

**On Time Advisory Committee Comment List  
Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues Meeting  
March 19- 24, 2013**

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FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 15 2013 04:01PM P1

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

P. 1 of 7

AC NAME: Central Peninsula

LOCATION (town): Niñilchik

DATE (of meeting): 2/11/2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Martin, Steve Vanek,  
John McCombs, Robert Lucas, Norbert Miller,  
Greg Encelowski, Tiffany Stonecreek, Doug  
Blossom, Mike Schuster, Jeff Berger,  
Gary Deimon, Aaron Berger

MEMBERS ABSENT EXCUSED:  
RION VANET

MEMBERS ABSENT UNEXCUSED:

QUORUM PRESENT: YES  NO

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT: None

ATTN: Frances/Monica  
Statewide BOE 2013  
AC Comments

Time Meeting Called to Order: 7:15 PM

Old Business and New Business (See following pages)

Time Meeting Adjourned: 9:35 PM

Steve Vanek  
Signature, Committee Secretary

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FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 15 2013 04:02PM P3

APPENDIX C

Page 2 of 7

SIGN-IN SHEET

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Central Peninsula

DATE: 2/11/2013

Name:

Address:

Steve Vank

David G. ...

John W. ...

Belet ...

T. Gary Standing PO Box 39185 Niniichik, AK 99639

Greg ... PO. Box 39066 Niniichik 99639

Doug ... PO Box 289 Clom Gulch AK 99568

NORBERT MILLER PO Box 39083 99639

Joe Simpson

Jeff Bergow Box 39229 Niniichik

Aaron Berger Box 39229 Niniichik

Lika ...

Gary ... P.O. Bx 39224 Niniichik AK 99639



FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 15 2013 04:02PM P2

Minutes

Central Peninsula AC 1 p 3 of 7  
2/11/2013

- ① Minutes of last meeting read and approved.
- ② Mike Schuster gave a report on how many walrus have been trapped on the Peninsula - only one.
- ③ Greg Engelowski reported that a complaint was filed with the governor about no substantive representation on the B.F Task force.
- ④ Dave read a letter from the National Park Service about regulations purposed for some National Park lands.  
John McCombs moved and Greg Engelowski seconded that we write a letter to Alaska National Parks to leave the regulations as is.
- ⑤ a discussion ensued about the seemingly irrelevance of the AC's. Why do we waste our time when no one listens to us.
- ⑥ we then took up the Statewide Furfish proposals.



# VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Central Peninsula

DATE: 2-11-13 PAGE 4 OF 7

Board of Fish Comments for statewide fin fish

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Summary of Discussion (include minority view)
215	0	12	0	This should not be a 'Statewide proposal because the author specifies a specific area Resurrection Bay. In an area where aquaculture contributes almost 100% of the fish available and especially in the initial start up of a program the entire return needs to be taken to pay for the program. Once the program is fully developed the commercial fisheries will participate in the harvest, without the aquaculture program there would never be enough fish for a commercial harvest.
216	0	12	0	Escapement goals must be set to return the maximum that a particular system is able to produce. Anything less is not in the best interest of the public or the resources. Therefore the escapement goals must be set on BEG and or OEG goals.
217	0	12	0	This is not abundance based management on all species would result in lost yield, Negatively affect management practices, would create over-escapement of other salmon species



FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 15 2013 04:04PM P6

## VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Central Peninsula

DATE:

2-11-13

PAGE 5 OF 7Board of FishComments for statewide fin fish

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Summary of Discussion (include minority view)
218	0	12	0	Department already has the authority to set the SET when the biology and science deems it necessary.
219	0	12	0	Leave under the current definition which work well.
220	12	0	0	House keeping
221	12	0	0	House keeping
222	0	12	0	This creates an unnecessary burden especially in remote areas. It is unduly restrictive. Current practice working fine. This would be one more way to lose a drivers license in the drink!
223	12	0	0	House keeping
224	12	0	0	House keeping,



FROM : DAVID R MARTIN

PHONE NO. : 907 567 3306

FEB. 15 2013 04:03PM P5

## VOTER RECORD/COMMENT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Central Peninsula

DATE:

2-11-13

PAGE

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OF

7

Board of

Fish

Comments for

State wide FIN Fish

Please use this format to record the votes and comments of members regarding proposals. The boards are particularly interested in hearing the reasons why proposals are supported/opposed. If committee members believe a proposal does not pertain to their jurisdiction, it is not necessary to spend time on that proposal.

Proposal #	Support	Oppose	Abstain	Summary of Discussion (include minority view)
225	0	12	0	Permit stacking is working fine. Permit stacking reduces the amount of gear in an area not increasing it as the proposer writes. EFC establishes the <del>amount</del> number of permits in an area.
226	12	0	0	We agree with the Dept. to get rid of conflicts in regulations
227	12	0	0	We agree with the Dept. on proper fishing.
228	12	0	0	Keeping fish on a stringer or in a hold box to release later if a larger fish is caught is not acceptable. Keeping a fish means keeping it not releasing it later.
229	11	1	0	We agree with the Dept. The no vote said this was unenforceable.
230				No action - see 229
231	12	0	0	House Keeping. Compensation needs to be declined.





## **Craig Advisory Board meeting February 20, 2013**

### **Members in attendance:**

Stu Merchant - arrived at 8PM

Kirk Agnitsch

Bill Farmer

Brian Castle

Steve Stumpf

Ellen Hannan

Mike Douville

Fred Hamilton

Steve Merritt

### **Public in attendance:**

Mike Kampnich

Jeff Reeves

Angel Holbrook

Jim Dennis

**7:15 pm meeting called to order**

**Minutes from last meeting unanimously accepted**

### **New Business:**

Steve Merritt discussed submitting proposals as an Advisory Committee and how much more weight they carry than a proposal submitted by an individual.

Jeff Reeves gave a report from the State Subsistence Meeting that affect our area.

1. In the Steelhead subsistence fishery, families are allowed 5 steelhead annually but no more than two can come from a specific drainage.



2. Subsistence Salmon no longer need to have any fins clipped upon harvest.

The deadline to submit a Federal Wildlife Subsistence Proposal is March 24.

Mike Douville talked about possibly submitting a proposal to change the time allowed to seal a wolf from 14 days to 30 days. Discussion was also had about submitting this proposal as a Committee.

**Open Seat on Committee representing the Dive Fishery**

**Statewide Finfish and Supplemental Issues**

Proposal	Yes	No	Abstain	Comments
215				No Action Taken
216	0	8	0	We felt this should be an area specific proposal and NOT statewide
217	0	8	0	This should also be an area specific proposal and NOT statewide
218				No Action Taken
222	8	0	0	
225				No Action Taken
226	8	0	0	
227	8	0	0	
228	8	0	0	
229	8	0	0	Stop the abuse of non-residents from buying several licenses and taking several annual limits
231	8	0	0	Sets a definition for compensation and also provides for friends to be able to give their fishing partner



				some gas money without being guilty of “fishing for hire”.
232	9	0	0	Please note, this is when Stu Merchant joined the Committee
233	0	9	0	
234	0	8	1	
235	0	9	0	

**Additional Comments:**

Mike Douville discussed in length about local herring stocks and how he believes the pound fishery has had a dramatic impact on the reduction of local herring stocks. He said there is little natural spawn and feels the majority of the fish are being harvested for the pound fishery. He wants us to be aware of this and watch the fishery closely the next couple seasons. His feeling is the fishery needs to be closed in order to let the herring stocks rebound.

**Additional Business:**

March 19-24, 2013 is the State Finfish and Supplement Issue Meeting in Anchorage. Steve Merritt was approved by the committee to attend this meeting if he can make it.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:30 PM**



HOMER FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
December 04, 2012  
Meeting began 6:05

Athi Francis/Monica SW BOF  
Nissa/Kristy Central SW BOG  
AC Comments

- Members Present: Mar Peters (Chair) Trina B. Fellows (Sec), Tom Young, Michael Craig, Lee Martin, George Mats, Tabor Ashment, Gus Van Dyke, Thomas Hagberg, Skip Avril, Jim Meesis & Gary Sinn Huber, Pete Wedding, David Lyon.

Public: Beaver Nelson - Commercial  
Jason Harriman - Biologist ADF&G Game

Proposal 215 0 14 Oppose 0  
Discussed cost recovery (Hatcheries)

← BOF SW

Beaver gave us an informative talk on Hatcheries and cost recovery. No wild fish sense the 1960's - silvers mixed with pinks - resulted in no openings - loan - should be paid off by hatcheries within 2 years. Aquaculture Association can receive 100% where there are no significant wild stocks.

GAME

← BOG Central SW Region

Proposal 31 14 Favor 0  
Discussion - Homer has a similar program on goat hunting.

Proposal 34 0 14 Opposed 0

Proposal 86 4 Favor 6 oppose 4 abstain  
Discussion

A proposal is not the way to handle this problem - setting aside more land probably wouldn't help either. Do we need to trap and hunt wolves in this area?

Adjourned 8:00PM

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**Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Minutes for 2/12/2013 Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. at the NERRS building.

**Members Present:** Joey Allred, Michael Craig, Ty Gates, Tom Hagberg, Dave Lyon, Lee Martin, George Matz, Jim Meesis, Gary Sinnhuber, Gus Van Dyke, Pete Wedin, Dennis Wade.

**Members Excused:** David Bayes, Marvin Peters, Tom Young.

**Public Present:** Steve Parizak, Steve Wulli, Lynn Whitmore, Doug Malone, Ernest Suoja.

**Agency Staff Present:** Trent Chwialhowski (Trooper).

Minutes from the Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved with no changes.

*Attn: Frances Altonen  
BOF Stocking  
AC Comments*

Lynn Whitmore with Kachemak Moose Habitat Inc. gave a status report. He said they recently acquired three properties in the Beluga Slough area, all from the same owner, that were sold because they couldn't afford the new City of Homer water and sewer tax assessment. He expects to get a tax exemption since W&S don't apply to the property when used for conservation.

Lynn said that Kachemak Moose Habitat started out with \$186,000 as mitigation money from the Bradley Lake Hydro Project (see ADF&G article below for more details). With that they bought land now worth \$2.7 million based on borough assessment. Also, fund has appreciated in value. Lynn says they target available properties in the Beluga Lake wetlands. He is interested in getting conservation designation for 80 acres of borough land in that area that are not suitable for development.

Lynn also talked about the Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Management Plan. There have been lots of meetings and discussions on this in the Kenai River area and some have proposed a step-down that includes both the Anchor River and Deep Creek if escapement falls short. This led to a discussion by the AC and a motion by Joey Allred, seconded by Michael Craig to support the step-down proposal and a proportional reduction in harvest by users groups (see below). The motion passed; Yes -10, Abstain -2.

Pete Wedin proposed that the Homer AC take a position to set the Chinook bycatch for Gulf of Alaska non-pollock trawlers at 5,000 fish. He submitted a letter (see below) and made a motion to adopt, which was seconded by Tom Hagberg. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom Hagberg discussed stocking rainbow trout in Caribou Lake. He said this lake isn't eligible because it is a Class 5 lake, which means that the lake has an outlet.

Tom Hagberg also discussed the possibility of the Homer AC introducing a proposal to establish moose hunting "hot spots" on GMU 15C roadways. This would be a special moose hunt in the winter to reduce moose-vehicle collisions. The idea is being tried in the Mat-Su area. See newspaper article below for more explanation. Because of nearby homes, the hunt would require special weapons that don't carry far (like shotguns or musket loaders). Also a hunter education course would be required in order to qualify for being on a call list. Tom will check this out further.

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**Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Minutes for 2/12/2013 Meeting**

**Action on Board of Fisheries statewide fisheries proposals.**

Proposal 224 – Announcements for emergency orders.

Motion by Michael Craig. Seconded by Lee Martin. Y – 12, N – 0, A - 0

General agreement.

Proposal 226 – House keeping language regarding sharks.

