 obsert. 513 mlg alled bk to proor Prop #107 - introduction gby Greg Rocista "Taking of King pulmon to "dry" on probe Sickson Wins. Akiak - more to dapt, Sic'd by John Andrew-Kest, " culled by Phillip Peter = Rall call vote = yes 3 abs, 1/11 

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AYK AC 15 23 of 27

Prop # 108 - Gregory Roc. a lot of fish 6 being shipped out of area there is not way to regulate Keep track of the amount of traffic, Dicksen Won's-make motion to accept prop. 108 Phillip Peter - KKI - secid by him. ? called by John W. Andrew Passed by voice vote. Prop #109 - Reter moves to adopt #109 Phillip # Peter moves to adopt #109 sec'd by Willie Phillip - Tuluksak Prop #109 -Jackson Wins, wants to accept if there is no pinding on anyone's part. Henry Tikhun- in partial favor-because purchip is felling on everyone ? sterling , etc. P by John andrew - KWT Rall cull Vote: Yes, & No. 3 34BS Prop#110



Prop # 10 -do anna & S' + to use only 6" or Amaller mester Siz. Chuck Charliak mup nump moves to accept the change: Reid by Phillip Peter - Akiachak Unuck chaltak - Napap Maybe there is a college later between - a decline in bigger king due to the reduction of larger kings. All size female fish (kings) lay eggs regardless of size. Henry Tikrun - too much harrassment from gov't officials - is it part of the There should be a good working relationship between del ques. Called by Phillop Peter  $(\gamma)_{11}^{+++}$ Ab Types 3 no 3ab #-P180 # 111 -Jackson Wons AKI mores to adapt. Onuch Challoch - nunap - 2nds : called by mike Riley - voice vote (les

AYK AC 15

#112 Ophillippeter-akradick Inded the motion. The WA- delete the word all' I on third line of heading. Jackson Ums. Calles for question, Horce Tote - passel & voice vote. Need to re-bote to include the re-worded amendment. (further clautication on wording;) (See Alissa's reworded amount, to there a motion to accept the emented motion Thike Riley makes a motion to accept ke and Phillip K. Peter - Akiachuk Rec'd by many Voice vote (ai) motion causies



PtAP#113-Phillip Peter Akiachak accept adopt 2nd - Santra Nicozi - Kut (?) ai passed

# 114

