

Chignik Advisory Committee

Meeting of March 13, 2015

- I. Call to Order: 2:26 p.m.

- II. Roll Call:

AC Structure: The Chignik AC has three seats designated for each of five local Chignik area Communities, Chignik (Bay), Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay for a possible total of 15. Currently all seats are filled except for Chignik Bay which has two seats vacant and Chignik Lake which has one seat vacant.

Total number of voting members: 12
 Members Present: 8 (7 permanent members plus 1 alternate, Gary Anderson)
 Members Absent: 5 (6 permanent members less one who was represented by an alternate)
 Number Needed For Quorum on AC: 7

Members Present: 8
 Chignik Lagoon: Alfredo Abu-eid, Don Bumpus, Gary Anderson (as Alternate)
 Chignik Bay: Ben Allen
 Ivanof Bay: Jacob Shangin (Chair), Noah Shangin
 Perryville: Boris Kosbruk, Marvin Yagie

Members Absent: 5
 Chignik Lagoon: Rodney Anderson
 Chignik Lake: Don Lind, Harry Kalmakoff
 Ivanof Bay: Steven Shangin
 Perryville: Patrick Kosbruk

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 7

List of User Groups Present: Chignik (Bay), Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, Ivanof Bay
 List of User Groups Absent: Chignik Lake (Note: 1 recently deceased, 2 with irreconcilable schedule conflicts)

- III. Fish and Game Staff Present: Taryn Oconnor-Brito, Board Support; Mark Stichert, Region 4 Groundfish; Dawn Wilburn, Chignik Management Biologist, Donn Tracy, Region 4 Sport Fish.

- IV. Guests Present: Chuck McCallum, Lake and Peninsula Borough Fishery Advisor; Bruce Barrett, Chignik Regional Aquaculture Biologist & adviser to United Chignik Salmon Fishermen; Courtenay Carty, Director of Natural Resources BBNA; Gayla Hoseth, BBNA, Ernie Carlson, Chignik Bay; Johnny Lind, Chignik Lake; Al Anderson, Chignik Lagoon, Henry Mack, King Cove.

- V. Approval of Agenda: By unanimous consent

- VI. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2015: Approved by unanimous consent

- VII. Old Business: Comment on Proposals 235 and 236 (Note: Action previously taken on March 10, 2015 on proposal 276 and on proposal 44 (through a letter to the Board)). No action and no comments were made on other proposals (e.g. 234, 237-275, 277-278)

Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp, and Misc. Shellfish Meeting March. 17–20, 2015 Alaska Board of Fisheries			
Mandatory- Please Summarize Your Proposal Comments in this Form			
BOG or BOF	Proposal Number	Proposal Description	
Supports or Opposes?	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments/Discussion (list Pros and Cons)/Amendments to Proposal
BOF	235		Modify the Chignik District fishing season for sea cucumbers to open two weeks earlier than the remainder of Registration Area J.
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	8	Since this fishery is not super exclusive, having different dates is a bad idea. Keeping the same dates as neighboring areas is a good idea. We may not be using this fishery now but let's keep it like everyone else and keep it for the future. Changing the dates could be detrimental to a future local participation fishery.
BOF	236		Establish an earlier season closure for the Kodiak, Chignik, Alaska Peninsula, and Aleutian districts' commercial Dungeness crab fisheries.
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	7	0	The proposal was amended to change the opening date from May 1 to June 15. Concern about soft shells was a primary reason for supporting the amendment of the start date. The amendment passed by unanimous consent. On the amended main motion it was noted that June 15 through October 31 is good and generous timing. Noting the loss of one voting member and that quorum is maintained the motion to support passes.

- VIII. New Business: Letter of Support for BBNA's subsistence sharing network research proposal to the USFWS.
 Courtenay Carty of BBNA presents the proposal and which includes the subsistence sharing network involving the communities of Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, Port Heiden, and Egegik. Courtenay also presents a draft letter of support for the consideration of the AC. After a discussion of how the research builds on (rather than replicates) work done by Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough of ADF&G subsistence division, the AC unanimously approved the chairman to sign the letter of support on behalf of the Advisory Committee.
- IX. Old Business: Discussion of the development of proposals for the 2015-2016 meeting cycle.
 a. **Seining Cod:** A Proposal for a Chignik State Waters Cod Seine Fishery was presented by Bruce Barrett. Discussion included:

