

WHITTIER FISH & GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2016

Anchor Inn

I Call to Order : 13:10 hr. by Chairman Jon van Hying.

II Roll call :

Members Present: Ric Vrsalovic ,Jody Mason, Milton Stevens, Jon van Hying, James Morris, Gordon Scott, David Goldstein, Steve Aberle and Brad von Wichman.

Member Absent: David Pinguoch.

Number of members needed for quorum: 5

List of User Groups Present: 10

III Fish and Game staff present: Mike Thalhauser and Jay Baumer.

IV Agenda.

V Approval of previous minutes: Chairman read the last minutes of Nov. 21, 2015.-

Steve Aberle moved to approve the minutes with a correction on the voting tally in proposal No. 203.- The correct count is: Support= 0, Opposed= 4, Abstain= 1.

David Goldstein second the motion.

The minutes were passed as corrected.

VI Old Business:

Mike Thalhauser and Jay Baumer took the floor to give us more information about the Statewide proposals.

Prop. 202.- was introduced to prohibit the use of felt bottom boots for sport fishing in fresh water.-- The state would like to extend this requirement also to cover saltwater. Although the introduction of invasive specimens in salt water is not to critical, it would make easier to enforce.

ADF&G would like to heard from the public and AC members about any concerns.

Call for vote:- Steve Aberle move to put on the table for support prop. 202.
Second by Brad von Wichman.

Support= 9 Opposed= 0

Prop. 203.- This is a proposal written by several hatcheries in the state to protect the broodstock when the escapement goal is projected to be less than required.

This proposal will allow the AD&G to close the sport fishing of hatchery fish by emergency Order when the commercial harvest is closed and the escapement goal is not met yet.

Prop. 204.- The ADF&G wants to clarify the definition of “artificial fly” by adding the sentence “a bare single hook” that is free of bait.

This is a proposal to make it easy for the enforcement personal to do their job.
James Morris move to support this prop. 204; second by Jody Mason.

Call for vote: Support= 9 opposed= 0

Prop. 205.- Jay Baumer of Fish and Game explain this is a clarification that a “bead” not attached to a hook is an attractor and not a lure or fly.

The AC members don’t have any objection to this proposal.

James Morris move to support this prop. 205; Jody Mason second.

Call for vote: support= 9 opposed= 0

Prop. 206.- Jay Baumer explained this proposal will establish a guideline of what is considerate “closely attended” when sport fishing for coho salmon.

The guidelines for “closely attended” are:

- 1) If a person is more than arms length to his fishing rod, an audible devise must be attached to it.
- 2) The fisherman must be attentive and not more than 7 rod lengths from the pole, or
- 3) If is more than 7 rod lengths, a second person must be designated to assist.

Steve Aberle move to support prop. 206; second by David Goldstein.

Call for vote: Support= 0 opposed= 9

Comment: Whittier AC members thought the Proposal is too complex to follow and enforce it.

Prop. 208.- Possession of sport caught fish could not retain more from a management area than what is allowed in “Port of Call” bag limit.

Milton Stevens put on the table to adopt prop.208; second by James Morris.

Call for vote: support= 0 opposed= 9

Comments: the AC members thought they could not support this proposal as written. The proposal is too complex and burdensome, but we like to see it rewritten in a more acceptable way, because the concept is good.

Prop. 209.- (and 210, 211) Deal with the designation of "Herring" as a forage fish. The demand for fish meal has increased greatly in the last 10 years, so there is an enormous effort to create a direct fishery for forage fish in Alaska.

Jon van Hying recalled several years ago in the commercial division there was a push to designate "Herring" a forage fish, but it was strongly opposed by the state and other groups. Today, AC members took the stand to not address these 3 proposals.

Next, member Gordon Scott took the floor to talk about the commercial Shell Fish meeting he attended in Anchorage last March 2015.

He reported that one of the issues taken was to increase the "Statistic area cap" for spot Shrimp from 25% to 50% of GHL. This proposal passed. The change only affects 2 stat. areas of the 6 total.

They also passed the proposal to increase the numbers of shrimp pots allowed in simple buoy line, from 4 to 5 in the commercial division.

Also, the required report per trip harvested will change, but is not ready to implement for 2016 season. The Personal Use shrimp report, it is still the same as before.

Mike Thalhauser mentioned that ADF&G can change the limit of pots for Personal Use by Emergency Order.

Jon van Hying says the ADF&G hasn't done a troll Shrimp survey since before the oil Spill. He predicted to Ak Fish Depart. that the caught amount would decline slowly, which it did.

James Morris asked Mike Thalhauser if the log book for Charter Boats is ready. Mike said still in the works. The plan is to come out with an electronic reporting.

Adjourn at 14:45 hr.