Motion by ? Seconded by Jim Meesis. Y – 10, N – 1, A – 1.

Essentially a housekeeping proposal.

Proposal 227 – Emergency orders applying to proxies.

Motion by George Matz. Seconded by ? Y- 12, N – 0 A – 0.

There is no reason to not include proxies in EO's. This may help stem some of the abuse that has occurred with proxies.

Proposal 228 – High grading by anglers.

Motion by Jim Meesis. Seconded by Dave Lyon. Y – 12, N – 0, A – 0

This should help prevent intentional misinterpretation of the law.

Proposal 233 – Use of felt soles

Motion by Gary Sinnhuber. Seconded by ? Y - 12, N - 0, A – 0.

This proposal would create a questionable loophole.

Proposal 234 – Ban on lead weights.

Motion by Tom Hagberg. Seconded by Michael Craig. Y – 0, N - 11, A – 1.

The concept of this proposal may have some merit but, as of now, alternatives are not that available. This effort should start with a public education program.

Proposal 235 – Possession of license.

Motion by Tom Hagberg. Seconded by Gus Van Dyke. Y – 0, N – 12, A – 0.

This proposal would require excessive reporting and it is not clear that the data would be that useful for fish management.

Next meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

The AC was informed after the meeting by email that we needed to approve of Chair Dave Lyon for representing the AC at the upcoming BOG meeting. To rectify this George Matz made a



**Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Minutes for 2/12/2013 Meeting**

motion by email to this effect which was seconded by Gus Van Dyke. The vote by email was Y  
- 10, N - 0, A - 0.

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To the task force,

On behalf of the Homer Fish and Game advisory council I would like to express support for the "Step down recommendations for the recreational. Marine fishery late run king salmon during periods of low abundance" submitted by Luther Anderson.

We feel these are very well thought out steps to be taken by the sport user group. Should these steps be accepted as a response to low escapement, it is our position that other user groups be subject to proportionate reduction in harvest efficiency.

In other words, should the sport troll fishery be expected to reduce catch by, for instance, 30%, then both set netters AND in-river sport fishers should accept similar catch reductions.

That is only fair.

Respectfully,

Dave Lyon  
Chair,  
Homer F&G Advisory committee

.....



**Homer Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Minutes for 2/12/2013 Meeting**

Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee Homer,  
Alaska

February 12, 2013

Eric Olson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252  
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Council:

One of 82 statewide Advisory Committees, the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee takes our responsibility as established by the legislature seriously. Our purpose includes:

- Developing regulatory proposals
- Evaluating regulatory proposals and making recommendations to the appropriate board
- Providing a local forum for fish and wildlife conservation and use, including matters relating to habitat
- Advising the appropriate regional council on resources
- Consulting with individuals, organizations, and agencies

Our comments are directed to the motion you have before you setting a cap on Chinook bycatch in the non-pollock trawl fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. We urge you to select the lowest proposed cap of 5,000 Chinook salmon. Full retention should be required to help facilitate observation and gathering of river-of-origin genetic samples. Although not part of this motion, we favor better observation of this fishery and would suggest a minimum of 36% observer coverage for all trawl fishing activities until a catch share plan can be implemented and 100% coverage is possible.

Many Chinook salmon stakeholders from all over Alaska participating with all gear types would benefit from a recovery of our Chinook salmon runs. Reducing bycatch is just one of the possible solutions and with your help, we do have control over this factor. Balancing the National Standards can be challenging, but in this case, we think National Standard 9 must trump National Standard 1.

Thank you for your service to our fisheries. Sincerely,

Dave Lyon, Chairman

On behalf of the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
2.6.13  
UAS Glacier Room

Present

**Brian Glynn and Dan Teske (AB Sportfish ADFG, Assistant AB Sportfish ADFG)**

**Frances Leach and Scott Kelly (Publications Specialist, Regional Supervisor Commercial Fish, ADFG)**

**Jennifer Yuhas (Assistant Director/Federal Subsistence Liaison Team Leader, ADFG)**

**AC: Richard Yamata, Chris Conder, Ed Buyarski, Atlin Dougherty, Henry Webb, Jesse Ross, Thatcher Brouwer, Mike Peterson, Tina Brown, Greg Brown**

Meeting called to order: 6:35

Not going to follow order of original agenda

Minutes from December meeting passed unanimously

Greg: Volunteered to go to the board of fish meeting

Mike Peterson: Review Board of Game meeting

- Youth deer hunt = supported with hunter
- Proposal 3 and 4 (brown bear hunt) = board supported
- Proposal 7 (fisher) = board supported
- Antlerless moose= board supported
- Proposal 18 and 19 (bear snare) = no action
- Proposal 20 (wolf trapping season) = board did not support
- Board reviewed the brown bear management plan-real concern about opening up the brown bear management plan for discussion- areas of concern: next of kin hunting (brother from out of state – no guide hunting- on the rise in unit 4) and the ratio of female harvest

MOU- federal subsistence board sent memos to the regional advisory councils (cancelled meeting date which was scheduled for Dec. 14) - need more time to allow for advisory committees to comment. Our duty is to look over MOU (there aren't teeth to the document- there are guidelines- but what happens if they are NOT met)

Jennifer- The reason the MOU is being more formally reviewed is because in 2008 the Sec of the Interior recommended to take away the MOU and have it go back to the RACs. Some ACs have made specific language comments or general comments. Most recently, the state has been talking about the value of the document. The words on the paper are only as valuable as the agreement to them. The state is concerned with the document not having any teeth in it.

Greg: What is the definition of a subsistence user?



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
2.6.13  
UAS Glacier Room

Jennifer: The MOU does not address that- in the preamble the language is verbose. The preamble says that we understand that we operate under two systems- the state and ANILCA (fed) and we will do the best to operate under that.

Chris Condor: How would the state penalize the federal government?

Jennifer: We haven't come back with something good. We are not sure. Maybe a clause that says after an incident this document is no longer valid. It is a puzzle right now.

Ed: Juneau and Douglas are not subsistence communities but we can comment on other areas/species and people from other places harvesting them in our areas- how does this affect our ability to comment on this?

Jennifer: Office of subsistence management (NPS, FWS, Forest Service and State): As an AC, because you are advisory to the state, we can take those comments from you to the subsistence board meeting. Some of the proposals grant priority for federal subsistence users in general- when a community near Juneau is granted an exclusion of other users (deer hunting by Juneauites to Craig).

Ed: Do we, as an AC, comment on subsistence proposals?

Greg: We have the ability to do that.

Mike: We have commented on federal subsistence proposals- we testified at the Southeast RAC meeting.

Richard: I want more background of the original intent of the MOU- did it arrive due to some history of conflict? Not being able to communicate?

Jennifer: The state as a Federal Subsistence board is only there as advisory. Often the final action of the board is contrary to the wishes of the state. The history of the MOU- in 2008 the signatories signed the document- couldn't agree on the language, but having any sort of document was born from conflict among managers. Without this, we would have agencies that would duplicate studies in order to make sound management decisions. In certain areas (Yukon River fisheries) why would we need to have duplicate fish studies when we can put that money into different efforts?

Mike: Is the liaison office you- and I see that a lot of the issues are from your office- are your suggestions falling on deaf ears?

Jennifer: That is a concern, but sometime the inter-agency staff meets without the state being involved.

Chris: Have you talked to our congressmen and senators about this?

Jennifer: Several of us have and it is a perennial situation.

Greg: This document to me looks like it is very useful to share data, but beyond that it looks like a 'kumbaya' document in terms of having no weight.



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
2.6.13  
UAS Glacier Room

Jennifer: I have characterized it as a document that has no weight. I have asked if the data sharing part of the MOU is so important why not go a different route? We have heard different options for data-sharing- it is not something that we have acted on, but we are interested in exploring different options to 'put teeth in the document.'

Greg: I think that sharing scientific data is important and I think that we need to find a way to make this come out.

Jennifer: I hope that the AC will take action on some of these issues before the end of February- that would be great to bring those comments later. I will be in Juneau next Monday and could meet with the AC then.

Richard: What are you feeling about the language in the MOU? Is there anything in here particularly that you thought needed to change?

Jennifer: In general there were a few things that we found problematic- listing things at the federal origin first was petty. There would be an annual opportunity to review- we don't want to start over every year and have it come in front of the AC every year. We would like for that language to be modified or clarified- if you want to look at it tomorrow that is fine (open until closed). We don't want it to turn into an annual process that would burden ACs.

Ed: It almost seems like you need a regular process to review this document to keep the feds on their toes.

Jennifer: The feds don't have an annual review of the MOU. We can just send people a reminder every year and give everyone an opportunity to comment. (Chat with Jennifer ends)

Ed: Basically they just keep the same rules for subsistence from one year to the next?

Greg: I believe so.

Chris: Jennifer is upset because she is being ignored- I think she should have some sort of involvement from the congressmen and senators.

Henry: This situation is playing out like we have some leverage against ANILCA, but we don't. Federal law and state law are in conflict and we can't do much about it at this level.

Mike: The MOU has items that have originated from the liaison office and I would like to hear about these issues from a broader MOU standpoint.

Richard: I don't think Jennifer has been in this job for very long. She used to be the liaison between the legislature and Fish and Game. I think that she is trying to follow through with what was started in terms of being able to give people notice and be informed with the process- this will implement a protocol even though there aren't teeth in it.

Mike: Is there interest to meet again as a subcommittee?



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
2.6.13  
UAS Glacier Room

Francis: You can have as many people on the committee as you would like in the meeting; however, it cannot be a meeting at someone's house and there needs to be a notice. It says there needs to be 3 or more members of the AC to meet as a subcommittee.

Chris: I think Monday might be a bit soon. The people that are ignoring her, do they have representatives that are ignoring her here in Juneau? If there is, you should bring them before the board.

Ed: I believe that the forest service has a subsistence coordinator and we can find out different subsistence representatives.

Scott: These issues are longstanding. It is not a personal thing with who is on the state liaison team now. This is a chronic process.

Henry: I feel like trying to solve subsistence is a waste of our time.

Richard: What is our role in this process?

Mike: In Hoonah there was a federal subsistence proposal to exclude the land- Juneau hunters were not going to be able to go to Hoonah. I used this MOU as an introduction and went to the Southeast RACs and as a chair I was able to use this document and the ACs have a right give comment that indirectly affected us. In that sense the MOU was effective.

Richard: Our action could be to support the intent of the document but I am confused as to what else we are supposed to do. All we can do is say, "Good job and keep working on it."

Greg: She has left it open to us in how we want to participate.

Chris: The way she is talking is that we might not even have a chance to comment on these things, because they are bypassing the state which in effect leaves the ACs out of the loop. That is a concern for us- we need to be aware.

Francis: I believe that what Jennifer is looking for is a letter of support.

Mike: I motion to have the AC to write a letter of support for the memorandum of understanding in regards to the relationship between the federal government and the state with the inclusion of the AC. We don't want to see that the Board doesn't see support from the AC.

*Motion to write letter of support on the MOU*

*Passes unanimously*

Greg: Anything new to the agenda?

Ed: As a range safety officer and hunter education – the DZ hunter education classes are March 7/8 and testing on the 9<sup>th</sup>. If anybody here is willing to help, I am recruiting for all day or half day help. Call me: 209-8905 if you are willing to help with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders.



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Greg: Any requirements for the range helpers?

Ed: People who have gone through the hunter education in the past. No specific requirements.

Atlin: I was hoping the AC would write a letter of support to the legislature for guide concession on state lands- it will allow a couple outfitters to have the use of the state lands.

Greg: Would you be willing to draft a letter?

Atlin: Yes.

Tina: I would like to have a copy of the legislation in order to make an informed decision.

Ed: Does this board have the ability to be able to have a letter of support from the AC through the email?

Francis: You would need a majority from the AC, but you do not need to have a public meeting.

