



## Cooper Landing Advisory Committee Minutes

Meeting - December 20, 2021

Meeting called to order by Josh Hayes at 10:00 a.m.

### Roll Call - Members Present:

Josh Hayes  
John Pearson  
Billy Coulette  
Mike Adams  
Tom Lessard  
Jason Lesmeister

### Members Absent:

Todd Donahue  
Alex Kime  
Robert Gibson

### Alternate Members Present:

Lorraine Temple

### Fish & Game Representative Present:

Jacob Spelham  
Fari Sylvester

### Guest Speaker:

Ed Holsten

Minutes from last meeting were unanimously approved.

Guest speaker Ed Holsten discussed trap setbacks on federal land being rejected. Holsten also stated the Federal Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) would like to see more written proposals from local residents and local Advisory Committees (AC). Holsten discussed the last round of proposals were accepted with addendums added to all of them.

Elections were held for three AC positions.

Josh Hayes was elected as Chairman  
John Pearson was elected as Vice Chairman  
Billy Coulette was elected onto the board.

First topic of discussion was Proposal 141. Black Bear stations being one-mile apart. The AC voted unanimously to oppose this proposal. The regulation did not seem applicable for Unit Seven and Unit 15 due to current laws and terrain, as well as current land ownership.



Next topic of discussion was Proposal Eight. A shortened trapping season on coyotes in central and south-central Alaska. The AC voted unanimously in favor of this proposal. It will align the trapping seasons and our main concerns were the road-accessible areas. There is less confusion when seasons are aligned.

The next agenda item was Proposal 198. No bear-bait stations within 50 miles of a cabin. The AC unanimously opposed this regulation because there is no science-based justification for the law. It seems this proposal may have been generated by individuals who are anti-bear baiting.

Board of Fish Proposal 283 was discussed. It would set netters to put their nets within six hundred feet from the mouth of Kenai River if an escapement of 13,500 king salmon was met. The AC unanimously opposed this proposal because this law would affect not only the Kenai River but all of the tributary that drain into the Kenai River. There are indirect implications to the Coho fishery. This proposal was brought to the table on an off year out of the normal cycle which decreases public input and conflicts with paired restrictions. It directly conflicts with the late-season king salmon management plan. Set nets have a substantial bycatch of king salmon and coho salmon. This law would be passed on the lowest of escapement goals which leads to poor biological management and even worse conservation practices. We believe this proposal may be due to last year's larger sockeye escapement. We also believe this is not a good reason to make changes based on just one year of sockeye escapement data. The Cooper Landing community believes there is a lack of knowledge on the Kenai River's carrying capacity.

Next meeting will be held Monday, February 28 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Jason Lesmeister - Secretary



## **Board of Game Central and Southwest GMU Proposals**

### **Cooper Landing Advisory Committee Comments**

Comments Due: January 7, 2022

#### **Proposal 8 A shortened trapping season on coyotes in central and south-central Alaska:**

Vote 7-0

The AC voted unanimously in favor of this proposal because it will align the trapping seasons and our main concerns were the road-accessible areas. There is less confusion when seasons are aligned.

#### **Proposal 198 No bear-bait stations within 50 miles of a cabin.:**

Vote 0-7

The AC unanimously opposed this regulation because there is no science-based justification for the law. It seems this proposal may have been generated by individuals who are anti-bear baiting.



**Board of Game Statewide Regulations Proposals**  
**Cooper Landing Advisory Committee Comments**

Comments Due: February 18, 2022

**Proposal 141 Black Bear stations being one mile apart.:**

Vote-0-7

The AC voted unanimously to oppose this proposal. The regulation did not seem applicable for Unit Seven and Unit 15 due to current laws and terrain, as well as current land ownership.



## **Board of Fisheries Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Westward Arctic Shellfish, and Shellfish General Provisions and Prince William Sound Shrimp**

### **Cooper Landing Advisory Committee**

Comments Due: February 24, 2022

C. IN THE COOK INLET AREA COMMERCIAL FISHERY: Amend the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan* to allow fishing with set gillnet gear within 600 feet of the mean high water mark in the Upper Subdistrict when sonar passage of large late-run Kenai River king salmon exceeds 13,500 fish, and Kenai and Kasilof river sockeye salmon escapement objectives are being met. (*newly assigned Proposal 283, formerly BGP #1*)

Board of Fish Proposal 283 was discussed. The AC unanimously opposed this proposal because this law would affect not only the Kenai River but all of the tributary that drain into the Kenai River. There are indirect implications to the Coho fishery. This proposal was brought to the table on an off year out of the normal cycle which decreases public input and conflicts with paired restrictions. It directly conflicts with the late-season king salmon management plan. Set nets have a substantial bycatch of king salmon and coho salmon. This law would be passed on the lowest of escapement goals which leads to poor biological management and even worse conservation practices. We believe this proposal may be due to last year's larger sockeye escapement. We also believe this is not a good reason to make changes based on just one year of sockeye escapement data. The Cooper Landing community believes there is a lack of knowledge on the Kenai River's carrying capacity.