

**Eagle AC Meeting  
1/6/2016  
Eagle Community School**

- I. Call to Order: Time by Andy Bassich at 6:00 pm
- II. Roll Call:  
Members Present: Andy Bassich, Bo Fay, Steve Hamilton, Chalia Selman, William Mosher, Don Woodruff, Mike McDougal, Jackie Helmer  
Members Absent: Charlie House  
Number Needed For Quorum on AC: 5
- III. Approval of Agenda: Approved, will be taking up wildlife issues first
- IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From meeting date: 10/9/2014 Approved
- V. Fish and Game Staff Present: Jeff Wells\* & Jeff Gross\* (DWC), Jeff Estensen\*, Bonnie Borba\*, Christy Gleason\*, Sabrina Garcia\* (DCF), Nissa Pilcher\* (BDS)
- VI. Guests Present: Russ Landers (AWT)\*, Steve Robins, David Helmer, JoAnne Wallace (Eagle Village), Dean Willis (Central)\* Terry Depue,

\*Participating via teleconference

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

Eagle Village would like a designated seat on the committee. AC Members noted that Issac Juneby had previously served until he was killed in a car accident in Anchorage. This will be addressed during the election.

**Elections**      2 years; Mike McDougal & Jackie Helmer retained their seats  
Steve Robins elected to seat 3(a); will begin serving immediately  
Eagle Village will sit in a vacant alternate seat so that whomever can come from the council can have a voice on the AC elected for two years.

3 years; Don Woodruff, William Mosher, and Chalia Selman retained their seats

**Wildlife Updates; Jeff Gross and Jeff Wells**

Fall 40mile caribou herd hunt updates given

Potential Departmental BOG proposal on the hunt discussed; discussed with the 40Mile Harvest Coalition. Subject on extending zone northward.

Discussion on [lack of] mixing of Porcupine & 40mile Caribou, current population numbers of the 40mile herd, current status of 40mile wolf control program

Moose Survey information for 20E given

**Stephanie Schmidt & Jeff Estensen presented abbreviated versions of their presentation to the Yukon Panel Titled *U.S. Yukon River Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon 2015 Season Summary***

Fishermen notices that there didn't seem to be any pulses of Fall Chum this year, the fish were just steady up here, asked about other parts of the rivers experience. Department remarked that that observation seemed to be correlated across the drainage. Member clarified that the community was concerned that the lack of pulses was due to heavy fishing downriver and wanted the department to be able to say that it wasn't, which they did. It was expressed that the department is thankful that everyone is working together to conserve the kings, and the members are thankful for having managers that work hard to ensure that the people can fish when and how possible to keep in line with the conservation measures.

**ARCTIC / YUKON / KUSKOKWIM FINFISH  
JANUARY 12–17, 2016  
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
<b>BOF</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>Reduce management triggers in the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan based on the run size of summer chum salmon.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	Committee referenced EIRACs comments (AC17) and agreed that these triggers were put in place for conservation purposes and should not be removed at this time.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>Modify the Yukon River Summer Chum Salmon Management Plan triggers.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	Not necessary at this time
<b>BOF</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Increase the commercial fishery threshold trigger in the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	This would support fall chum conservation With additional pressure on it due to poor King returns and the critical need for Fall chum for the long term in 5YD, Conservative commercial management is crucial
<b>BOF</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>Eliminate the use of GHs in the Yukon River King Salmon Management Plan.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	If they don't foresee it why do they want to change it? Concerned with the intent of this proposal for that reason.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>Allow all gear used in Yukon Area commercial fisheries to be allowed in Yukon Area subsistence fisheries.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	2	7	While those in support of this proposal liked the idea of equality of gear type across the drainage, other members did not want to see the drift net fishery expanded. That in these times of conservation it doesn't seem appropriate to open up the river to all these different gear types when the people already know the river and what works best where they fish. This may in fact force managers to shut down the river more often. If the river is shut down a lot, then they have to fish when there is an opener and if the weather isn't good for drying the fish then what. There is also a safety issue since specific gear types work in parts of the rivers for reasons; drift fishing could be very dangerous in certain parts of the river.

