

Yukon Flats Fish & Game Advisory Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 10th, 2024 at 10am
ADFG Conference Room
Fairbanks, AK and by web/teleconference

- I. **Call to Order:**
- II. **Members Present:** Walter Peter (chair), Michael Peter, Amanda Pope, Lonnie Buresch, Peter Hjelm, Clayton Tacket, Rhonda Pitka, Bruce Thomas (alternate), Ronald Yatlin (alternate)
Members Absent: Gary Simple Jr., Charles John, Sly Blackbird
- III. **Introductions**
 - a. **Members:**
 - b. **Fish and Game Staff:** Mark Nelson, Jordan Pruszenski, Brian LeMay (AWT)
 - c. **Guests:** Mark Richards (FAC), Olivia Henaayee Irwin (MNAC), Bruce Thomas, Ronny Yatlin, Gale Vick (FAC)
- IV. **Public Comment**
 - a. Motion to appoint Ronny Yatlin to the Yukon Flats AC from Beaver as an alternate
 - i. Vote took place, Motion carries, unanimous consent
 - b. AC Concerns and Comments
 - i. Amanda Pope stepped down as Vice Chair (prior to this meeting)
 - ii. Secretary Position- Olivia Henaayee Irwin
 1. Rhonda Pitka made a motion, seconded, approved
- V. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Add in Board of Fish Proposal 43- Comment deadline Monday, Feb 12
 - b. Motion, seconded, approved
- VI. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** (Page 17-18)
- VII. **Old Business**
- VIII. **New Business**
 - a. ADF&G Staff Updates
Moose Management & Counts
 - i. Gearing up for BOG meetings, we as staff are done with comments, as soon as Juneau releases them they'll be available

- ii. Jordan: Yukon Flats Survey Fall 2024, Survey didn't get done this year, department asking for more funding to do a survey that hasn't been done since 2015.
 1. Ron Yatlin: Can you give us an update from the most recent moose count?
 - a. Jordan: 2015 last moose count conducted
 - b. Rhonda: So we're using 2015 data to make management decisions?
 - c. Jordan: Yes because of weather, the snow hasn't provided enough visibility to count correctly. The fall surveys weren't working so they shifted to spring which makes it hard to view bull:cow ratios. Jordan wants to keep bull:cow ratios, so we're holding off the survey
 - i. Spring survey isn't equivalent to fall surveys, we get different data i.e. bull:cow vs cow:calf, etc.
 2. 2015 25D East Moose Count (2015)
 - a. Density remained the same through the past 20 years roughly
 - b. 600-700 moose western portion, 4,000 in the rest of the unit
 3. Ronny: Late 80s early 90s there were a lot more moose
 4. What's the timeframe for surveys? November
 5. Rhonda: We need this data!
 6. What's the harvest data?
 - a. Western Portion
 - i. About 12-15 Moose, issues with reporting, we're assuming 20-25
 - ii. Ceremonial Harvest- a few moose
 - iii. Harvestable surplus- 30-35, we're close to the harvestable surplus
 - b. Eastern
 - i. Harvest tickets- 30-40, some Ceremonial Moose taken as well
- iii. Department Staff: We're still managing using 2015 data
- iv. Mike: Seems like there's more people coming on the river, don't know if people are driving and getting in at the bridge, but we've seen people drive by with 5 moose horns, if they took out all the meat from all those animals that boat would have sunk!
 1. We need to quantify this impact!
 2. The department has been hearing about this, we encourage you to take photos, report it!
- v. Trooper LaMay: GMU 25A, North of Yukon River (his jurisdiction)

- vi. Rhonda: Problem is that submissions are all online, it's an accessibility issue in the permit system. Harvest permits available online.
 - 1. TM940- anyone can get this permit, issues with outsiders coming in to hunt
- vii. High water marks- main channel, state land
- b. 2023-2024 Board of Game Proposals
 - i. Amanda Popes Proposals: 163, 164, 166