Mike: I just heard that Rep. Wilson (Fairbanks) is attempting to cut funding for the initial first year of the concession on state lands for outfitters.

### **Proposal 218**

Mike: I have sent questions to Scott Kelly and he has answered the questions in order to stimulate discussion and aid in our decision.

Scott: Proposal 218 would require to set Sustainable Escapement Threshold (SET) if the stock is determined a management concern.

Ed: They would choose specific stocks to make them a management concern and that would trigger the next step.

Scott: Yes, the department would have to set a SET and now they don't have to. Now: SET is established by the department with consultation with the Board **as needed**. The reason why SETs have not been set is because the science isn't there. What stock levels determine when a SET should be set? The sustainable salmon policy has only been in effect since 2000 and one of the requirements is that the department report on the regulation every 3 years and in the last 12 years the department has been very active in establishing new escapement goals. We have been trying to meet the requirements of the policy.

Greg: What is the department's position?

Scott: I cannot answer because they are still draft answers. I think it is safe to say that you can get an idea of the how the department feels based on the fact that we have not set any SETs.

Henry: Would you say this is more conservative?

Scott: Yes.

Thatcher: How does this affect the management of the stock?



Juneau Douglas Fish and Game  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
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Scott: There has never been a SET set. There are 11 currently in the state that are management concerns- the step just below conservation concern. The department has to work with the board of fish to develop an action plan - more research on the stocks. The conservation concern is the worst. The action plan will put forth more conservation measures.

Greg: This is just making it mandatory.

Mike: The Yukon kings are the stock of concern- are they going to get a SET.

Scott: Yukon River Chinook salmon is a yield concern. It is the least worrisome – the Yukon River Chinook is being looked at by the state.

Mike: So when any stock reached a yield or management concern (n=11) all would have to have a SET?

Scott: Yes. The proposal requires the department to set a SET. The escapement of the stock has to be below the SET level.

Atlin: Is this just on the 11 systems?

Scott: Yes, but statewide.

Ed: You are watching a lot of stocks - so when you notice that numbers are way down than this proposal triggers more active management.

Scott: There are 50 prominent stocks in Southeast. We monitor the escapement (McDonald lake- largest southern southeast sockeye run) and when there is a chronic problem where the system cannot meet the escapement levels in so many years it raises a red flag. Under the sustainable salmon policy this triggers it to be a management concern requiring the department to come up with an action plan (public) and the board decides to adopt and the department monitors and take action according to the action plan and report back in the next Board cycle.

Chris: What were the conservation measures to preserve this system (McDonald Lake)?

Scott: We monitored the system and we also know where McDonald Lake sockeye salmon were caught through CWT (coded wire tags) – found in drift net fishery areas – we know the fish are in these areas in these weeks so we can restrict fishing – we want to reduce the fishing pressure.

*Proposal 218*

*Unanimously oppose*

**Proposal 227**

Brian: A proposal submitted by the department and asks to take the EO authority to restrict sportfishing harvest levels by proxy. Currently we have not had authority over proxy harvest.

Jesse: What are some numbers of people that are proxy?



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Brian: In SE it is around 100, Southcentral around 3000.

Chris: Proxy didn't have to follow fish and game regulations?

Brian: They can double their bag limit.

Chris: You want the authority to say you can't harvest proxy in this region for a reason.

Brian: For the reason that there is an area that has a conservation concern.

Chris: If somebody is fishing for someone who can't fish- you are going to be able to say you are not allowed to fish for that person anymore.

Brian: No one would be able to proxy fish for a specific stock that is a conservation issue.

Ed: This is by emergency order?

Brian: Yes, that is our authority.

Ed: Could you put it in the regs?

Brian: That would never happen- the stock could rebound.

Richard: This would be the first group that you would restrict in order to conserve harvest levels for a specific stock. What is the motivation behind that- proxy vs. general public?

Brian: It would be a finer tool instead of heavy hammer.

Dan: This is just another tool – it doesn't' shut off all proxy- just decreases proxy bag limits.

Henry: It sounds like this is in areas where there is really intense pressure.

Brian: An example would be the sockeye fishery up in Windfall Lake: On Wednesdays and Saturdays at one fish a day- if escapements were a little bit lower- our only option is to eliminate daily limits or one of the days. If we were aware of the fact that there was intense proxy fishing we could use that.

Richard: Is proxy fishing something that is abused?

Brian: In order to be eligible to have someone proxy fish for you- have to be 65 years or older or 75% disabled.

Richard: So it is a group that has rationale for not being able to fish and should receive proxy fish.

Brian: This is to be used in times when there is a conservation concern. Typically it would only occur on one specific stock. It would probably be one species. People could proxy fish for other species of fish or other stocks from different areas. It also only applies to sportfishing. Not to be confused with personal use.



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Richard: Can you proxy fish personal use?

Brian: Yes.

Mike: I don't support this – it feels like it is discrimination. If the conservation levels are so bad that you have to restrict sportfishing through proxy fishermen- then the situation is pretty dire.

Brian: You commented that it wouldn't be very effective, but if it wouldn't be very effective we wouldn't propose this.

Henry: You are trying to have flexibility in leaving the fishery open.

Brian: We are trying to sustain the stocks so that we can continue to have a fishery. In some cases when we think a little restriction could help sustain stocks.

Ed: Is there a marking system? If you take a proxy sportfish is it marked differently?

Brian: You would have to have the sportfishing license of the beneficiary and a proxy license. A couple of board cycles ago there was an issue about proxy fishing – it was being abused- this resulted in a different form- require harvest area, date, etc.

Chris: I have to vote against this.

Jesse: This is just a tool to tune down the pressure on a stock. Although it sounds discriminatory it goes in hand with the department's mission to sustain stocks. When I was proxy fishing/hunting I only did that when there was ample abundance of species. The user groups that are doing the proxy are usually harvesting the excess. I would support this.

Atlin: how many proxy permits can one person hold? Does this concern dip-net on the Copper?

Brian: Dip-net would be personal use- strictly rod and reel for sportfish. You can proxy fish for multiple people but one person at a time. You can only double your limit.

Henry: The painful thing about management is the conflict between want and a finite resource. Sportfishing is an activity not a harvest fishery.

*Proposal 227*

*For: 6 Against: 3 Abstain: 1*

*Proposal Passes*

**Proposal 243**

Scott: The board generated a proposal and the department writes the proposal. The background is that in 1998 the dept. submitted a proposal for forage fish and the intent was to provide information on forage fish because there was pressure from industry. We submitted a proposal to not allow development on new



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forage fish commercial fisheries. However, because there are commercial fisheries for herring, they chose to not include herring in the forage fish proposal. The regulation has been in the books since 1999. This board thinks that herring with the ACR are a forage fish and we should add them to the forage fish list on the proposal.

Greg: NOAA would support this because they are a forage fish.

Scott: BSAI FMP herring are listed as a prohibited species and herring are not considered a forage fish in terms of management.

Henry: What is a forage fish?

Scott: A fish that is low on the food chain and is prey for other species connecting the trophic levels.

Henry: Would you say Pollock is a forage fish?

Scott: No. If herring were added as the number 10 forage fish on this list, there is a clause that says forage fish may not be commercially taken, but there is an exclusion to allow herring to be commercially fished.

Richard: Is there management plans for forage fish? If herring was listed as a forage fish would you be able to manage it as a forage fish?

Scott: There is a management plan. We would be able to manage them as a forage fish. If herring was included- the state of Alaska says that herring are a forage fish- but you can still catch those fish in a commercial fishery.

Ed: For the other 9 forage fish- is there management happening for those other species?

Scott: The only other commercial fisheries for forage fish is hooligan. We haven't opened a commercial fishery for hooligan in many years. We are not monitoring or managing forage fish.

Henry: Will this help you do your job?

Scott: I would still operate the same as we do now.

Richard: Federal regulations supersede state most times.

Scott: All the herring fisheries take place in state waters.

Chris: This is just a definition for us right now.

Henry: As a commercial fisherman, I take issue on this. I think that there are some politics involved in this. I am going to vote against it.

Richard: How would this change management to herring?

Henry: My understanding is that this is from the Sitka Tribe wanting different allocations.



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Scott: This was a board generated proposal.

Thatcher: This is going to reclassify herring even though it will not change management on it.

Mike: When a fish is put on a forage fish category- it does open it up to tighter management restrictions.

*Proposal 243*

*For: 5 Against: 4 Abstain: 1\**

*Proposal Fails*

\*Point of order- the abstention vote goes towards against and on a tie vote the proposal fails.

Greg: MOU- will receive two letters from Francis on previous letters writing by ACs. Mike will draft a letter of support from the AC.

Mike: The governor chose a gentleman from Fairbanks for the Board of Fish seat.



ADFG Advisory Committee Meeting  
10.30.12

UAS Egan Library

Greg Brown called the meeting to order: 6:43

Present: Jason Kohlhase, Chris Miller, Henry Webb, Mike Peterson, Mike Bethers, Tina Brown, phone:  
Chris Condor and Richard Yamata

Forest Wagner: dequalified from position

**1. Positions on the Committee**

**New positions up for election (3 yeears)**

Commercial fishing,

Non-consumptive-personal

Charter fishing-saltwater

Sportfish/hunting/personal use

Sportfish/hunting/personal use

Alternate

Alternate

**Current vacancies**

Hunting guide

Trapping: *Jess Ross applying for this position- trapping for 3 years, has trapping license, no violations in the last 5 years, sees challenges in the Juneau area with restrictions and bias against trappers in the small area allowed for trapping, wants to see more education for trapping in Juneau, voted on by the committee. Seat expires in 2014.*

Charter Fishing- Freshwater

Sportfish/Hunting/Personal Use

**2. Proposals**

**234:** Banned use of lead weights in fresh/salt waters of Alaska

Issue: lead weights used for fishing- lead poisoning of waterfowl

Richard: I think not enough information is available in the State looking at small lead shots/sinkers in our fisheries.

Chris: I don't see in the saltwater people using 1 oz. lead weights- too small- not going to see that in the saltwater fisheries.

Mike Bethers: Saltwater has heaver sinkers and the small lead weights don't come into play. Think that lead found in the environment is due to bird shot.

Mike Peterson: Clarification needed on 'pink ladies' being a diver with the two lead weights on both sides: less than 1 inch.

**2 Yay: 6 Nay: 2 abstain**  
**Proposal fails**



Mike Peterson: Motion to bundle 220, 221, 222, 223 and 224 together: passes

Mike Bethers: Do commercial members have any say pertaining to these proposals?

Chris Miller: No- they are just bringing up the regulations to the times

***Unanimously passes***

**226:** General provisions for season, bagged possessions, size for Prince William Sound Area, Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Aleutian Island Areas for sport shark fishery management plan- spiny dogfish- no annual limit.

Mike Bethers: In the past there was a proposal to get rid of a bag limit for spiny dogfish.

***Unanimously passes***

**227:** Emergency Order Authority

Chris: A proxy doesn't need to worry about another person's limits before- is that correct?

Mike Peterson: They want to give the commissioner an EO authority on increasing the bag limits for proxy- take it out of a general group and make it into their own group- *independently*.

Chris: If someone is fishing proxy- easy to be fishing for someone who is handicap or elder- I don't see a reason to pick on those people.

Mike B: If a management biologist had a conservation problem coming about – this could be a small part of the harvest he could protect.

Jason: I think this is a really important management tool- they are discriminating the folks who are using the proxy – I don't know if they thought that one through- maybe a way to adjust management goals.

Henry: Through all the area- there is a lot of proxy activity going on and may be a good tool to manage the fishery.

Jason: I would like to see some language that would separate this out by region. Within the proxy process- do you have to indicate what the proxy intent is? Subsistence vs. non-subsistence. How do you qualify?

Henry: This is just for sportfishing and you have to be 65 or over.

Mike B: Want to have fish and game come in and explain this. I propose to table this proposal.

