

Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Feb. 12, 2019
NERRS Building

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Lyon at 6:01 pm

Members Present: Dave Lyon (chair), Tom Young (vice-chair), George Matz (secretary), Gary Sinnhuber, Tom Hagberg, Dan Anderson, Marvin Peters, Joey Allred, Jr, Jim Meesis, Michael Craig, Dennis Wade, Wes Humbyrd, Doug Malone, Malcolm Milne, Matt Hakala, Morgan Jones.

Members Absent Excused: Lee Martin

Public Present:

Beaver Nelson, Jessie Nelson, Matt Alward, Penelope Haas, Nancy Hilstrand, Lynn Whitmore.

Staff Present: ADF&G; Mike Booz, Holly Dickson, Carol Kerkvliet, Elisa Russ. AST: Alisha Beach

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the January AC meeting were approved.

Minutes of Fisheries Subcommittee were approved.

Old Business: Dan Anderson discussed the Fisheries Subcommittee meeting last week regarding Cook Inlet mixed salmon stocks, interception of these stocks, and further insight from recent genetic studies of these fisheries. The meeting covered a lot of issues but didn't hone it down to a proposal. However, Dan took these thoughts and came up with a rough working draft to facilitate further discussion. Dan handed out a two-page draft that in addition had a map of Kodiak salmon management units. He suggested amendments to the North Shelikof and Cape Igvak Salmon Management Plans. The intent of this effort is to be able to submit a proposal to the BOF by the April 10th deadline.

New Business: Penelope Haas of KBCS provided new research about the impact that pink salmon have on populations of diatoms and copepods while ocean feeding. She felt that this information needs to be part of the discussion on salmon hatchery operations that the BOF Hatchery Committee is having March 8 in Anchorage.

ADF&G staff led a discussion on Kachemak Bay tanner crab. There currently isn't an open season for tanner crab because their survey counts were below threshold limits. A seasonal limit on crab was mentioned. The Homer AC had a brief discussion about whether we should work up a proposal on the issue. The consensus was to defer at this time.

Lynn Whitmore, chairman of Kachemak Moose Habitat, Inc. gave his annual review on lands or easements that have been purchased to protect prime moose habitat in the Kachemak Bay area.

He said they are working the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust to secure some prime winter habitat along the Anchor River.

The AC approved of Dan Anderson representing us at the BOF meeting Feb. 21-27 in Anchorage.

| Alaska Joint Board of Fisheries & Game Proposals March 21-25, 2019 Anchorage, AK | | | |
|---|--|---------------|--|
| Proposal Number | Proposal Description | | |
| Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action | Number Support | Number Oppose | Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes |
| 12 | Require members to reside within the committee's geographic area | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 - 0 | While this hasn't been an issue in Homer, it is conceivable that it might be. The AC believes that allowing non-residents to become members could be disruptive. |
| 13 | Change the advisory committees having jurisdiction for the Cook Inlet-Resurrection Bay area by removing Mt. Yenlo and Denali Advisory Committees | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 - 0 | |
| 17 | Reorder and clarify the election procedures under the uniform rules of operation for advisory committees | | |
| Support | 14 | 0 - 1 | Needed administrative changes. The vote to abstain was based on too much information. |
| 22 | Allow advisory committee members to discuss and vote by email, excluding actions for antlerless moose reauthorizations or emergency order closures | | |
| Support | 13 | 2 - 0 | <p>There was some discussion about deleting the sentence on voting. An amendment was offered but failed 2 - 13 - 0.</p> <p>The AC is aware that current interpretation of the Open Meetings Act does not allow discussion on AC matters except in an open forum. However, the AC disagrees with this interpretation and believes that the public would be better served by the proposed changes than the status quo. If the Boards approve this proposal, it becomes regulation, thereby accomplishing that change.</p> <p>The Homer AC's experience is that the current interpretation of the law clearly inhibits a beneficial exchange of ideas that can improve member knowledge before voting. Denying this exchange has greater negative consequences than the remote possibility that a member of the public might be interested in all</p> |

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| | | | <p>AC discussion on a proposal. If AC exchange is via email or social media, it is on the public record so transparency is not an issue.</p> <p>Also, AC members should not be held to the same standard as board members. Board members are public officials who make actual decisions. AC members are volunteers who are only advisory. Furthermore, AC meetings are totally different than board meetings; short without much face-to-face opportunity for more detailed exchange. AC meetings don't have the same level of public scrutiny as board meetings often have.</p> |
| 23 | Provide guidance for advisory committee actions having abstentions | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 – 0 | <p>Abstention votes by the Homer AC are usually because the member doesn't feel familiar enough with the issue to vote on it and doesn't want to affect the results either way. Nevertheless, we have been determining "support" or "oppose" based on whether the count of yeas amounts to a majority. In essence, abstentions are counted as nays. There have been a couple of votes where yeas were greater than nays, but not a majority when abstentions are included. This proposal, if approved, will correct that.</p> |
| 24 | Add language to clarify advisory committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act and modify noncompliant provisions | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 – 0 | No discussion |
| 28 | Allow advisory committee representatives to be at the board table during deliberations for those proposals the advisory committee authored | | |
| Oppose | 0 | 13 – 2 | <p>The AC felt that conceptually the proposal has merit, but that the process of bringing AC's to the table would be cumbersome and create unnecessary delays. There are other options to consider, such as how BOG meetings are organized. Perhaps the organization of BOG meetings should be more like BOF meetings.</p> |
| 29 | Allow advisory committee representatives a seat at the board table during deliberations on proposals affecting their region | | |

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| Oppose | 0 | 15 - 0 | It was noted that this proposal is similar to #28 but could have additional problems. Allowing an AC to sit at the table during deliberations for proposals affecting their regions is prone to abuse. An AC would have inordinate opportunity to participate in a wide range of proposals where claims interest. A concern expressed is that unlike other members of the public, AC members would have access to board members in an area closed off to the public. |
| 30 | Provide a definition for board work sessions and allow submitters of Agenda Changes Requests (ACRs) to provide testimony at work sessions | | |
| Support | 10 | 4 - 1 | A clear definition of what is or isn't a work session is needed. |
| 33 | Amend the Joint Board's procedure for establishing fish and game regulations | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 - 0 | The Homer AC has a long history of opposing board generated proposals that do not go through the public vetting process that all other proposals go through. We have also opposed board generated amendments to existing proposals that are not within the bounds of the original proposal or group of very similar proposals. |
| 38 | Require the Board of Fisheries to schedule shellfish regulations for any that have been closed by emergency order for 24 consecutive months | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 - 0 | Submitted by the Homer AC. |

Alaska Board of Game Southcentral Region Meeting Proposals

March 15-19, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

| Proposal Number | Proposal Description | | |
|--|---|---------------|--|
| Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action | Number Support | Number Oppose | Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes |
| 93 | Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 8 | | |
| Support | 15 | 0 - 0 | Doug Malone, who was not at the last meeting, asked that we go back to the BOG proposals and consider #93. His reason for support is that the biggest mortality factor for Kodiak deer is winter kill due to deep snows that occur every few years. When winters are mild, deer herds increase rapidly. This allows for greater harvest which might also reduce habitat impacts. Bag limits should be increased when deer populations are growing but reduced when there have been severe winters. |

Meeting adjourned at 9:17

Minutes recorded by George Matz

Approved by: Dave Lyon

Date Approved: 2/19/2019