

1/12/2024

The submission of the RC 053 originally entitled by the Kodiak Advisory Committee yesterday by 5 members of that group, violated the public process. If they wanted to rescind their vote that would have had to call a meeting and noticed the meeting. It undermined the community-based, voluntary meeting over the course of 3 days in December, 2023. The KAC is a cohesive, representative membership that has been held up as the standard in the State of Alaska.

The KAC is a large group whose members are charter boats, seiners, setnetters, pilots, sportfish, a representation of the Kodiak community. After voluntarily spending 3 days to sort out proposals for the submission to this meeting, this RC, from 5 members of the committee, was submitted without calling a meeting of the entire committee to rescind their votes without public notice. There are policy, protocol and rules.

It tainted the Board of Fisheries public process because the KAC is the public method of delivering the deliberative process in a fishing community with all stakeholders involved.

What if 5 members of the BOF met together and changed their votes 6 weeks later without calling a meeting and asking for reconsideration of a proposal.

Its also broken the trust that all of us feel about being involved and advocating for our fisheries. That vote in December still stands, for all proposals that were properly submitted and voted upon.

This calls out the integrity of RC053

Lacey Berns  
Setnetter