***Unanimously passes***

**228:** Prohibit the process of high grading

Chris C: I have a problem with this. I'm not sure if the word "kill" is used correctly here. Halibut are a fish that can be released and am questioning the point, "not immediately released"

Henry: The way that it is worded, "not immediately released" is substituted for "kill" so this proposal is changing previous regulations.

Richard: Halibut is a fairly managed fish- they call it 'bucket fishing' when you high grade- do you think that they intended this proposal to focus on halibut? Halibut is controlled by the feds, so it is interesting that this would incur another regulation against 'bucket fishing.' Federal statutes and state statutes don't really have conjoined regulations. I would just really like to know the intent.

Greg: I interpreted that this is for salmon.

Mike Peterson: I don't know if changing the wording on this is going to change anything- if they are high grading they are still going to let the fish go.

Richard: There is a problem with the subjective use of 'not immediately released.'

Jesse: This sounds like an enforcement issue.

Jason: I think this is a sportfishing issue and I think it is focused on halibut. The definition of 'immediately released' by the IPHC – they talk about immediate release and they give a definition: a reasonable amount of time to safely bring the fish aboard a boat and releasing the halibut.

Henry: It sounds like everyone is in agreement that high grading and bucket fishing is bad.

***Yay: 8 Nay: 1 Abstain: 1***

***Proposal Passes***

**229:** Harvest record for finfish with annual limit Issue: non-resident anglers purchasing multiple sportfishing licenses during multiple trips to Alaska.

Chris C: I'm surprised that fish and game doesn't have a better way to keep a record on this- these people are breaking the law if they have exceeded their limits.

Richard: This is more of an enforcement issue. There is indication here where we should go to electronic.

***Unanimously passes***

**231:** Define the term compensations: No current definition of compensation.

Chris C: This sounds good to me.

Mike P: It is a start- they can fine tune this even more as time goes on.

***Unanimously passes***

**215:** Allocation of fishery resources among sport, commercial and personal use: allocation to Cook Inlet Aquaculture to harvest sockeye- stop hurting commercial fishing in Cook Inlet- intent to rebalance allocation.

Mike Peterson: It looks like there is an agenda going on here. It seems like those stocks are in decline.

Chris C: What is the Cook Inlet Aquaculture?

Henry: It is a hatchery.

Chris : They are funding their hatchery through catching their fish- similar to DIPAC with special harvest areas.

Mike Bethers: I don't know enough about it. I don't have enough information to vote on this.

***Unanimously Fails***

**216:** Application of fishery management plans- a complex issue of codified management plans governing salmon plans with conflicts present.

Chris C: I worry about something like this- taking away tools that fish and game have for local fishery management.

Mike Peterson: 'Other solutions considered'- the department seems to support this – I agree with you Chris the department should take care of this.

Chris M.: I think that what they are trying to emphasize here is the wording by liberalizing the term 'escapement' at the local level. It is complex in terms of the political and allocation issues , not the biological issues for escapement- I can't support this.

***Nay: 9 Abstain: 1***

***Proposal Fails***

**217:** Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals for Chinook salmon. We must manage Chinook salmon for abundance.

Chris M.: I agree with the intent of the proposal, but they reference salmon as a whole and it should be worded differently because it doesn't address the other impacts of Chinook runs.

Mike B: I support the basic goal here, but this doesn't cut the mustard here. There are other fisheries that are involved and hopefully the new task force can focus on Chinook salmon.

Mike Peterson: Note: passage of this proposal would undercut the department to have emergency order.

***Nay: 9 Abstain: 1***

***Proposal Fails***

**218:** Policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries.

Mike P: I have a question for commercial members- is King salmon stock managed for a yield or management concern.

Jason: Yes. At least in Bristol Bay each river has its own management concern.

Mike P: Would the sustained escapement threshold- what is that?

Henry: It looks like the way herring is managed in Sitka- but I would like to talk to fish and game about.

*Motion to table the proposal- unanimously passes*

**219:** Define terms: Maximum sustained yield, optimum yield and mixed stock.

Mike P: I don't think this can be explained more with better wording.

Chris C.: Want some more definitions out there for the 'common man.'

Richard: These terms are relative to the fishery – I will be voting against this.

***Yay: 6 Nay: 4***

***Proposal Passes***

**225:** Policy for the implementation for permit stacking.

Henry: This went through the legislature and was all hashed out in statute. Obviously they don't like how it was resolved.

Jason: I think we are going backwards here. Permit stacking is an effective management tool for statewide fisheries.

***Unanimously Opposed***

**230:** Possession of licenses, stamps or license number. Abuse of lost licenses after the limit has been reached.

Mike Bethers: Similar to 229 which we supported and I don't see any difference in this.

Richard: I think that the intent and how it is written do not coincide. I think that they need to word something to allow for those that lose their licenses and haven't reached their annual limit.

Chris C: This is an enforcement issue and I don't know how they are going to get around it.

Jason: Move to take no action.

***Unanimously Passes***

**235:** Possession of licenses for sportfishing requirements.

Mike Peterson: Question and concern in the language- this is rather draconian: 'each fisherman should keep daily records.' I have a problem with that. Also, Section B: new language- why don't they just take them out and shoot them!

Richard: What is lacking here is a cost-benefit analysis to issue these harvest cards.

Mike Bethers: Fish and game is happy with harvesting methods now. There might be some local animosity here making it difficult for the sport fisheries.

Chris M: I think this is coming from the Cordova area and it should not be broadcast statewide.

***Unanimously Opposed***

***Proposal Fails***

**3. Next Meeting**

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Members Present: Mike Crawford, Steve Meyer, , John Joseph, Dick Dykema, Bill Tappan, Laurie Speakman, Mike Hamrick, Christina Shadura, Chris Brandt, Dyer Van Devere, Bob Ermold, Michelle Maher

Members Absent Excused:, Andrew Carmichael, Pegge Erkeneff, Monte Roberts, Paul Shadura, Tom Corr, Rik Bucy

Public Present: Vicki Tyler, Amber Every, Lisa Gabriel, Ricky Gease, Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Professional individuals present:

Robert Begich ADF&G Fisheries biologist

Pat Shields ADF&G Fisheries biologist

Jason Poluck ADF&G Fisheries biologist

Trooper Himiel F&WP

Meeting called to order by Chairman Crawford at 6:35 PM.

Chairman Crawford called for announcements, none forthcoming

The meeting went straight to discussion of the BOF Task Force regarding the king salmon issues on the peninsula.

The representatives from ADF&G were asked to update the committee on what had taken place. They had little to present. The significant item for consideration was a reduction in escapement goals for Kenai River King salmon. The reduction in numbers as it was explained by ADF&G comes from the past three years of DIDSON counts extrapolated to the previous records taken with sonar. The belief is the DIDSON is a much more accurate tool and therefore extrapolating the data was appropriate. ADF&G stated that peer reviews had been done and they believe the numbers seem accurate and reasonable.

When asked, ADF&G indicated there are no figures that accurately depict returns from previously low king counts. The worst king returns on record occurred in 2010 and 2011 and the significant returns from those years will begin in 2015.

At this point it appears that no reliable information has been put forth as to why the king escapements to the Kenai and rivers all around the state have sunk to record lows. The most important question has not been answered and it appears unlikely to be answered anytime in the near future.

There was much comment and discussion from the AC as well as the public participants. Each expressing the desire to make the king fishery viable again and not further destroy

*Att: Frances/Monica  
AC Comments  
BOF Stakeholder 2013*

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the resource. There was much discussion concerning the numbers that were arrived at by extrapolating and it seems the general flavor of the room was no one really is trusting those numbers.

Until the failed years of 2010 and 2011, the various user groups to the king fishery were all able to coexist without too much difficulty. There is little doubt in anyone's mind that the Kenai River king fishery has been in decline for some time prior to the 2010 season. Catch rates have not matched with the numbers counted and when one considers the effort made and the ultimate perfection of taking king salmon from these waters, catch rates may be the most significant and accurate number available. It isn't rocket science; when fish are in the river and it is open to fish, they are caught. When they aren't being caught, they are not there.

As the discussion progressed it became clear that the real issue here is allocation. Which explains the ADF&G being seemingly somewhat disinterested; it is very difficult to manage by allocation.

There was no official proposal on record at the time of this meeting. The proposal that is being put forward by the Task Force not acted on at this meeting.

Ricky Gease, representing the KRSA asked that the committee look at BOF proposal #216, a proposal this group presented to the board.

Bob Ermold motioned proposal #216 to the floor, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal is in regards to application of fisheries management plans.

This proposal seeks to adopt the regulations made by the BOF in 2008 regarding Upper Cook Inlet salmon management to the entire state. The proposal recognizes there are many fisheries that are complex, as is the Upper Cook Inlet fishery and a uniform regulation would allow better management via the options allowed in the Cook Inlet.

Chris Brandt suggested that the powers that this would bring already exist and asked to table the proposal until she has some time to review it and comment at the next AC meeting. Proposal tabled by unanimous consent.

Bob Ermold motioned proposal #225 to the floor, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal seeks to implement a statewide policy in regard to commercial salmon "permit stacking."

The rationale is that currently the allowance of permit stacking, or "duel permit holding" does not have a precise goal. There are cases where this is allowed to keep permits in the family and other cases where it seems it simply allows more gear in the water from the permit of a fisherman who isn't fishing that year for economic reasons and may not fall



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within the intent. The intent is being sought as a uniform code for all of the permit stacking issues.

Commercial set net fisherman and drift net fisherman stated that a statewide policy does not work. They contend there are many variations that would allow permit stacking and applying a code across the board would not work to the best interests of all.

This proposal drew a large amount of comment and the majority of the committee was unsure of what it really meant. For that reason Bob Ermold motioned it be tabled until the next meeting, which would allow time for the committee to become somewhat knowledgeable before a vote was taken. Chris Brandt second, all in favor.

Mike Crawford motioned proposal #222 to the floor, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal seeks to require every individual in possession of a CFEC permit card to show identification at the request of any fish purchaser, or any officer authorized by the state to enforce this chapter.

This proposal changes the current regulation that allows only for a misdemeanor penalty with regard to identification and permit holders and allows the court to reduce the infraction to a violation. All fishing regulations except this one are under 5 AAC and allow prosecutors and the judicial branch to reduce these charges. It also seems to add fish processors to those authorized to request identification from permit holders.

It seems reasonable and the committee voted to support it unanimously.

Chris Brandt motioned proposal #229 to the floor, Bill Tappan second.

This proposal seeks to have non-residents record the information recorded on the back of any license that they utilize and subsequently purchase another license or a duplicate license, much as is required by residents. Intended to prevent non-residents from purchasing licenses for three days or whatever the case may be and being able to start over on their bag limit for King Salmon, sharks, or rainbow trout.

Several items were considered in the way of amendments to try and make this regulation more enforceable. None that really solved the enforcement issue. Never the less, there is some potential for enforcement and thus the committee voted in an 11-1 support.

The lone opposing vote believes there are already too many unenforceable laws on the books and there is no reason to add another one.

BOF comments are due on March 5<sup>th</sup> but because of the Task Force proposals that are not yet officially presented, they are allowing a brief grace period. With that the AC set another meeting for March 6 2013, at 6:30 with the tentative meeting place at CIAA.



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This meeting had the flavor of frustration. Nothing of significance has been learned regarding the king salmon fishery. Essentially it stands with the two groups most interested in the economics of the fishery still in limbo. And it seems very unlikely that will change anytime in the near future.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



# ACTIONS OF THE WRANGELL FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AT IT'S MEETINGS OF JANUARY 21 and 28, 2013

## JANUARY 21, 2013 MEETING

Members Present 1/21/13: Tom Sims	Brennon Eagle	David Rak
(14)	Jason Rooney	Brian Merritt
Winston Davies	Alan Reeves	Otto Florschutz
Robert Rooney	Chris Guggenbickler	John Yeager
Janice Churchill	Bill Knecht	
Marlin Benedict		

The meeting was called to order by Tom Sims, Committee Chair at about 7 PM. He announced the meeting agenda included Board of Fish Appoint, a report by John Yeager on the Stikine Subsistence Fishery; a report by Chris Guggenbickler on a fisheries program in the Wrangell schools; and Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association update by Tom.