AC Comments

- Proposal 163: Require the salvage of meat (on the bone)
 - "I think it's a good idea, supporting this would be following our traditional way. We're trying to show these people how we live our lives, following our traditional ways is bringing it back to making them do how we do" (AC Members)
 - Motion to support 163, seconded, unanimous support
- Proposal 164: Salvage of organs
 - "Only problem I have is, liver starts to go bad after September 10"
 - Rhonda: What about just the head?
 - Motion to support, seconded, unanimous consent
- Proposal 166: Black bear, brown bears taken by bucket snares
 - Checking time and how to deal with catching an animal out of season
 - Black bears are considered furbearers, Grizzly are not considered furbearers, black bears you can take everything, grizzly's you can't take sows or cows
 - So should we separate the black bear and brown bear? In order for it to pass for brown bears, they would have to be considered a furbearer not a big game animal
 - Support with comments of checking time and placement of the bucket snares
 - Unanimous consent

Chair asked Amanda if she'd go to BOG to speak on behalf of her proposals- Amanda wanted to excuse herself thinking there was a conflict with her being the author of the proposal and testifying as a representative of the AC, Kyle and Rhonda don't think that's the case

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- c. 2023-2024 Joint Board Proposals
- d. Other fisheries, wildlife, and committee business if needed
 - i. Proposal 43: Hatchery Reduction
 1. Where is the hatchery located? Tutka Bay, Cook Inlet, Pink Salmon
 2. We are trying to get out information about the impact of hatcheries on wild stocks in Alaska -Gale Vick
 3. AC Comments; I support 43 because it's an ongoing problem and we know we have issues with fish and part of those problems is the hatchery. This is a very good proposal.
 4. Rhonda: What would 25% of the reduction be Gale?
 5. Gale: RC 021- Explanation of this proposal
 - a. Tatku Bay permitted at 125 million eggs, we are asking for a 75% reduction in that amount
 6. Clayton: Do these hatcheries have set limits that they go by? Are they allowed to go over the population that they produce?
 7. Gale: Each hatchery has a set egg of stock, this hatchery has gone over in the past, some go under because of water and power, but they all have permits that cap their egg
 8. Clayton: If we do approve this, what resources will be there that they aren't going to use? Trying to understand the impacts we're getting when we're trying to reduce the number. The reduction in the amount of fish will benefit our population, what was the main reason for the fisheries to be started? Venetie would support having a lower output in hatcheries
 9. This proposal makes sense to me, our ocean is overpopulated, in order for our wild salmon to rebound this is part of the process that has to take place. We're always competing against commercials and this is a big commercial industry. They catch millions of fish per day, and we can't even go out once. It's sad for the fish.
 10. Rhonda Pitka: Motion to support
 - a. Seconded, unanimous consent

Alaska **Board of Fisheries** Upper Cook Inlet Meeting Proposals

February 23-March 7, 2024 | 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
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
43	<p>Amend Basic Management Plans as follows (<i>This proposal will be heard and public testimony will be taken at both the LCI and UCI meetings and deliberated at the UCI meeting</i>):</p>		
SUPPORT	9	0	<p>This proposal makes sense to me, our ocean is overpopulated, in order for our wild salmon to rebound this is part of the process that has to take place. We're always competing against commercials and this is a big commercial industry. They catch millions of fish per day, and we can't even go out once. It's sad for the fish.</p>

Alaska **Board of Game** Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals

March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, 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
<p><i>Note: Effective September 2019, when abstentions occur, the action or decision of a majority of the remaining members at a meeting at which a quorum is present is an act of the committee. For example, a vote tally of 7-6-2 means the motion carries. Members abstaining from voting must provide an explanation that is included in the committee record.</i></p>			
50	<p>Lengthen the marten trapping season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 by two weeks to end March 15</p>		
OPPOSE	0	8	<p>We used to live in prime Marten country, but they got over harvested We'd like to give our marten more time to reproduce and build up the populations our locals have seen decline. There is little to no market for the fur at this point in the season.</p>