- i. How the allocation would work: 75% of the 10% Jig allocation would be available for Cod Seine.
- ii. Will it be feasible since fishermen will need to run them to Sand Point? Some fishermen have said that they understand that there would be no tenders are willing to try it.
- iii. Fishermen would not be able to sell any salmon harvested because salmon would be closed and any salmon caught should be released unharmed.
- iv. The jig quota is not being fully used and any way of harvesting the jig quota is good.
- v. A question for staff on transporters: Mark Stichert explains that if there are no tenders than one of the fishermen could serve as a transporter for the others.
- vi. A question for Staff on Observers: Mark Stichert explained that the department has no experience with how to manage a Cod seine fishery so the idea would be for the flexibility to put an ADF&G staff person on a boat to see how the fishery works – not to lock the fishery into having permanent observers.
- vii. A question for staff on Gear: Mark Stichert explained that they would not be imposing any gear restrictions because they don't know enough about what works and what doesn't.
- viii. A question for staff on potential bycatch limits: Mark Stichert explained that while it sounds reasonable to have bycatch limits they don't have enough information to set anything up.

A motion for the AC to submit the Chignik State Waters Cod Seine proposal passed seven in favor and zero against.

b. **Closed Waters:** A proposal for modifying Closed Waters in the Chignik Management area was presented by Bruce Barrett. Discussion included:

- i. Current closed waters are much more restrictive than need be in Ivanof Bay, Portage Bay, and Kujulik Bay.
- ii. If we don't change then fish will continue to 'go to heck' each year (i.e. foregone harvest).
- iii. Although no one is currently living at Ivanof Bay it is important to keep in mind that enough fish need to be available for local use; it is good to increase the opportunity to catch the fish but closer monitoring such as a weir should go hand in hand.
- iv. The department still has the discretion to increase protections as needed.
- v. Dawn Wilburn (ADF&G) states opposition for the changes. The department has the flexibility to make more liberal openings and the fish need the protection of the current closed waters.
- vi. It is pointed out that ADF&G has been very ineffective and inattentive in management closed waters in the Chignik area and one of the main reasons for the current overly large closed waters area in these bays was due to creek robbing which is no longer occurring at any recognizable level.
- vii. ADF&G does not understand that there is no market for dark and water-marked fish and that early fishing opportunity needs to occur. Waiting until after escapement is achieved commonly results in too much escapement and poor harvestable fish if F&G calls a fishery at all.

A motion for the AC to submit the closed waters proposal passed seven in favor and zero against.

c. **Pink & Chum Management:** A proposal for amending the management plan for Chignik area Pink and Chum harvest was presented by Bruce Barrett. Discussion included:

- i. Ten bays would be open for 72 hours per week and the managers have the needed flexibility to curtail that for a variety of reasons.
- ii. Trident supports this proposal and believes that local harvests of pink and chum should occur more so. When ADF&G calls a fishery if at all too much of the catch is water-marked and dark.
- iii. Five days would be better and would keep a closer eye on it. The department could use the CPUE then they would know when they needed to fly.

A motion for the AC to submit the Pink & Chum Management Plan Proposal passes seven in favor and zero against.

- d. **Landing Requirement for SEDM:** A proposal for amending the Area M, Southeast District Mainland management plan to include a landing requirement was presented by Bruce Barrett.

Discussion included:

- i. While setnetters have a natural tendency to deliver locally the seine fleet has a natural incentive to deliver elsewhere and reporting accuracy becomes an issue.
- ii. One fishermen stated that he has tendered in the SEDM and only set netters delivered to him – seiners never did – they always ran their fish back to Sand Point.
- iii. This proposal doesn't preclude delivering in Sand Point, it just makes more explicit that you must declare fish harvested in the SEDM so that they can be properly accounted for in the SEDM allocation plan.

A motion for the AC to submit the proposal for a landing requirement in the SEDM fishery passed seven in favor and zero against.

- e. **Reduce fishing time for Dolgoi Island:** A proposal for amending an area M fishery management plan to reduce fishing time at Dolgoi Island was presented by Bruce Barrett. Discussion included:

- i. This is the only fishery in Area M where the dominant stock is Chignik sockeye but there is no allocation or management check on its impact to Chignik bound sockeye stocks.
- ii. This reduces the time fishing by 25% from 88 hours per week to 66 hours per week.
- iii. Some AC members thought this was too liberal and some thought that an allocation plan should be considered.
- iv. Bruce Barrett points out that like it or not Chignik fishermen do not own Chignik bound salmon and this Dolgoi Island fishery has traditional standing – the best we can hope for is some reasonable protection.

A motion for the AC to submit the proposal to reduce fishing time for Dolgoi Island passed seven in favor and zero against.

- X. Old Business: Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of November 14: By unanimous consent
- XI. Chairman to approve AC Minutes: By unanimous consent
- XII. Next Meeting Date: By mutual consent a tentative next meeting date was set for September 17, 2015 at 2 pm.

Adjournment: 5:30 pm, March 13, 2015

Minutes Recorded By: Charles McCallum
Minutes Approved By: Chairman Jacob Shangin