### BOARD OF FISH APPOINTMENT

Chris reported that Bill Brown had resigned from the Board of Fish, and the Governor would appoint his replacement. The replacement needs to be a person familiar with sport fish in SEAK.

Motion by Brennon, second by Chris, to support Mike Peterson to the BOF. PASSED

Number in favor: 14

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: Some of the Wrangell Fish & Game Advisory Committee members know of Mike Peterson from his service on the Juneau Fish & Game Advisory Committee. Mike is from Southeast Alaska and has a long history with the Advisory Committees system. He is known to be willing to listen to debate on all sides of an issue during deliberation. The Wrangell Advisory Committee members who have worked with Mike report him to be respected at Board of Fish meetings. The Wrangell Advisory Committee believes Mike Peterson is the best candidate to replace Bill Brown on the Board of Fisheries. NOTE: A letter was sent to the Governor.

### STIKINE SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

The Federal Subsistence Board met the past week in Anchorage and considered the Stikine River sockeye fishery. The proposal included increasing the GHL for sockeye or having it removed from the treaty. Sockeye harvest has exceeded the 600 GHL for numerous years with a reported harvest of 1700 fish in past year. The Canadians feel the fishery is managed very bad because nets are not attended. The Canadians would like correct accountability for the sockeye caught by subsistence fishers. Their issues include net tending, seal predation and hours of fishing. The Federal Board will take no action until the issue is provided to the Rural Advisory Committee for SE as a proposal. The RAC would consider a proposal and make a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Trans Boundary Rivers board have also raised concerns for the Stikine sockeye subsistence fishery. USAG is also concerned about unattended gillnets. Exceeding the GHL for several years shows mismanagement of the fishery. The Wrangell AC will accept proposals to the SE RAC for Stikine sockeye at its next meeting.

### SCHOOL FISHERIES PROGRAM

Chris reported that Rich Rhodes would welcome biology projects in the schools. He also reports he has reviewed the incubator for fish eggs with Brian Ashton. Chris favors a vocational permit from the State for educational purposes. He has had a meeting with ADF&G about what can or cannot be done. Options are take king or Coho eggs, fertilize them, and inject them into the gravel or net pen for up to 3 years; OR raise pink or chum. It is important for the students to have a fishery experience



**SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION**

Chris reported that SSRAA had elected new officers at their last meeting, and that the way SSRAA conducted its cost recovery was an issue with the IRS. The IRS did not agree how part of the hatchery operation should be taxed. SSRAA and the IRS have settled with a payment of approximately 1.8M for a three years period. In October 2013 SSRAA will hold its Board Meeting in Wrangell. SSRAA is not just a Ketchikan organization. The number of commercial fisherman in Ketchikan is approximately equal to the number of commercial fisherman in Wrangell and Petersburg. There is a need to get more members on the SSRAA Board members from the northern part of southern SEAK. There is a need for a reasonable percent of the Neets Bay Cohoes go to Anita Bay. There is also a need to increase the fish at Anita Bay to fill the hole in northern southern southeast. Anita Bay has had a better survival of fish. SSRAA, is working toward increasing production at Burnett Inlet. The proposed location is the site previously occupied by the original incubation building, which is mostly on the tidelands. SSRAA is seeking a site for a new fish hatchery in southern SEAK. Alternate locations are Highbush Lake, Wrangell Is. and Olive Lake, Etolin Is. A hatchery on a road system connected to a town is preferred for staff with families. The water flows from Highbush Lake may not be adequate. The issues at Olive Lake include adjacent private property owners and fish smell. The annual SSRAA audit shows more reserve funds than debt. Friday March 8 2013 there will be a SSRAA board meeting with major decisions on allocations.

**CUB SCOUTS**

There will be a Cub Scout fishing event at Pats Lake one weekend in 2013.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Wrangell AC meeting will include annual elections, a letter to the SSRAA Board concerning moving more fish north, and a letter to the RAC concerning management of the Stikine sockeye subsistence fishery.

The meeting ended at about 9:45 PM.

**JANUARY 28, 2013 MEETING**

Members Present 1/28/13: Tom Sims	Brennon Eagle	David Rak
(10) Winston Davies	Jason Rooney	Brian Merritt
Otto Florschutz	Chris Guggenbickler	Bill Knecht
Marlin Benedict		

The meeting was called to order by Tom Sims, Committee Chair at about 7 PM. First order of business is 2012 elections. Twelve people attending the meeting participate in the elections.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2013.**

The Chairperson opened the meeting for nominations to refill 5 expiring Committee positions. Brennon made a motion, second by Brian, to nominate David Rak, Janice Churchill, Robert Rooney, John Yeager, Winston J. Davies and Scott McAuliffie as candidates. Brennon made a motion; second by Chris to close the nominations. The election was held by secret paper ballot with the following results:

Winston J. Davies: 11 votes

John Yeager: 11 votes

Robert Rooney: 10 votes

David Rak: 9 votes

Janice Churchill: 8 votes

Scott McAuliffie: 5votes

The top 5 vote getters were seated on the Committee for a three year term.



**OFFICERS ELECTED**

A motion was made by Bill, second by Brian, for Chris Guggenbickler as **Chairperson**. Vote by a show of hands: Number in favor: 9

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 1

A motion was made by Chris, second by Brian, for Brennon Eagle as **Vice-Chairperson**. Vote by a show of hands: Number in favor: 10

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

A motion was made by Bill, second by Brian, for David Rak as **Secretary**. Vote by a show of hands:

Number in favor: 9

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 1

**APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBERS**

Chris Guggenbickler appointed Scott McAuliffe as an alternate member of the Wrangell AC for 2013, at the end of the meeting.

New and reelected member forms were distributed. Discussion determined that although the Wrangell AC does not have designated seats for its members, it is a well rounded committee representing the many user groups in Wrangell.

Tom lead a discussion on the proposal by the Board of Game to change their meeting schedule and handle game proposals for Southeast Alaska on January 11 through 15, 2014. The Wrangell AC has no issue with the change of dates.

**CONSIDERATION OF BOF PROPOSALS**

Following are the results of the Wrangell Advisory Committee's actions on the proposals presented in the Alaska Board of Fisheries, 2012/2013 Proposal Book. Listed here are the Stateside Finfish and Supplemental proposals the Wrangell Committee chose to act upon during its meeting.

Proposal #215                      **FAILED**

Motion to adopt by: Otto    Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 0

Number opposed: 10

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: If adopted this proposal could have a serious impact on the Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association operations. SSRAA recovers almost 100% of its cost from Neets Bay. Most of the harvest in the Neets Bay terminal Harvest area are hatchery fish. If there is a problem in Cook Inlet, it should be dealt with on a local level, not state wide. The proposal has implications in SEAK the Wrangell AC would not favor.

Proposal #228                      **SUPPORTED**

Motion to adopt by: Brennon              Second by: Brian

Number in favor: 10

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The Wrangell AC understands the Department is trying to clean up the definition for bag limit. The AC feels people should be stopped from holding a fish until they catch a bigger one and high grading fish. The term "immediately releasing" fish should allow for holding a fish for a photograph prior to releasing. If the fish is brought on board any longer than needed to unhook and take a picture, it must be kept. The AC hopes the State will be able to be enforced the regulation.



Proposal #229                    SUPPORTED  
Motion to adopt by: Rob    Second by: Chris  
Number in favor: 9  
Number opposed: 0  
Number abstaining: 1

Comments: The AC feels there is a real problem. A Wrangell guide has seen the taking of addition fish on a duplicate license. The AC would like to see a regulation that could be enforced which stops the abuse. If the person obtaining the duplicate license were required to provide all the harvest information that was on their original license, they may not remember the exact harvest dates. For guided fishers the harvest information is recorded in the guide's log book, but may not have been entered into the State data base when the duplicate license is issued.

Proposal #230    Considered but NO ACTION was taken.

Proposal #234                    FAILED  
Motion to adopt by: Otto    Second by: Brennon  
Number in favor: 0  
Number opposed: 10  
Number abstaining:01

Comments: The Wrangell AC accepts that split lead shot sinkers may be a problem in highly populated areas, but feel it is not a significant problem in most rural areas like Wrangell. In remote SEAK so little lead split shot is lost in the field by sport fishers, it should not be a problem for wildlife. The AC would not want to open the door to eliminate lead from commercial fishing.

Proposal #235    Considered but NO ACTION was taken.

#### STIKINE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Brennon presented the following proposal to the Wrangell AC;

The Wrangell Advisory Committee is supportive of the Federal Subsistence fishery on the Stikine River. We feel that this is a good opportunity for qualified users to access and enjoy this resource. We feel that reasonable measures should be in place to ensure that this resource is used wisely and in a manner that best allows for the sustainability of this resource. The two restrictions dealing with closely attending a net and implementing hours of operation are meant to minimize the opportunity for predation on fish in the nets. For these reasons we encourage the Regional Advisory Council to adopt the following Management Plan for this fishery.

Up to 2,000 Sockeye may be harvested annually, up to 400 Coho may be harvested annually and up to 125 Chinook may be harvested annually.

If these caps are exceeded in any year the number of fish per permit will be reduced for the next year. This reduction in fish allowed per permit is meant to keep the Subsistence fishery within its Guideline Harvest Level.

Before any fish are removed from the fishing site they must be recorded on the Federal Subsistence permit. Number of fish caught by species, day of catch, and location of catch must be recorded.

Nets shall only be in the water from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm daily.

All nets must be closely attended while they are in the water. Either the permit holder or a member of their household shall do this. While a net is in the water the Subsistence permit must be available for inspection by law enforcement personnel.



1.) Motion by Tom to approve proposal ; Second by Brennon PASSED

Number in favor: 10

Number opposed: 0

Number abstaining: 0

Comments: The Wrangell AC thinks the Federal Subsistence fishery on the Stikine River needs conservation by all user groups. The suggested changes include closely attending nets, but the distance from the net needs to be determined. Suggestions were 50 yds, 100 yds, 150 yds, or within sight of net. The AC feels the RAC may not adopt any change if it is too restrictive.

#### CANADIAN MINING

Chris reported to the AC on planned mining development in Canada. There is a strong concern that discharge or drainage from the mining could degrade water quality in the Stikine River and harm the very productive fishery.

The meeting ended at about 8:45 PM.

DAVID RAK  
Secretary



Matanuska Valley AC Meeting Minutes  
Nov. 14, 2012 7 p.m. MTA Building in Palmer  
Comments & Votes on Statewide Fishery proposals #215 -- 235

Attn: BOF Stockards  
March 2013  
AC Comments

Members Present: Dan Montgomery, Stephen Bartelli, Erik Beckman, Mike Buirge, Andy Couch, Bill Folsom, Jennifer Ehmann, Max Sager, Keith Westfall, Dave Young

Attn: Frances  
1-25-12

Members Absent: X means excused absence.

Dane Crowley X  
Stephen Darilek X  
Gerrit Dykstra  
Jeff Tuttle  
Mel Grove X  
Tony Jones X  
Israel PaytonX

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NOV 15 2012  
BOARDS  
ANCHORAGE

Motion To Consider Fisheries Proposal Book By Stephen Bartelli  
2nd by Dan Montgomery

215 Don't like that in Seward the entire run may be allocated to hatchery. At the same time there may be a situation where it is in the best public interest to allocate all of a run to one specific use. Motion failed unanimously 0-10-0.

216 Asking for ADF&G to adhere to management plans as much as possible. In the situation of the Mat-Su Valley salmon runs if ADF&G followed more fishing opportunities allowed by Upper Cook Inlet salmon management plans before going outside the plans it would result in more consistent meeting of goals in the Northern District of Upper Cook Inlet. Currently the Department has been going outside the plan before using all tools allowed in the plan. Motion passed unanimously 10 - 0 -0.