<b>BOF</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>Prohibit the use of drift gillnets in the Yukon Area subsistence fishery and in the Yukon Area commercial fishery.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	This would hurt a lot of subsistence users in the lower river. What else would they use? It is a whole different river down there.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>Require subsistence salmon fishing permits in Yukon Area District 5 and set permit limits for king salmon during times of king salmon conservation.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	<p>We already have to do this here. It was noted that similar proposals have been tried in the past like this and they haven't passed, and that this could be expensive and difficult to administer by the department, that setting permit <u>limits</u> on subsistence might be difficult although one member stated that when you get a hunting license then there are bag limits on what you can hunt, even for subsistence hunts.</p> <p>Concern on setting limits:  If we can only catch 10 fish, and we catch 10 jacks, that is only half a case to put up for the winter. Average king is under 18 lbs in the region too many Jacks. Two fish in this region equal one in the lower river in useable flesh</p>
<b>BOF</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Allow for the retention of king salmon less than 25 inches in length in Yukon Area fish wheel subsistence fisheries.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	Agree with EIRAC Comments (AC17) on this proposal
<b>BOF</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>During times of salmon conservation in the Yukon Area, require fish wheels with live boxes to be manned and require immediate release of the specified salmon.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	If you hold them in a box for 6 hours it puts a lot of stress on a fish, reducing fitness. If you have it set up that way you need to man the wheel so you can release them immediately.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>Establish specifications for a beach seine used for subsistence fishing in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	This seems like a really big net, but we do support the department's wanting to put limits on beach seines.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Require live release of king salmon from subsistence beach seines during times of king salmon conservation in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	<p>Question was asked that if you could keep a 25" fish or less in a fish wheel why couldn't you keep them in a beach seine?</p> <p>This seems like a very good idea.</p>
<b>BOF</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>Allow subsistence fall chum salmon fishing seven days per week in District 5 of the Yukon Area once a fall chum salmon commercial fishery is opened.</b>	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	I think this proposal was needed years ago. Think the current managers are doing a great job but this wouldn't be a bad idea to have in place just in case. This would Ensure that we would no longer have OOPPS management in the upper river fall chum fisheries in to the Future. Fall chum is critical to this region
<b>BOF</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>Further define commercial beach seine specifications for summer chum salmon in the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	9	0	This seems like a really big net, but we do support the department's wanting to put limits on beach seines.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>Establish gillnet gear provisions to allow a directed pink salmon commercial fishery in districts 1–3 of the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	Adding another commercial fishery would increase the chance of catching none targeted species, such as kings. We would also like to see more research done on pink numbers before a fishery is established.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>Add purse seine gear as an allowable commercial salmon fishing gear to target summer chum salmon in districts 1–3 of the Yukon River during times of king salmon conservation.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	Concern that kings caught in nets could be mortally injured, or have a reduction in fitness that would keep them from making it to the spawning grounds. Member spoke to working on a purse seiner and having doubts on being able to successfully live release non target species. It is also really gear intensive; the big boats with a lot of horsepower get the fish so the mom and pop operations won't be able to compete with this so the fishery could eventually become something larger than anticipated. This could adversely affect those fishermen who only make a couple grand a year at fishing which is currently the majority of commercial fishing that occurs here.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>Expand the commercial fishing area of Yukon Area District 1.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	By making it bigger the fishermen risk running an intercept fishery. Questions asked about if this would make it possible for larger boats to come in and fish. The rough tides and low water of this area discussed in relation to how this area would/could be fished.
<b>BOF</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>Extend commercial fishing three miles offshore and north to Point Romanof in District 1 of the Yukon Area.</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Support <input type="checkbox"/> Support as Amended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> No Action	0	9	By making it bigger the fishermen risk running an intercept fishery. Questions asked about if this would make it possible for larger boats to come in and fish. The rough tides and low water of this area discussed in relation to how this area would/could be fished.

## Officer Elections

Andy stated that he has been chair for 25 years and would like to turn over the reins to to Mike McDougall if the committee is good with that; where he lives is just not conducive to calling meetings. He would like to continue to represent the committee at BOF meetings as he enjoys that.

Mike McDougall elected to serve as Chairman

Andy elected as vice chair and as secretary

Minute Discussion

Nissa discussed reasons behind the boards preference to receive finalized minutes and explained the process to approve them.

Chair designated to approve minutes

BOF Representative

Andy designated to testify before the BOF

Next meeting set for February after the Yukon Quest goes through Eagle. Try for Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> same time same place

Think about BOG proposals to submit. We get most of our game during federal seasons.

Andy

Thank you everyone for coming; we always have really good discussions, and thank you for the village representative that came, it has been too long since we had village representation on the board.

Old Business:

Adjournment: 10:00 pm

Minutes Recorded By: Andy Bassich  
Minutes Approved By: Mike McDougal  
Date:1/8/2016