



RC 22

**Middle Yukon AC Meeting
February 2, 2011
Kaltag, AK**

Members Present;

Robert Nicholas
Richard Burnham
Paddy Nollinger
Fred Huntington
Albert Evens
Benedict Jones
Mickey Stickman
Dick Evens
Stanley Ned

Guests

Glenn Stout- ADF&G
Steve Hayes-ADF&G
Unidentified members of the public

12:30- Meeting Called to Order

Minutes from November 24, 2009 meeting approved

Discussion began on **Proposal 222 and 223-**

Richard Burnham- History of Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) was always the focus of the Middle Yukon Advisory Committee(MYAC), now all those hunters are downriver. Not sure why no compliance, most antlers would be left in the field. First moose we see is what we shoot, not the big bulls.

-Harvest should be 30 moose/year now we're at 20 moose

-Big bulls last two years because they're bigger

Fred-Should have drop off site for the antlers- cutting them is a valuable tool that we need to keep

Mickey-Guys on snow-go's getting sheds and selling them

Richard-Not every place is looking to sell for cash. In favor of keeping the regulation in place, but need to advertise more that people need to comply with it.

Dick-A bunch of guys from the lower 48 used to come up with a Galena Resident

Albert-Se use to throw antlers away. Some white guys coming over to Kaiyuh, while I used 3 barrels of gas I didn't get a moose, but they did.

Mickey- Pressure from outside hunters since KRMMP. Kaiyuh has been improving last couple of years there are more big bulls coming off Kaiyuh.

Dick- Guides in Glanena spotting whit planes and hunting moose.

Fred- I heard a conversation with people on the radio (yellow super cub), a Lady on the ground with pilot. We are seeing more and more valley hunters with boats and airplanes

Dick- Those guys came back late at night

Vote-All opposed



Richard- Drawing hunts-people asking about people who would butcher moose meat. This shows that there are a lot of people hunting that are going out for too long, thus meat spoilage. I saw three moose spoiled in one boat in the rain.

Ben- At the West Arctic Group we came up with a proposal to be out in 10 days with caribou and moose meat, with 3 days recommended for floaters (FWS-regulation).

Fred- Guys on Koyukuk River had meat on the beach for 6 days because their boat got struck by a barge. Benedict-KKRMHWG talked to the BOG chair for 10 days...he said change the wording of regulation, the state attorney adjusted the wording, then BOG adopted the plan. Shortening the season to the 5-25th was really good-Koyukuk had a 100% success rate.

Richard-Proposal idea-for this area (21D) make bear baiting legal for grizzly bears, need to give it a shot.

Mickey-Supports for big animals only to relieve pressure on calf predation, and the safety issues if grizzly bears are walking around in Kaltag and Nulato.

Vote on submit a proposal to the BOG to allow grizzly bear baiting

All in Favor

Mickey- Still need to do something in this area, there are too many hunters from the GASH and Koyukuk hunters are getting squeezed out.

Dick- Hunters in Galena need to have a contact if they don't want their meat, they have satellite phones, and me and Paddy finally got one for the 1st time in 8 years (Don't know if he is referring to a phone or moose)

Paddy- We need a proposal to split the drawing permit for Kaiyah hunt area to September 5th -14th and 16th-25th.

Ben- We need to add something about meat salvage

Mickey- I like the idea of split seasons, but I would rather have no non-locals so we can protect our own families

Fred-Problem is all residents are subsistence users

Richard- I like the idea of the split season

Vote on forming a proposal to split the season for DM817 & DM818

All in Favor

Steve Hayes gave a Yukon River salmon update

Mickey-Our needs will be met if we are open in the middle of the pulse

Steve- We need to shift harvest from the Canada pulse

Albert- I caught 35, 75, and 110 in 2008, 2009, 2010. I don't want net restrictions, and we use to catch bigger kings.

Steve- We need to take the pressure off the bigger kings

Richard- We got lucky in 201 and our opening hit a pulse, the big fish are the Tanana fish because they have big teeth already. Will ADF&G give an opening on a pulse again?

Steve-2009 was lucky that closures were on track with pulses. We are trying to determine triggers when a run is strong enough to increase harvest/

Mickey- Need to show support for commercial restrictions on King harvest.

Steve- If ADF&G restricts in one or more season then we may restrict incidental catch too.

Richard- Severe restrictions should include no sale of incidental catch when needed in bad run years.

Mickey- The problem is downriver already has sold incidentals by the time restrictions hit upriver, so just start season with restrictions for everyone.

Fred-

Limit the amount of incidental catch at say 4,000 that can be sold but close all commercial fishing when that 4,000 quota is hit- even the commercial chum harvest.



Richard-They do separate already, they delay chum on lower river to let kings get bay, but always some overlap.

Steve- Not sure a cap can be enforced- Shippers have volunteered to use incidental catch late in July on lower river.

Fred-20 boats in 1-mile stretch of the river, we could use the extra fish.

Mickey- You have to place the blame where the blame belongs, it is the down river commercial catch

Dick- The problem is with the Pollock fishery

Steve-30,000 by catch in ocean this year- they are part of the problem, but not all of the problem.

Albert-Treat everyone equal, down river gets 300' nets, we get only 150'.

Richard-7.5" net x 150'- people used net and caught more fish because there are only small fish now, so harvest numbers will jump up.

Steve-Last year was a high population of 5 years, with normal run of more 6 year olds, probably not as many will get caught.

Richard- Kwik-Pak processed fish that went to Canada as a good will gesture. People should know that

Steve-The market is more for a chum market now, sellers want to sell kings still.