217. There is a problem with king salmon returns throughout the state of Alaska, but the proposal is too restrictive in that it would restrict fisheries with stronger king salmon returns of harvestable surplus fish. Members of the committee wanted to address their concern and frustration with management that does not seem to be addressing shortages of King Salmon. Motion failed unanimously 0-10-0.

218. If the Board and Department are going to use a SET then they certainly need to have criteria to establish SETs. The proposal is correct if you do not know what the SET is, there is no way to accurately determine if a stock has reach that specific level. Motion passed 10 -0-0.

219. One member of the Committee felt these terms had already been defined in the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. Other Committee members did not know if the terms had been defined adequately and wanted universal definitions Motion passed 8-1-1.

220. Use technology to the betterment of everyone. Motion passed 10-0-0.

221. Housekeeping to clean up regulation by ADF&G. Everyone benefits from cleaner regulations. Motion passed 10-0-0.



222. Public Safety proposal to make it easier to enforce regulations necessary to protect the resource. Motion passed 10 - 0-0.
223. Housekeeping to clean up regulations by ADF&G. Motion passed 10 -0-0.
224. Housekeeping to allow use of better technology. Motion passed 10 - 0 -0.
225. Committee supports a consistent approach with due consideration to the practice of permit stacking. Motion passed 10-0-0.
226. Housekeeping simplification of regulation. Motion passed 10-0-0.
227. Committee members felt that proxy fishing opportunities have a legitimate use. As written in the proposal multiple members expressed the thought that it did not seem fair to take away proxy opportunity independent of other angler's bag limit reduction. Another member expressed the thought that if people were going to share fish it really did not matter if one individual caught a seasonal limit of 4 king salmon or if the same angler caught a personal limit of 2 king salmon and a proxy limit of 2 king salmon. There was discussion that some people seem to be using proxies primarily as a means to extend catch and release fishing opportunities, after they have caught a king salmon, rather than primarily to catch a fish for a beneficiary. A member expressed his observation that sometime guided anglers catch and release many fish before harvesting as well. Some members did not want to see any proxy limitations. One member felt that there is a legitimate reason to restrict proxies in times of shortage. Proxy use makes it difficult for members of one group of anglers to know if another group is following regulations or harvesting past the limit --- since there is no way to know if other anglers have proxy paperwork -- this results in enforcement officers at times being called out to address situations that may or may not be violations. One member said that fishing opportunities are so expensive and harvest opportunities are so limited that proxies simply provide a way for Alaska residents to get more value in terms of harvested fish from an outing. A member mentioned that proxy fishing to him applied more to something like subsistence or personal use fishing than it did to sport fishing -- one problem -- in the Mat-Su Valley there is very little subsistence or personal use opportunity to harvest salmon. Motion failed 1-8-1.
228. Committee members liked the proposal. Motion passed 10-0-0.
229. Some members believed this proposal would be hard to enforce. With seasonal limits there needs to be some accountability. Motion passed 10-0-0.
230. One member did not like the thought of losing harvest opportunity if the license was lost. Others felt there should be some way to enforce the seasonal limit. Motion passed 8-1-1.
231. Some members were afraid that the proposal might make some individuals illegal as commercial operators. There was an objection from some committee members to the word individual included in the definition. At least one individual felt that if ADF&G and the



Department of Public Safety submitted the proposal together there must be a problem that needs addressing. Motion failed 3 - 5 -2

232. Committee liked the new definition of bait as it is less restrictive. Motion passed 10-0-0.

233. One person opposed the proposal on the basis that either felt soles threaten our resource or they don't --- therefore there should be no exceptions. Motion failed 0-10-0.

234. Committee was unanimously opposed. 0-10-0.

235. Committee members unanimously opposed. 0-10-0.

1. Committee Comments:

Bill Folsom talked about the concept of any Fish and Game Advisory that wants having the opportunity to split their AC into a Fish Committee and a Game Committee that would deal with those subjects. This could be a joint board of fish and game proposal.

It was announced there will be a public meeting tomorrow night Nov. 15 starting from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Menard Sports Complex in Wasilla with Valley legislators and Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff to discuss salmon management issues in Northern Cook Inlet this past summer and likely emergency regulations for 2013.

Committee had a discussion and is planning to focus Game Proposal Comments on Units 13, 14, and 16 proposals. Proposals from other units may be brought up by individuals coming to meetings. Members of the AC should bring up outside unit proposals to Bill before meetings so they can be put on the agenda.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday Dec. 19 7 p.m. at MTA building to discuss game proposals -- Unit 13 if Dan Montgomery can get Area Game Biologist Becky Schwanke to attend that night.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Minutes taken by Andy Couch



Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes  
February 27, 2013 at MTA building in Palmer

Members present: Tony Jones, Dan Montgomery, Max Sager, Jennifer Ehmann,, Keith Westfall, Israel Payton, Mel Grove, Dave Young, Mike Buirge. Jeff Tuttle, Andy Couch, Stephen Darilek, Eric Beckman

Members absent: Stephen Bartelli - excused Bill Folsom - excused, Jeff Tuttle – excused; Gerrit Dykstra, Dane Crowley - excused

Agency Staff: Trooper John Cyr

Public present: Neil Dewitt; William Patersin Jr; Patrick O'Connor

*Att. Franca/Monica  
Nisse / Kristy  
AC Comments*

Minutes from last meeting taken by Israel approved without objection.

Motion to accept Agenda: Correspondence will be added as the first item -- to occur each meeting.

**RECEIVED**

January 24 proposal 66 withdrawn after e-mail

**FEB 28 2013**

Voted by e-mail to have Dan Montgomery represent AC at BOG in Kenai.

**BOARDS  
ANCHORAGE**

House Bill 110 -- would require barbless hooks while a catch and release fishery was in effect.

Board of Game comment deadline March 1. Board of Fisheries statewide meeting comment deadline March 5.

GMU 6D new moose hunt proposal amendment.

Al Barrette's emergency petition that dealt with incidental take in trapping.

Andy Couch made a motion for a letter to oppose HB110. 2nd by Dan. House Bill 110. Dan Montgomery said it looked like a very difficult item to undo if it went into statute. Stephen mentioned that this legislation bypassed the BOF, and the standard public process. Motion to oppose passed 13-0-0. Tom Vania with ADF&G mentioned that BOF has considered proposals to consider barbless hooks. There are some studies looking at mortality of catch & release fisheries from Washington & Oregon. According to Vania the difference in mortality between barbless and barbed hooks is small and has not even been measured in Alaska. BOF issue -- not legislative.

*BOF  
Statewide  
AC Comment*

Andy Couch made a motion to approve fisheries **proposal 249**. 2nd by Dan. Tom Vania mentioned that ADF&G would like more flexibility in the date (July 21 or EARLIER) on when the first projection might be made and restrictions might start if there was a shortage of king salmon. It was pointed out that if no restrictions occurred before July 21 then it only increased the likelihood of a closure or restriction in late July. Andy Couch made an **amendment to maintain the bottom end of the new SEG at 15,000 king salmon rather than to create a lower OEG of 13,000**. 2nd by Dan. AC would like to maintain opportunity for Eastside set



Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee Minutes  
February 27, 2013 at MTA building in Palmer

netting in late July as a priority item and would like to slow the fishery down early if needed to accomplish that goal. Amendment passed 13-0-0. **Amended motion passed 12-0-1.**

Tom Vania mentioned that ADF&G comments for the statewide BOF meeting should be online soon.

BOF Fisheries Representation on March 19 - 24. No one can make the entire meeting so we have several members listed: Jehnifer Ehmann, Israel Payton, Andy Couch, and Eric Beckman were all approved with Jehnifer as the primary. Approved 12 -0-0.

**Game Proposals 140 - 175.**

BOG Southcentral Region

Jehnifer asked if AC members would like to take up all of the game proposals.

Proposal 143: One member wanted to see the regulation go back to 3 brow tine legal and cited the ADF&G proposal that suggests several items including leaving regulations the same or changing. There is no timely ADF&G comments or data to look at Motion failed 2-5-4.

Proposal 144 7-2-3 motion passed.

Proposal 146 8-1-3. Proposal does not ask for anything specific. Committee members are in favor of following ADF&G data in making moose decisions. We do not have that data -- yet.

Israel Payton motion to use past action #162 - 175 as they are proposals we've already voted on. 165 would be the exception. Since we've already voted on such proposals we want to use the past action. 2nd by Dan. Motion passed 13-0-0.

- 162 0-13-0 opposed
- 163 0-13-0 opposed
- 164 0-13-0 opposed
- 165 0-12-0 opposed.
- 166 0-12-1 opposed
- 167 0-13-0 opposed
- 168 0-11-1 opposed
- 169 0-11-1 opposed
- 170 0-11-1 opposed
- 172 0-12 -0 opposed

171 when previously voted on it was 4-8 opposed by our AC. Dan made an **amendment that an allotment be set up on a 50 / 50 basis between 2nd degree kindred and guide needed hunters.** APHA pulled support from this proposal at a different BOG meeting when none of the Advisory Committees supported this coming into that meeting. Dan mentioned on the Kenai Peninsula there may not even be a guide participating in some of the drawing hunts. We do not have numbers to look at as far as what participation is guided nonresident and what is 2nd degree of kindred. The mix would likely be different in different parts of the state. Amendment failed 2-7-3. **Proposal 171 as written failed 1 -9-2.**



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173 0-13-0 opposed

174 0-13-0 opposed

175 7- 5 -0 passed

BOG representation in Kenai will be Dan Montgomery. Approved 12-0-0.

Mel made a motion for the AC to write a letter of support for the MOU -- with specific points to be added. Predator control should be an issue in federal management on federal land that seeks provides subsistence opportunity. 2nd by Dan. Motion approved 12-0-0.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) -- Dan's comment is that subsistence should only kick in when there is a time of shortage -- and that in some instances there is an abundance in some areas.

Dan talked about some of the decisions made at the Board of Game meeting and provided a handout for specific proposals.

Board Comments:

Dan wondering about proposals members might want covered specifically at Kenai.

Mel participated in the 40 - mile caribou discussion. Still attempting to grow the herd. May be starting to see some signs of nutritional stress at about 50,000 animals. Most everyone was against the drawing youth hunt that was approved by the Board of Game. Youth can only harvest one caribou in a lifetime from this hunt. Bag limit against youth and the adult with the youth. Telephone call in harvest report during the winter did not work as too many phone calls. Canadians do not hunt the 40 - mile herd at this time -- choosing to put their allocation into growing the herd. Mel will e-mail some of this information to members.

Andy mentioned that BOF proposals are due on April 10.

Jehnifer wanted to know if AC would like to meet again on April 3 to have wrap up meeting on what happens at BOG meeting and BOF meeting and also on submitting some fish proposals for through the AC. Dan also mentioned the opportunity to put in statewide game proposals. No one was opposed to the AC meeting on April 3.

Pending Jehnifer getting approval -- the next meeting will be April 3 at MTA building in Palmer starting at 7 p.m.

Meeting Dissolved.

Minutes taken by Andy Couch



# Nushagak ADFG Advisory Committee

## Sub Committee Meeting for BOF Area M - DRAFT

Minutes were condensed for compliance with BOF late comments requirements. Detailed notes are available on request.

February 20, 2013

Dillingham Office of Alaska Dept. Fish and Game

### Minutes

I. Call to Order: 11:11 AM

*\*\*\*NOTE this meeting was for the AC Sub-Committee as established at the Jan 8 meeting.*

*Excerpt From Jan 8 minutes:*

#### NEW BUSINESS

AREA M BOF Meeting: "In the interest of time" Robert moved to direct the chair to form a subcommittee to consider and **act on Area M proposals on behalf of the whole AC ASAP** after the WASSIP meeting Jan. 17. **Adopted Unanimous.**

Frank invited Robert H., Tom O, Dan D, Travis B., and will ask Robin S. other AC members & public welcome to attend. Meetings will be advertised to public.