Alaska Board of Game Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Meeting Proposals
 March 15-22, 2024 | Fairbanks, 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
112	Limit nonresident hunting of the Fortymile caribou herd		
Support	8	0	This proposal aims to address the declining caribou herd populations. Hunting pressures would be reduced if this proposal were to pass. It increases opportunity for residents and local hunters who rely on the herd for subsistence needs. IM Objective is 50,000-100,000, the herd population estimate is currently 38,000, for conservation concerns and concerns for meeting subsistence needs the Yukon Flats AC supports this proposal to restrict nonresident hunters.
113	Close caribou hunting within ¼ mile or 100 yards of the Steese Highway above tree line on Eagle and Twelvemile summits in Unit 20		
SUPPORT	8	0	Reduces waste, and reduces the likelihood of a public safety disaster.
124	Lengthen the marten trapping season in Units 20E and 25B by two weeks, to close March 15		
OPPOSE	0	8	Best trapping in November and December, the fur gets bad late in the spring once the sun comes out.
139	Reduce the bag limit for taking caribou in Units 21D Remainder, 22, 23, 24B Remainder, 24C, 24D and 26A to four caribou per year, only one of which may be a cow		
SUPPORT	8	0	The Western Arctic Caribou herd has dropped dramatically in the last few years so this reduction in harvest makes sense.
140	Close nonresident caribou hunting in Units 21D Remainder, 22, 23, 24B Remainder, 24C, 24D, and 26A		
SUPPORT	8	0	Due to conservation concerns and declines in the caribou herd population, Yukon Flats supports
141	Close the youth sheep hunts in Units 24A and 25A		
OPPOSE	0	8	The participation and harvest of these hunts is low. We do not want to take away from the intent of this hunt or opportunity for the youth
142	Change sheep hunting in portions of Units 24A and 25A to archery only		
OPPOSE	0	8	Very limited hunting opportunities.
146	Adopt an Intensive Management Program and implement wolf control on all state lands in Units 24A and 25A		
SUPPORT	8	0	Support for proposals 146-151. We've noticed in recent years the high numbers of wolves in our area and make their way into our villages. It's become a public safety concern.
147	Allow hunters to take wolves in Units 24 and 25 the same day they have been airborne		
SUPPORT	8	0	
148	Create a predator control program for wolves in Units 24A and 25A		
SUPPORT	8	0	
149	Lengthen the wolf trapping season in Units 24 and the remainder of 25 by one month, to open October 1		
SUPPORT	8	0	

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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
150	Lengthen the wolf hunting season in Units 24 and 25		
SUPPORT	8	0	
151	Increase the hunting bag limit for wolves in Units 24 and 25		
SUPPORT	8	0	
152	Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Units 24C and 24D, and open a fall bait season in Units 21B and 24B		
SUPPORT	8	0	Our members have heard of larger bears showing up in this area. Concern for moose populations in this area.
158	Allow nonresident sheep hunting by drawing permit only in portions of Units 25A, 26B, and 26C		
TAKE NO ACTION			Take no action- This proposal would limit guides. The guides are flying in and shooting all our animals. For this area where the population is low, we need to place some limits.
163	Align salvage requirements for caribou in Units 25B, 25C, and 25D with Unit 25A to require meat of caribou remain on the bone when harvested prior to October 1		
SUPPORT	8	0	I think it's a good idea, supporting this would be following our traditional way. We're trying to show these people how we live our lives, following our traditional ways is bringing it back to making them do how we do
164	Require the liver, heart, and tongue of moose and caribou harvested in Units 25 to be salvaged		
SUPPORT	8	0	
165	Create an intensive management plan for reducing wolves in Unit 25D		
SUPPORT	8	0	This proposal would create an intensive management plans and create a population reduction plan. See rational in original proposal submitted by our AC.
166	Establish trapping seasons for black and brown/grizzly bears and allow black and brown/grizzly bears to be taken by bucket snares in Unit 25D		
SUPPORT	8	0	Support with comments of checking time and placement of the bucket snares

Minutes Recorded By: Olivia Irwin

Minutes Approved By: _____

Date: _____