Paddy- Hope they send some good fish to Canada because one year we got donated fish that were too skinny

Dick- Huslia caught a bunch of Kings last year, Manley Hot Springs to

Ben- Fall chum was not as good as projected?

Steve- Yes, we met escapement for Canada, but not the Chena or Tanana

Ben- I only caught 20% of the chums I needed.

Richard-November 1 we saw silvers going up under the ice on Kaltag Creek

Fred-December Roger caught silvers under the ice

Paddy- We needed a good fall run to feed the dogs

Richard- Many reasons for king decline that no one knows about- global warming, hatcheries, Pollock by-catch, fishing in Barrow...

Steve- The Yukon is not the only area with a bad king run

Ben-Federal seasons were too restrictive, we need to have the state manage-

Steve- State and Federal try to keep the same regulations, but in 2009 the state disagreed with the Feds, most of the time we consult with the feds,.

Ben- There is a BOG meeting in Wasilla March 4-10th

Voted that Ben was to be the representative for the AC, and Fred is the alternate-
Unanimous vote

Ben- Kaltag elections

Richard-Not enough meetings, we haven't had a meeting here since 200(?)

Justin is willing to serve

Richard is willing

Kevin Sanderson is willing, but has a slipped disk

Tommy N. is willing

Mikey- I support the current AC, with Robert Nicholas as the alternate

Vote unanimous-

Meeting Adjourned-

RECORD RETENTION LOG

21	3-4-11	Koyukuk AC Minutes	
22	3-4-11	Middle Yukon AC Minutes	
23	3-4-11	Austin Ahmasuk	
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February 15, 2011

Austin Ahmasuk
P.O. Box 693
Nome, AK 99762

Alaska Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: 907-465-6094

RE: Proposal #223, Spring 2011 proposal booklet, trophy destruction

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

My name is Austin Ahmasuk I am lifelong hunter and wish to comment on BOG generated proposal #223, which reviews the discretionary authority of ADF&G to require trophy destruction in subsistence hunts.

I believe trophy destruction is a useful management tool in all subsistence hunts. I do NOT believe the Alaska Board of Game should be taking up this proposal, because it is out of the cycle for considering changes to GMU 22 regulations. The Alaska Board of Game specifically mentioned muskoxen in proposal #223, and therefore is taking up a game management option that should be taken up during the normal cycle of GMU 22 regulation changes. According to Alaska Board of Game special proposal considerations the Alaska Board of Game can only consider proposals out of cycle when there is new information. Proposal #223 seeks to develop the new information via public comment. I believe that proposal #223 is out of cycle and should not be considered at this time. Regardless of the inappropriateness of the proposal I am prepared to offer meaningful comments and emphatically state my support for trophy destruction.

In GMU 22 when there was limited muskoxen trophy destruction the hunt lasted a few days before it became clear that hunters would reach the quota and would require emergency closure. In the first year of TIER I muskoxen hunting with limited trophy destruction it was clear that hunters from all over the state would compete for a limited resource and make muskoxen hunting difficult for local hunters. Muskoxen are a valuable subsistence resource that requires careful management. As much as hunt conditions allow the muskoxen hunt should reflect the values of the majority of local people to maintain a subsistence hunt in perpetuity. I know that the trophy value of muskoxen, moose, and caribou is of limited value to the local people of my hometown of Nome. Numerous trophy sized horns, antlers, and skulls simply sit outside homes, with little care as to what their score is in a trophy book. Muskoxen horn is a commodity of trade and is often sold to knife makers and other artisans in wafer form, and is usually removed from the skull so that it can be shipped in smaller mail packages. To a subsistence hunter the trophy value is of so little use that it makes sense to destroy or ignore the trophy value. Remuneration for gas and other hunting expenses makes the most sense and requiring trophy destruction simply reflects the regionwide values that subsistence hunters have regarding animals they consume, and the common practice of cutting horn so that they may be shipped to artisans as raw materials. As part of hunting animals of this region I have destroyed the trophy value of animals as a natural part of my hunting behavior. I know that some of the animals I have taken would have made entry into the popular hunting



journals but I find no value in any of that recordkeeping. I believe requiring trophy destruction lowers the amount of hunters that would partake in the hunt and in so doing ensure that local hunters are not displaced. The word "trophy" appears only once in the entirety of the Alaska Statutes and is used only in the definition of taxidermy. The word "trophy" appears only nine (9) times in the Alaska Administrative "Game" Code and refers to trophy size and recognition, uses of trophies by taxidermists, permits for commercial sale, and trophy value nullified as mentioned in 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The State of Alaska does not score the trophy value of any of the animals that are ever taken by subsistence users and should never consider doing so. The trophy value of animals is an entirely different mindset of use that I cannot identify with. To me the most important use of an animal is what it can teach me about myself, what I can teach about it to my children, the cultural and nutritional value that I gain from it, and connection that I have with it and the environment. Pictures and stories are much better than values associated with who got the biggest one and what rank a certain animal has in comparison to what other people have harvested. I do not believe the Alaska Board of Game should limit the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's management tools by eliminating trophy destruction.

Because the muskoxen hunt is highly competitive and does not last very long there is not satisfactory opportunity to recruit younger hunters into the hunt. Because of various levels of family preparedness and economics the less affluent are disenfranchised and displaced by those people with the resources to displace people with less. If the Alaska Board of Game changes 5AAC 92.052 or repeals it, I believe the Alaska Board of Game will be going against its obligation to subsistence users, and will be making laws that displace a class of people that should not be displaced.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Ahmasuk".

Austin Ahmasuk