BBEDC WASSIP's work group to meet January 17. *\*\*\* End Excerpt.*

II. Roll Call: Present in chambers

#### Subcommittee

Frank Woods – Dlg Chair,  
Dan Dunaway – Dlg Secretary  
Lloyd (Tom) O'Connor – Dlg  
Robert Heyano - Dlg

#### Absent

Robin Samuelson – Dlg - excused  
Travis Ball - Aleknagik - excused snowed in

#### Others in Attendance:

Mariano Floresta - Clarks Point by conference phone.  
Susie Brito ADFG Boards  
Matt Jones ADFG Com Fish  
Gayla Woods BBNA  
Tim Sands ADFG Com Fish  
Mike Mason KDLG News

#### III. Approve Agenda:

Robert H move to adopt Dan D 2nd and asked for unanimous consent. No objections.

IV. Introductions: All present briefly introduced themselves.

#### V. New Business:

### **STATEWIDE BOF**

Comments due March 5, meeting is March 19-24 Anchorage, Hilton.

**Proposal 215 : Opposed as a Statewide action. Consensus**



*Criteria for allocation of fisheries resources.* Robert Move Tom 2nd

Nushagak AC requests Board to only consider for the Cook Inlet / Resurrection area only.

**Proposal 216 : Opposed as a Statewide action. Consensus**

*Application of Fishery Management Plans.* Robert Move Dan 2nd

Nushagak AC requests Board to exclude Bristol Bay area from this proposal and deliberation.

We request the Board take this issue up within individual areas/regions.

**Proposal 217 : Opposed. Consensus**

*Policy for statewide salmon escapement goals. Manage king salmon as priority.*

Robert Move Dan 2nd Nushagak AC is concerned this would confound local fishery management plans.

Nushagak AC does not believe the king salmon abundance problems around the state are due to mis-management but to some environmental problems.

**Proposal 218 : Opposed. Consensus**

*Policy for Mgt. sustainable salmon fisheries. Establish SETs for stocks of yield or management concerns.* Robert Move Tom 2nd

We prefer management under current SEG language and current Board policies.

We do not have enough information to understand the intent of this proposal.

**Proposal 219 : Opposed. Consensus**

*Definitions of MSY, OSY, SY, Mixed Stock Fishery.* Robert Move Dan 2nd

Nushagak AC supports existing sustainable management policies and definitions.

Most of the requested definitions are already provided in 5AAC 39.222.

**Proposal 220, 221 : No Action. Consensus**

*Ground Fish related proposals.* Robert Move Dan 2nd

**Proposal 222 : Support. Consensus**

ID requirements for CFEC permit holders. Robert Move Dan 2nd We support allowing state to enforce regulations more effectively.

**Proposal 223 : Support. Consensus**

*Yearly Vessel Registration.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

We support clarifying regulations. Appears to be housekeeping.



**Proposal 224 : Support. Consensus**

*Emergency Order Announcements.* Robert Move Tom 2nd This is done already in the Bristol Bay.

**Proposal 225 : Oppose on a Statewide basis. Consensus**

*Policy for implementing permit stacking.* Robert Move Tom 2nd

Permit stacking came out of and is commercial salmon fishery restructuring.

Nushagak AC prefers the Board reinstitute the salmon fishery restructuring process on a regional basis.

The original restructuring process was supposed consider a wide range of aspects of regulation changes, fishery management, economic, social etc. That is why Nushagak AC submitted proposal 62.

**Proposal 226: No Action. Consensus**

*Proposal Regarding Southeast issue.*

**Proposal 227 : Support allowing restrictions as needed. Consensus**

*EO Authority related to sport fishing proxies.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

We support ADFG having the authority to regulate proxies by EO as needed but we are totally opposed to total elimination of proxy process and opportunity.

Proxy opportunities are import to elders and others in our area.

**Proposal 228 : Support. Consensus**

*Define and prohibit "high grading" in sport fisheries.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

Already illegal but it would help to make it more clear cut to the public.

**Proposal 229 : Support. Consensus**

*Clarify maintaining sport harvest records for species with annual limits.* Dan Move Tom 2nd

We support efforts to eliminate potential abuse and circumvention of current recording regulations and annual harvest limits.

**Proposal 230 : No Action. Consensus**

*Proposal Regarding Southeast issue; See 229*



**Proposal 231 : Support. Consensus**

*Define compensation.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

This has been confusing for big game guides who may have clients that do some sport fishing.

**Proposal 232 : Support. Consensus**

*Sport caught fish for bait.* Dan Move Robert 2nd We support clarifying the regulations.

**Proposal 233 : Oppose. Consensus**

*Allow felt sole boots for disabled.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

We are sensitive to disabled anglers but the threat of invasive species is too great to make this exception. Invasive elodea has been found on the Kenai Peninsula.

**Proposal 234 : Oppose on a statewide basis. Consensus**

*Sport gear, disallow use of lead weights.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

Address issue locally as needed with data.

**Proposal 235 : Oppose on a statewide basis. Consensus**

*Mandatory recording of all sport harvests statewide.* Dan Move Robert 2nd

**Proposal 243 : Oppose. Consensus**

*Board generated proposal to address forage fish, protect for overexploitation. Adds Herring to list of Forage fish species.* Robert Move Dan 2nd

Existing herring management plans are extremely conservative only allowing 20% harvest of biomass and other protections are provided.

While proposal states it won't affect existing herring fisheries we are concerned this ultimately opens the door to restriction or elimination.

We have concerns this portends Federal regulatory encroachment into State management and authority.

This proposal does not provide enough information on the issue

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Authorize Representation at Board of Fish meetings; Area M Feb 26- Mar 4, and Statewide Mar 19-24.

Robert moved and Tom 2nd to grant the Nushagak AC Representative the discretion to act, adjust, and compromise before the Board of Fisheries on regulatory recommendations as needed in Nushagak Advisory Committee



the interest of the whole Nushagak Advisory Committee.

**Supported by Consensus**

We need to give our rep flexibility to operate in the committee process used by the BOF.

**NEXT MEETING**

By call of the chair. **Supported by Consensus**

**Adjourn 1:30 pm**



**Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes of January 17, 2013**

*Att: Franca/Monica BOF scd  
Rissa/Kristy BOG Southcentral  
1-25-13*

**DRAFT VERSION**

Meeting began at 7 pm at the City of Seward Council Chambers

Members Present: Jim McCracken, Robin Collman, Ezra Campbell, Jeannette Hanneman, Jim Herbert, Arne Hatch, Jim Hubbard, Bob White, Matt Hall, Trent Foldager

Members Absent Excused: Mark Clemens, Diane Dubuc, and John Flood

**RECEIVED**

Members Absent Unexcused: Chris Bolton, WC Casey

**JAN 24 2013**

Public Present: Tom Prochazka, Matt Grey, Sara Ossom, Carol Griswold

**BOARDS  
ANCHORAGE**

Agency Staff Present: Jason Herreman, Jeff Selinger, Dan Bosch, Sherry Wright of ADF&G

Minutes of previous meeting November 10, 2012 were approved. The most recent two meetings [12/6/2012 and 1/7/2013] failed to have a quorum.

Correspondence - None

Election of committee members: Mark Clemens, Matt Hall, Bob White, John Flood. To serve three year terms. There were no nominations by the public from the floor.

Election of officers: Jim McCracken, Chair; Dianne Dubuc, V-Chair; Jim Herbert, Secretary. To serve two year terms.

Members and those in the audience introduced themselves and gave their backgrounds and affiliations.

Old Business: Herbert informed the members that the Joint Boards received our proposal to reduce the membership of the Seward Area F&GAC to 11 with 2 alternates in order to facilitate getting a quorum at our meetings. We wish to continue with undesignated seats to best represent the greater geographic area. This proposal will be considered at the Joint Board meeting in October 2013.

New Business: With the input of F&G representatives the AC discussed relevant proposals that will be discussed at upcoming Board meetings. Due to a lack of quorum at the past two sessions, we had to do both BOF and BOG proposals this evening.

**Comments on Statewide BOF proposals**

**Statewide Allocation, Management Plans, and Policies**

**PROPOSAL 215**

**Action: 7 – 0 – 3 Support**

**Description:** Address allocations by percentages.

**Discussion:** Local fishermen are aced out of the fishery. Net pen releases have not been generally successful. A huge sport fishery has developed on Salmon Creek. As long as the aquaculture is controlling the entire harvest, it's unlikely others will be able to



## Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2013

harvest those fish. Local hatchery representative stated that it is not their plan to harvest 100% of this fishery permanently. They have changed the brood stock from the LCI lakes.

Grouse Lake used to have a good natural stock of salmon, now there are none. Spring Creek is another area local fisherman can access without a boat. Member states Bear Lake has no natural runs anymore either.

Introduction of brood stock in Port Graham (pink salmon) with an undisclosed run target. They will also do red salmon there. The first return would be 2016. Discussion included an economic escapement goal of 1.5 million dollars in revenue generation. Aquaculture loans will be needed to fund the new hatcheries. Tutka fishery is primarily pinks, but some sockeye salmon are also done there.

If red salmon fishery was reduced in Resurrection Bay and CI Aquaculture didn't get 100%, what would happen? If they only got 50% could they continue operations? Local hatchery representative didn't know the answer to that question – said it would have to go back to the drawing board. When Resurrection Bay did not meet their goal in the past they have also harvested some salmon from Kachemak Bay.

In general we agree with the intent of this proposal, but it is not well written. We spent quite a bit of time on this issue at previous meetings.

### PROPOSAL 217

#### Action 2-3-5 Oppose

**Description:** Mandate statewide priority for management of king salmon.

**Discussion:** King salmon must be managed for abundance. Chinook should be managed as a priority. Requested to raise the lower end of escapement goals 2% per year for the next 15 years to fix the problem we've had for the last 25 years. This has been a poorly managed resource for some time. Low returns both in shore and in wild stocks. Managing on a statewide basis with one formula doesn't make sense to one of the AC members – he disagreed with that. There are also international problems with our salmon stocks and not sure what is being done to address that. Enforcement has too much area to effectively patrol for illegal fishing.

The committee has given input to the statewide King Salmon management team and believes the carrying capacity of the North Pacific and other scientific data are important for meaningful action on the issue. Politics unfortunately has much influence in the process.

### PROPOSAL 226

#### Action 8 – 0 – 2 Support

**Description:** Update regulations to accurately reflect changes to the statewide *Sport Shark Fishery Management Plan* which allowed for an increase bag and possession limit of spiny dogfish shark and no annual limit requirement.

**Discussion:** This would be more of a housekeeping proposal. There is an abundance of spiny dogfish in Resurrection Bay and the adjacent Gulf waters. One of the local charter operators said you could also talk to a commercial fisherman and they catch thousands of these fish. He said you could probably make it a limitless bag limit.



## Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2013

### PROPOSAL 228

**Action 10 – 0 – 0 Support**

**Description:** Prohibit the practice of “high grading” by anglers.

**Discussion:** This is a good proposal because we see this often on the charter boats – you’re allowed two halibut and people want you to keep the fish alive to allow them an opportunity to get a bigger fish. This will make it clear for charter operators, who can point out the regulation to customers. The resource should come first.

### PROPOSAL 229

**Action 9 – 0 – 1 Support**

**Description:** Specify harvest record reporting requirements for additional sport fishing licenses and harvest records.

**Amendment:** Non-residents must send in their license as a final report for that license, or issue a harvest ticket and include a harvest reporting requirement.

**Discussion:** This sounds reasonable. The other issue is those who have two licenses and have allowed someone else to proxy fish for them. A person can create any number of regulations, but compliance and enforcement need to be able to be accomplished. There will be an increase in bureaucracy associated with the paperwork and the final result may not be as desired. If ADF&G and Public Safety have submitted this, we feel we should support it.

### PROPOSAL 234

**Action: 8-1-0 Support**

**Description:** Ban use of <1 oz. lead weights in fresh and salt waters of Alaska in sport fisheries.

**Discussion:** Proponent spoke that lead is a toxic poison and environmental damage is the reason this proposal was submitted. After reading how much a small amount of lead affects the human body and particularly in taking youth fishing who would be handling the weights, and then often, putting their hands in or near their mouths – it’s just not worth the risks. Lead weights are scattered all over the banks of the Kenai River, exposing all living things in or near that water system the lead poison. Other states are also proposing the elimination of lead. This goes on track with the ban of lead paint in houses, lead shots, etc.

### PROPOSAL 235

**Action No action**

**Description:** Establish mandatory reporting system for sport fisheries statewide.

**Discussion:** This is more detailed and from a commercial fishing standpoint, we do this all the time and have forever. It would be nice to have a better handle on what is actually being harvested in the sport fishery. Some members have expressed concern on the size of our government, and the question was raised of who would actually do this. One of the charter operators also spoke about the daily reporting requirements – they are not that hard to do. At the end of the season, they compile the information. The data they gather is what is important. Daily reporting would be much more accurate

## Comments on Southcentral Region BOG proposals

Jeff Selinger gave an update on the Kenai Peninsula moose population and research project.

### Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15



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**Proposal 132**

**ACTION 5-3-2 Support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 7 – 20 mile and 14C

**DISCUSSION:** Survey's are done annually out of the Anchorage office. There are issuing 20 permits. This is one of the antlerless moose hunts that the Seward AC has authority to re-authorize. We understand the value of leaving this tool in the F&G toolbox.

**PROPOSAL NO. 143**

**ACTION 1-8-1 Opposed**

**DESCRIPTION:** Modify bag limit for moose to 50" or greater, 3 brow tines in Units 7 and 15.

**DISCUSSION:** Opposed to regulatory changes that would allow removing the larger bulls and lower the number of breeding bulls available. Question if anyone has seen a moose in this area in the last week. Two people saw moose. One member not see any moose, didn't even see any moose tracks (on the drive from Anchorage). The moose population has collapsed in this area. A three prong approach would help, which includes regulations, reducing predators [allowing for calf recruitment] and enhancing the habitat. Bull moose in this area are mostly 2 brow tines, even when they are 50 inch. There is nothing in the Tustamena area anymore and concern of the subsistence harvest in that area taking sub-legal animals was expressed. Enforcement is another issue.

**PROPOSAL NO. 144**

**ACTION 9-0-1 Support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Retain the current moose harvest regulations for Units 7 and 15 through 2014.

**DISCUSSION:** This asks the board to extend the current regulations two more years in order to allow the population to recover. GMU & generally has poor moose habitat except for along river bottoms. We agree with a conservative approach.

**PROPOSAL NO. 147**

**ACTION 1-7-2 Oppose**

**DESCRIPTION:** Suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A and modify the population and harvest objectives for moose.

**DISCUSSION:** Although the program passed by the Board of Game, this has not occurred because the department wanted to get some hard data prior to executing their plan. There were 23 documented wolf packs on the Kenai Peninsula [not sure if this is currently accurate]. One member's opinion that they harvest a moose / caribou every 4 days and have a huge effect on the populations.

**PROPOSAL NO. 151**

**ACTION 9-0-1 Support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Re-institute closure of Palmer Creek/Lower Resurrection Creek areas in Unit 7 to moose hunting.

**DISCUSSION:** The committee wants to support the Hope Village Council in their efforts to mitigate disruption local lives. We do not understand why the BOG saw fit to lift a longstanding closure of this hunt.

**PROPOSAL NO. 152**

**ACTION 8-0-2 Support**

**DESCRIPTION:** Remove the reference to brown bear drawing hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

**DISCUSSION:** This is a housekeeping proposal. This will allow them to keep the registration hunt.

**PROPOSAL NO. 153**

**ACTION 7-0-3 Support**



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**DESCRIPTION:** Modify the registration season dates and the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 15A and 15C.

**AMENDMENTS:** Add Unit 7 to this proposal. 7-0-3

**DISCUSSION:** Would like to see more opportunity to harvest brown bears. The difficulty in Unit 7 is that habitat is a real challenge. They are not easy to find or easy to get in a situation where you can hunt them. One member believes that brown bears outnumber moose in Unit 7 at a ratio of four to one. There is no spring registration hunt on brown bear in Unit 7.

F&G stated the Russian River is the location of the largest brown bear population. They will propose a scheme where they will try to shift the hunting pressure to settled areas closer to where bears interact with people.

### **PROPOSAL NO. 157**

**ACTION 0-8-2 Oppose**

**DESCRIPTION:** Modify the black bear salvage requirement for Units 7 and 15.

**DISCUSSION:** This seems like it would be problematic. Leaving the hide and skull in the woods would not allow for the data gathering and leaving the meat is wanton waste.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

Advisory Committee approved Dianne Dubuc to attend the BOF Statewide meeting and Jim McCracken or his designee for the Southcentral BOG meeting.

Herbert spoke about enhancing fish habitat by adding brush to First Lake pond. He spoke to Ginny Litchfield in Habitat Division who told him the trees would have to be naturally occurring species and a permit would be required. He asked the AC if they would support this activity of enhancing fish habitat. There were no objections to the idea. He will also continue to talk with Seward Parks and Recreation.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Carol Griswold spoke to the AC about Sheffler Creek system and salmon. Some still call it the Fish Ditch where it is located near Harbor Lights condos. The elementary school adopted this creek to study the salmon cycles. Local conservation organizations have received grant funding for enhancement projects. A new pedestrian bridge was installed so people can observe the fish. Two observation platforms were installed over the lower stretch. She asked for the AC input regarding the 2012 Sports Fishing Regulation Booklet which talks about Kid Fishing Day. Where they are trying to re-grow the vegetation in that area, the kids are not supposed to stand or in the creek bed itself because salmon are actively spawning. She asked that they work together to protect the fish in the Sheffler Creek area and states it is not good stewardship for the kids to be walking through the area where the eggs have been deposited or disrupt spawning. The weir at the outlet of First Lake is worthless and allows non-native fish in an anadromous lake potentially killing off the naturally occurring stocks. She advocates for the portable yellow pool that ADF&G used to have to allow harvest of rainbow fingerlings during Kid's Fishing Day. She asked for the AC input on how to go about changing the Youth Only Fishing to protect the Sheffler Creek fish and habitat.

It would require a regulatory change. Sherry will help Carol with the proposal process.



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Matt Gray, Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance, came to address the AC about watershed issues. He also spoke about Sheffler Creek restoration and how it flows into the Bay. Above Nash Road and Salmon Creek Road 150 acres were bought out to protect habitat. Money had been set aside for habitat protection many years ago and this was the source of funding for this project. The flood board was also able to do flood mitigation in that area. There was a huge debris jam in the creek near the outlet to Bear Lake. They received grant funding and volunteer support to clear the debris. The river dropped almost 2 feet as a result. If they can maintain an active channel in Salmon Creek it will be beneficial for flood mitigation and habitat.

On the game side, they have also sold 650 bear resistance garbage cans and made some recommendations to the city on a new 10 year garbage collection method. People will be able to lease these containers through AK Waste.

Web site for more information on the work they are doing is; [www.rbca-alaska.org](http://www.rbca-alaska.org)

Sherry Wright: Jennifer Yuhas is the state's liaison with the Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional Advisory Council system. They are looking for input from the advisory committees on the Memorandum of Understanding. Do you want to continue to be included in the federal subsistence process? There is currently a place on the agenda for advisory committee comment, and mostly no comments are provided. Please let Jennifer know if you'd like to continue to be part of that process.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY AC MEMBERS:**

Collman was not sure if the creek from First Lake was an anadromous stream as he couldn't find it in the atlas. He is not concerned about the few kids that may get in the Sheffler Creek system. He has seen hundreds of people in the Russian River area and knows that there are many spawning fish in that system as well. He would like to see the scientific data to support what was presented before the AC and possibly establish a baseline. He caught a large rainbow by the shore of the bay and wondered if it might be a steelhead instead of an escaped rainbow from First Lake. He further volunteered to attend the Kid's Fishing Days event and speak to people he observes acting illegally. He encourages others to help him.

Hanneman: Gathering of scientists in Anchorage next week for the Marine Science Symposium. Issues to include salmon, forage fish, trawling, by catch, etc. Free at the Hotel Captain Cook Tuesday – Thursday this coming week. Jeannette will report back to the AC what she learns from attending. This is an annual meeting.

Hatch asked if the request from Griswold was to do away with the Kid's Fishing Days for the six days they hold that event? She responded there was there is no enforcement, trampling banks, stepping on the fish. Concern related to the lack of the stewardship that is being taught to kids.

Hubbard is going to the IPHC meeting next week and will report back to the AC on halibut decisions.

White believes that the revegetation project that occurred at Sheffler Creek is a joke. He thinks ocean waves take that out every year undermining the bank. He has yet to see



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anybody on the platforms that have been installed. He believes the habitat and the lake are fine. Rainbows that are put in First Lake are sterile and live on fry and smolt production itself. The stocked fish get right out of First Lake as it is devoid of feed and nutrients to sustain a population year-round. They end up in the Lagoon where there is a better food supply. He believes a parcel of the land purchased by the flood board was the most useful. DOT was completely unaware of where the water came from during recent floods.

McCracken said Sheffler Creek runs through the horse pasture and believes pollution from it has been reduced. He stated that in the past he was associated with a RV park located near the Fish Ditch. Jim was there every day and notes it is tidally influenced. High tide comes up and poisons grasses not resistant to salt water. Kids in the creek – high flow volume fish creeks are not affected by kids walking in them. For opportunity kids to get off the couch, get out, and have an opportunity to go fishing in a 'non-combat' area. If there is an enforcement problem, he suggests making a call to enforcement personnel. The AC worked to get rainbow trout for the Kid's Program. He says there are habitat improvements in the Stewart Subdivision adjacent to Sheffler Creek. He suggests stocking species other than salmon in the Lagoon so we could enhance the native stock of salmon by ADF&G. He expressed concerns about woody debris behind his place of business associated with the wetlands and flooding.

Thanks expressed to Sherry Wright for attending and creating the initial draft minutes and biologists Bosch, Selinger, and Herreman for traveling the long distances to work with us.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 28, 2013 after the two spring Board meetings. We will prepare comments on Joint Board proposals and hear reports from those who attended the board and other meetings. Preparation for Kid's Fishing Day should also be an agenda item.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm



## Checklist

### ULC F&G A/C voter record and comments/ BOF

Proposal #	support	oppose	abstain	Summary of discussion about this proposal
215	0	7		don't support proposal that imposes statewide restrictions on fisheries and reduces the ability to consider fisheries on and area-by-area basis
216				7 votes for NO ACTION see F&G comments
217	0	6	1	the proposal limits the ability of F&G to use best science available to manage the declining king salmon return problem
218	0	5	2	see F&G comments. abstentions were due to lack of knowledge on the proposal
219	0	7		definitions all ready exist in regulation and don't need to be repeated
220	7	0		w/ addition of "registration by email" be added
221	7	0		see F&G comments
222				5 votes NO ACTION 2 abstention
223	6		1	clarification of regulation is good
224	7	0		makes sense to use most up to date forms of communication. as noted by F&G, add a, #5 and other appropriate public notifications
225	0	5	2	
236				7 votes for NO ACTION see F&G comments
243	1	5		
244	0	5	1	it was felt the regulation favors bigger boats being able to fish and would be detrimental to smaller craft



**ULC F&G A/C voter record and comments/ BOF**

245			
246			6 votes NO ACTION see F&G comments
247	1		5 votes NO ACTION
248	6		clarification of regulation is good

